



# LANGUAGE LINKS

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## LEARNING STRATEGIES

**W**ELCOME TO “*LEARNING STRATEGIES*”, THE COLUMN WHERE YOU CAN FIND SEVERAL HELPFUL METHODS TO ENHANCE YOUR LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGHOUT THIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES.

FROM THIS WEEK UP UNTIL WEEK 6 OF THE COURSE, YOU CAN FOLLOW LEARNING STRATEGIES INTENDED TO HELP YOU MASTER LANGUAGE LEARNING. PLEASE KEEP ON!!

### 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 dialog, 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 practice. Learn the grammar and vocabulary outside of 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. Review a simplified English grammar text. Compare new grammatical structures in your foreign language to their English equivalents.

**6. PRACTICE FOR TESTS** by doing what you will have to do on 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 practice listening.

**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!

*Adapted from [www.english-zone.com](http://www.english-zone.com)*

*Usana*

# Culture Corner



## American Culture: Space & Time

- If you have an **appointment**, you'll mutter an excuse if you're five minutes late, and apologize profusely if it's ten minutes. An hour late is almost inexcusable.



- If you're talking to someone, you get uncomfortable if they approach **closer than about two feet**.



- About the only things you expect to bargain for are houses, cars, and antiques. **Haggling** is largely a matter of finding the hidden point that's the buyer's minimum.

- Once you're past college, you very rarely simply **show up at someone's place**. People have to invite each other over – especially if a meal is involved.



- When you negotiate, you are polite, of course, but it's only good business to **'play hardball'**. Some foreigners pay excessive attention to status, or don't say what they mean, and that's exasperating.



- If you have a **business appointment or interview** with someone, you expect to have that person to yourself, and the business shouldn't take more than an hour or so.



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Piyaporn

# Here's the Answer...

## Noun or verb?



I am often not sure about how to use noun and verb forms for some words, e.g. advice/advise and live/life. Can you explain?



The following are commonly confused forms.

- **advise** (verb) and **advice** (noun)  
*A good piece of advice is 'Don't worry!'*



- **live** (verb) and **life** (noun)  
*Change is inevitable – you've come to a turning point in your life.*



- **complain** (verb) and **complaint** (noun)  
*We didn't hear any complaints.*
- **sit/sat** (verb) and **seat** (noun)  
*Could we have seats at the front of the cinema, please?*



- **pay/paid** (verb) and **payment** (noun)  
*Which method of payment do you prefer – cash or credit card?*



- **stay** (verb) and **stay** (noun)  
*I hope you enjoy your stay in Britain.*



Powell, D. 2005. *Common mistakes at CAE and how to avoid them*. Cambridge

# FUN WITH ENGLISH

## No.1

### Where do you find them?

Here are 40 words arranged in alphabetical order. Work out where you are most likely to find them and write them down in the appropriate categories. (There are five words for each category.)

aisle, altar, blackboard, boot, bumper, button, clutch, collar, congregation, crew, cutlery, date stamp, deck, desks, dishwasher, filing cabinet, fridge, frying pan, funnel, horn, lapel, matron, operating theatre, patients, pew, playground, pocket, portholes, pulpit, pupils, rails, seatbelt, secretary, sink unit, sleeve, staffroom, stapler, stethoscope, typewriter, ward.

1. School

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2. Kitchen

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3. Boat

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4. Church

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5. Jacket

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6. Hospital

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7. Office

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8. Car

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