



LANGUAGE LINKS

Vol.3 No.2 April 20, 2009

Language Links is an internal publication of the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 962 Krung Kasem Road, Bangkok 10100. <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2791.php>

What's happening this week?

This Friday's activity, Quiz Day, has been designed as an opportunity for all trainees to work together in groups and practise some of the English skills you have learned so far. It will be a great chance for you to use your listening, writing and speaking skills in an enjoyable atmosphere, while widening your general knowledge.

This event will be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Ayutthaya Road, this Friday, April 24. It will run from 9.00 until 12.00.

NOTE:

- 🕒 Please be at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 8.45 a.m.
- 👉 Casual dress is NOT acceptable

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Learn English: Questions and Answers

Do I have to learn grammar?

Learning English means more than just memorizing grammar rules; the grammar must be incorporated into the everyday use of the language. Theory and practice should go hand in hand.



How long will it take me to learn English?

It depends on a variety of factors such as your motivation and the level of English proficiency you wish to acquire. Some people are satisfied with their level after learning for 1 to 3 years, whilst others might spend 4 years, 10 years, or even a lifetime! You can't give accurate time frames for learning.



Is learning English difficult?

No, English is an easy language to start learning because:

- nouns are not classified by gender. All objects are 'neuter', not 'masculine' or 'feminine', so you can use the pronoun 'it' for such things, and you do not need to learn any genders.
- it usually has easy verb endings. Apart from a few irregular verbs, verb endings are easy, and hardly change.
- adjectives remain the same for all words – there are no different endings to learn.
- the pronoun 'you' is both singular and plural. Also, there is no polite or intimate form of this pronoun.

Adapted from: <http://www.learnenglish.de/improvepage.htm>

Usana

Culture Corner

Cross Cultural Dining Etiquette

Dining Etiquette in Germany



- ☺ It is good etiquette to remain standing until shown where to sit.
- ☺ Table manners are continental – fork in left hand and knife in right.
- ☺ Do not begin eating until the host signals to do so.
- ☺ It is bad etiquette to rest elbows on the table.



- ☺ Try and cut food with the fork as it compliments the cook by showing it is tender.

- ☺ Everything on the plate should be eaten.



- ☺ Indicate you have finished by laying the fork and knife parallel across the right hand side of the plate.

Dining Etiquette in Japan

- 📖 An honoured guest sits at the centre of the table furthest from the door and begins eating first.
- 📖 Learn to use chopsticks – never point them, never pierce food with them and rest them on the chopstick rest when breaking for a drink or chat.
- 📖 It is good etiquette to try a bit of everything.
- 📖 Conversation is subdued.



<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cross-cultural-dining-etiquette.html>

Here's the Answer

afraid ... / sorry...



We often hear someone say 'I'm afraid...' or 'I'm sorry'. Can you tell me in what situations we use these phrases?

A



We use *afraid of ...-ing* to talk about accidents.

*I don't like to drive fast because I'm **afraid of crashing**.*

In other cases we can use *afraid of ...-ing* or *afraid to...* with no difference of meaning.

*I'm not **afraid of telling/to tell** you the truth.*



We use *sorry for...-ing* or *sorry about...-ing* to talk about past things that we regret.

*I'm **sorry for/about waking** you up.*

We can use a **perfect infinitive** with same meaning.

*I'm **sorry to have woken** you up.*

Sorry + infinitive is used to apologize for something that we are doing or going to do.

Sorry to disturb – *could I speak to you for a moment?*

*I'm **sorry to tell** you that you failed the exam.*



FUN WITH ENGLISH

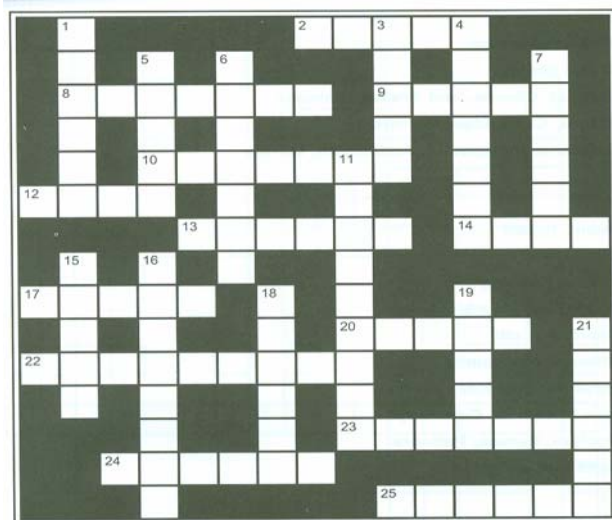
No.2 Crossword Puzzles

Across

- 2 Demon
8 Accomplish
9 Coffee of high quality
10 "Please pay _____ to His Majesty the King"
12 Applaud
13 Subject to death
14 Regulation
17 More than usual
20 Establish
22 Opposite of departure
23 "Star Wars: Episode III - _____ of the Sith"
24 Racehorse rider
25 The distance from head to foot

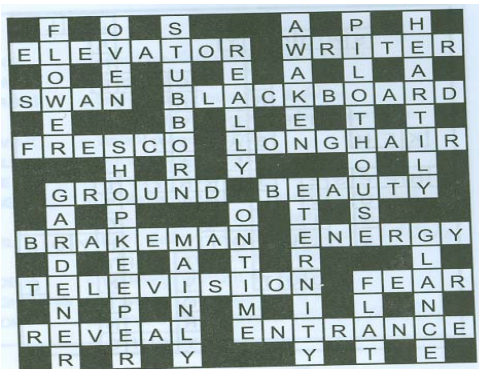
Down

- 1 Journey, tour
3 To throw up
4 A glossy coating applied to wood
5 Having a fine edge for cutting
6 Income given to a retired person
7 For example, whale, kangaroo, panda
11 Professional driver
15 To drive out
16 REACTION (anagram)
18 A waiting room in a hotel or airport
19 Breathe noisily during sleep
21 For instance, Sahara, Arabian, Thar



From: Crossword Puzzles Book

Answers no.1



EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor : Usana Wongnarkpet
Editorial Team : Suwanee Auephunsirikul
Napassawan Phromsumphun
Piyaporn Juntarat
Robert P. Cummins
Production : Raevadee Tantayavit