



LANGUAGE LINKS

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What's happening this week?

What's happening this week with the ILC trainees?

We have now come to the half-way point of the course. This is a good time to review what you have learnt from the course. Here is a tip to help you organize your study: go over texts and the notes you made and revise the language skills, not the content; for example, how to apply the right reading techniques to approach a particular text, how to make your writing precise and clear with the fewest grammatical mistakes, how to be fluent during a conversation, and how to concentrate and listen carefully while having a listening test. If there are still some points that are not very clear, discuss them with your classmates or ask a teacher.

This Friday, 15 May, has been organized as a self-study day to give you time to check your understanding and review all the things you have learnt.

What's happening this week with the OCC trainees?

To enhance their fluency and confidence in speaking before going to their workshop in Singapore, the OCC trainees will work hard on their final assignment, which will involve academic presentation and meeting skills, this Thursday, May 14.

On their graduation day, May 15, there will be a certificate awarding ceremony after a talk entitled *Efficient Presentations and Being a Credible Representative of Thailand*, to be given by a consultant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

This event will mark the end of OCC course. On behalf of all teachers, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all OCC students on this achievement.

Note:

Venue: Meeting Room 3, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Time: May 14, 09.00 - 16.00
May 15, 09.00 - 12.00

LEARNING STRATEGIES

How to Learn English as an Adult

... continued from last week

Proper Grammar

This is very similar to vocabulary. The rules of grammar are not that hard to learn and if you practise certain things, such as the proper tenses of verbs, you'll be able to express yourself much more clearly. When speaking English, using correct grammar is one of the most important elements in sounding fluent. During a conversation, you need to understand when to use adjectives, nouns, and pronouns. To practise, make a list of each type of word and write out different grammatically-correct phrases, as well as the spellings for common words.

Proper Pronunciation

Once you understand the proper grammar and vocabulary of the English language, there's still another thing to learn. Pronunciation is vital to communicating effectively. This doesn't mean that you need to speak as though you're a native speaker, but using the correct sounds and emphasis is important in communicating what you want to say.

Phonetic charts can be great learning tools because they show you how to move your mouth. The sounds that normally give people the most difficult time are the sounds that are not used in their own native language. It can be very helpful to look at a dictionary for help in pronouncing different words. Stress and intonation are also important when speaking a word – listen to native speakers in conversation and you'll quickly pick up on the nuances of pronunciation.



Usana

Adapted from: <http://www.1-language.com/articles/how-to-learn-english-as-an-adult>

Culture Corner



Dining Etiquette in Japan

- **Restaurant entertaining** is crucial to business. A person is judged by his/her behaviour during and after business hours. Seldom is a business deal completed without dinner in a restaurant.



- Drinking is a group activity. **Do not say "no"** when offered a drink.

- **An empty glass** is the equivalent of asking for another drink. Keep your glass at least half full if you do not want more. If a Japanese person attempts to pour more and you do not want it, put your hand over your glass, or fill it with water if necessary.

- **An empty plate** signals a desire for more food. Leave a little food on your plate when you are finished eating.



- When drinking with a Japanese person, fill his glass or cup after he has filled yours. While he is pouring, hold your cup or glass up so he can fill it easily. Never pour your own drink and always pour your companion's.



- **Toasting** is very important in Japan and many toasts are offered during the course of an evening. At dinner, wait for the toast before you drink. Respond to each toast with a toast.

- Wait for the most important person (honoured guest) to begin eating. If you are the honoured guest, wait until all the food is on the table and everyone is ready before you eat.

- When offered food, it is polite to hesitate before accepting. You do not have to eat much, but it is rude not to sample each dish.

- **Do not** finish your soup before eating other foods. It should accompany your meal. Replace the lid of the soup bowl when you've finished eating.



Adapted from material compiled by Window on the World, a cross-cultural training and consulting firm. Originally based on material contained in the "Put Your Best Foot Forward" series of books by Mary Murray Bosrock.

Here's the Answer

Excuse Me

Q

Can you explain when to use the phrase "Excuse me"?

A

You can say "Excuse me" in the following situations:

1. As a polite way of attracting the attention, especially of someone you don't know.
Excuse me, does this bus go to Oxford Street?



2. To politely ask someone to move so that you can walk past them.
Excuse me, can I just get past?



3. To tell someone politely that you are leaving.
Excuse me a moment, I'll be with you shortly.



4. To say sorry for something you have accidentally done.
Did I take your seat? Do excuse me.

5. Before disagreeing with someone.
Excuse me, but aren't you forgetting something?

6. To politely ask someone to repeat something they have said because you have not heard it. (In the UK, people say "Pardon?" or "I beg your pardon?")

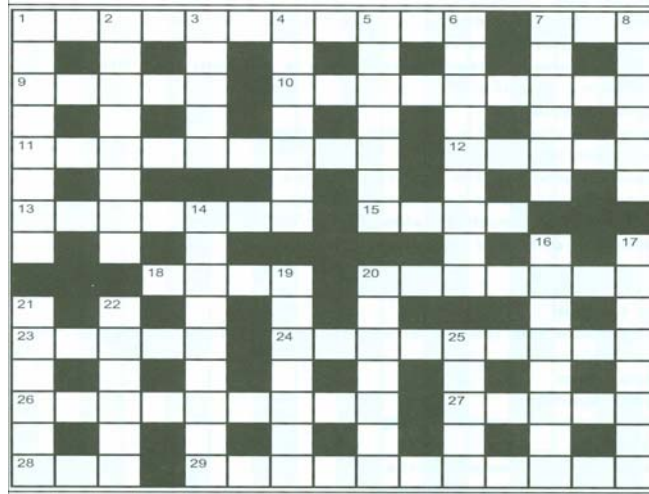


Source: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=26847&dict=CALD>

Napassawan

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No.5 Crossword Puzzles



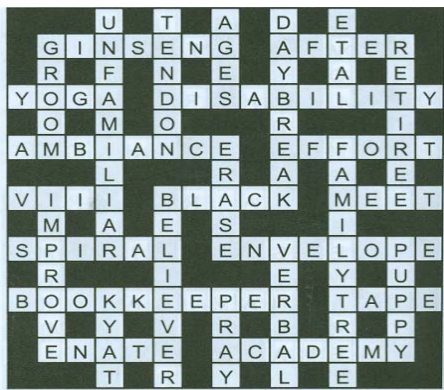
Across

- 1 Skin pattern on a fingertip
 7 Drops of water formed on a cool surface at night
 9 Unit for measuring a diamond's weight
 10 Completely necessary
 11 Downspout
 12 Wear away (Synonym)
 13 Burger King's famous sandwich
 15 Small quantity (especially of a liquid)
 18 _____ sandwich, a multi-layer sandwich
 20 Small bomb
 23 Goodbye in French
 24 District in the countryside
 26 Spiritual leader of Tibetans
 27 Traditional Japanese assassin or spy
 28 Thick flat pad used as a floor covering
 29 One staying temporarily in a country

Down

- 1 Opposite to face up
 2 Person who tells a story in a book
 3 V3 of eat
 4 Prime minister
 5 In place of something
 6 ARGENTINE (anagram)
 7 Evil supernatural being
 8 Billfold
 14 Process of making air, water, soil, etc. dirty
 16 Gas stove
 17 Kept aside from others
 19 Thing bought for less than the usual price
 20 Rubbish
 21 By chance
 22 Young pig
 25 Long piece of coloured cloth used as clothing in Burma

Answers no.4



From Crossword Puzzles Book

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