



# LANGUAGE LINKS

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## What's happening this week?

Welcome all students to the English language courses run by the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs. To support students' needs, there are two courses being held this term, each offering different English programmes. For students who want to improve their English for their jobs, the Intensive Language Course (ILC) offers not only normal classroom lessons but also a variety of English activities at different locations. The other course is the Oral Communication Course (OCC), designed to build confidence in students and improve fluency and competence in social communication skills.

Students are expected to attend all classroom lessons, and it is **COMPULSORY** to participate in all Friday activities, two of which are excursions outside Bangkok. It sounds like hard work might be recommended throughout the course. Nevertheless, I hope you enjoy it and gain lots of knowledge and experience.



Usana

## Culture Corner

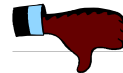
### Names and Titles



The Americans are famous for their early use of first names in any relationship, however formal. You sometimes notice how Americans repeat your name frequently in the first five minutes of conversation.



The British also use first names most of the time. However, they are not so good at remembering names and will frequently use no name at all!



In some cultures, it is important to address someone using their title – for example Doctor, Professor, etc. In both British and American cultures people tend not to use titles.



In fact, in an effort to be completely egalitarian, they often avoid the title Mrs, which indicates a woman is married. Instead, the title Ms (pronounced 'muz') is preferred. This is also frequently used in written correspondence.



Comfort, J. 1997. Effective Socializing. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Helgesen, M. et.al. 1996. Active Listening: Expanding Understanding Through Content. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Piyaporn

# LEARNING STRATEGIES

Welcome to *Learning Strategies*, the column where you can find helpful methods to enhance your language learning throughout this English language programme.

From this week through to week 10 of the course, you can follow learning strategies intended to help you master language learning.



## Tips on Studying a Foreign Language

Learning another language is not easy, but most people can learn a second language IF they are willing to put in the necessary time. Here are some practical suggestions for studying effectively, overcoming anxiety, and learning the grammar and skills necessary for success in foreign language classes.

1. **STUDY EVERY DAY!** A foreign language course is different from any other course you take. Language learning is cumulative; you cannot put it off until the weekend. Study 1 or 2 hours for every class hour if you want an A or B.
2. **DISTRIBUTE YOUR STUDY TIME** in 15- to 30-minute periods throughout the day. Focus on a different task each time: vocabulary now, grammar next, etc. Get an overview during the first half hour: spend 10 minutes reviewing dialogue, 10 minutes learning new vocabulary, 10 minutes learning new grammar ... so you'll at least have looked at it all. Approximately 80% of your study time should be spent in recitation or practice, including practice in the language lab.
3. **ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN EVERY CLASS** – even if you are not well prepared. Class time is your best opportunity to practise. Learn the grammar and vocabulary outside class in order to make the most of class time. Spend a few minutes “warming up” before each class by speaking or reading the language.
4. **MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE IN THE CLASSROOM.** Get to know your classmates, so you will feel you are among friends. Visit your instructor during office hours to get acquainted. Explain your goals and fears about the course to your instructor.
5. **LEARN GRAMMAR IF YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW IT.** Grammar is the skeleton of a language, its basic structure; you must learn it. Review a simplified English grammar text. Compare new grammatical structures in your foreign language to their English equivalents.
6. **PRACTISE FOR TESTS** by doing what you will have to do in the test. If the test will require you to write, then study by writing – including spelling and accents. If you will be asked to listen, then practise listening. Ask for practice questions; make up your own test questions. Invent variations on patterns and forms. Over-learn: study beyond the point of recognition to mastery.
7. **DEVELOP A GOOD ATTITUDE.** Have a clear personal reason for taking the class. Set personal goals for what you want to learn. Leave perfectionism at the door; give yourself permission to make mistakes and learn from them.
8. **GET HELP IF YOU NEED IT.** Talk with your teacher. Form study groups among class members. Use tutoring services. Don't wait!

# Here's the Answer

## Confusing Adjectives

Q

I really get confused with some adjectives like *boring or bored* and *fun or funny*. Can you explain?

A

**Boring or bored?**

- \* We use adjectives ending in *-ed* to show how we feel about something.



*I thought I'd be **bored** but my new job was great fun.*

*I'm **interested** in geology.*

*I'm **disappointed** with my exam results.*

- \* We use adjectives ending in *-ing* to describe the thing which makes us feel this way.

*It can get very **boring** in a seaside town in winter.*

*Geology is **interesting**.*

*My exam results are **disappointing**.*



**Fun or funny?**



- \* We use *fun* to describe something we enjoy doing:

*Ice-skating is **fun**.*

*It was **fun** when we went out together. We should do it more often.*

- \* We use *funny* to describe something which makes us laugh:



*John's very **funny**. He should be a comedian!*

*The film was very **funny** and cheered us all up.*



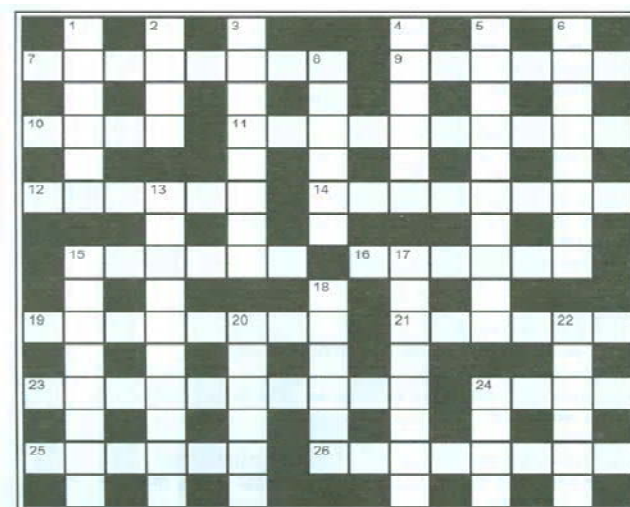
Source: Tayfor, S. 2004. Common Mistakes at First Certificate and How to Avoid Them. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

# FUN WITH ENGLISH

## No.1 Crossword Puzzles

### Across

- 7 Lift  
 9 Author  
 10 Large graceful bird  
 11 Chalkboard  
 12 Picture painted on a wall while plaster is still wet  
 14 Artistically knowledgeable  
 15 Surface of the earth  
 16 "\_\_\_\_\_ and the Beast"  
 19 Railway employee responsible for a train's brakes  
 21 Source of power  
 23 TV  
 24 Be frightened of something  
 25 Disclose or expose to view  
 26 Act of entering



### Down

- 1 Tulip, orchid, jasmine, etc.  
 2 Use for baking cakes  
 3 Refusing to give in  
 4 Wake somebody up  
 5 Compartment from which a vessel is navigated  
 6 With strong feeling  
 8 In fact  
 13 Person who owns a small shop  
 15 Someone who takes care of a garden  
 17 Time without end  
 18 At the expected time  
 20 For the most part  
 22 Quick look  
 24 Not sloping

From: Crossword Puzzles Book



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