



LANGUAGE LINKS

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LEARNING STRATEGIES

English learning tips!

...Continued from last week

Language learning is also about intuition



Guesswork is an important strategy in learning a new language and you will probably be pleasantly surprised at how often you're right.

When listening to recorded material, you aren't expected to understand everything first time round. Learn to make maximum use of all the clues you can pick up

Speak, speak, speak!

Practise speaking as often as you can - even speaking to yourself is good practice.

Build up your vocabulary

A wide vocabulary is the key to successful language learning but don't try to learn too much at once. It's best to study frequently, for short periods of time.

Get the right tools

When choosing a dictionary, make sure you pick one that gives you plenty of information on usage through illustrative examples, rather than one which only gives translations for each word with no guidance as to which ones to use in which contexts.

Get used to hearing everyday language at normal speed

Listen to a foreign radio station, or watch foreign language TV stations if you have satellite or cable TV. Even if you don't understand much of what is being said, it is a good way of getting used to sounds and intonations. International news is a good thing to listen to.

And most of all, have fun!

www.askoxford.com

Usana

Culture Corner



A Gesture in Another Culture

The way in which emotions are displayed in gesture can vary greatly from culture to culture. Even the most simplistic gesture can cause outrage if exhibited in the wrong setting. Today we will look at the how and why.

❶ Which physical gesture, commonly recognized in the western world as an affirmative, can be found vulgar and offensive in places such as Russia, the Middle East and even parts of Greece?

Correct Answer : The thumbs-up

There is an increasing debate over the origin of the "thumbs-up" gesture. Although originally thought to have come from the decision made in the Roman Coliseum as to whether a gladiator should live or die, there is little evidence of this. Some believe the widespread use of the hand action to be much more recent, coming from World War 2 pilots who would signal to each other whilst in mid-flight.



Either way when someone in most western countries has their thumb up they tend to mean "yes" or "good job".



In parts of Greece and Italy the thumbs-up gesture tends to carry the same crude sexual connotations as that of the "middle finger" and so it is not recommended that you hitch-hike in Sardinia with your thumb erect.

Some countries in the Middle East see the sign as one of the most offensive gestures and can become incredibly insulted by an unbeknownst outsider.

It has even been said that the negative meaning of this gesture can be misinterpreted by people in English speaking countries such as Australia, thus showing that a seemingly simple positive gesticulation is not always taken well.

❷ One thing which is shared by almost all cultures is the annoyance and inconvenience caused by camera happy tourists. However, some cultures react to different extremes. In rural Ghana, what would the locals' reaction be to people taking pictures of them?

Correct Answer: Fear - the Ghanaians think they are trying to steal their souls.



The reactions of cultures in this case may seem very different but are in fact very similar. The annoyance and common utterance of "bloody tourist" is often due to the feeling of intrusion of the land these people live in. Likewise, in Ghana, taking a picture would also be seen as intrusion, but on their self instead of their land and so it brings about a more extreme reaction.



Also, in cultures such as small African tribes it is common to have more extreme emotional responses brought about by gestures as there are likely to be more superstitions. Less can be explained by the media and science and so relatively foreign objects such as cameras can be viewed as evil and soul-stealing objects.



Adapted from <http://www.funtrivia.com/submitquiz.cfm?quiz=312304>

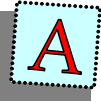
Piyaporn

Here's the Answer...

So am I, so do I



Can you explain when to use '*so am I*' or '*so do I*'?



We can use '*so*' to mean 'also' in a special structure with:

so + auxiliary verb + subject

Examples:

*Louise can dance beautifully and **so can her sister**.*

*I've lost the address' ~ **So have I**.*



Be and *have* can be used in this structure, even when they are not auxiliary verbs.

*I am so hungry. ~ **So am I**.*

*I was tired, and **so were the others**.*

*I have a headache. ~ **So have I**.*



After a clause with no auxiliary verb, we use *do/did*.

*I like whisky. ~ **So do I**.*

*I love this job. ~ **So do I**.*



Source: Swan, M. 2000. *Basic English Usage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Napassawan

FUN WITH ENGLISH

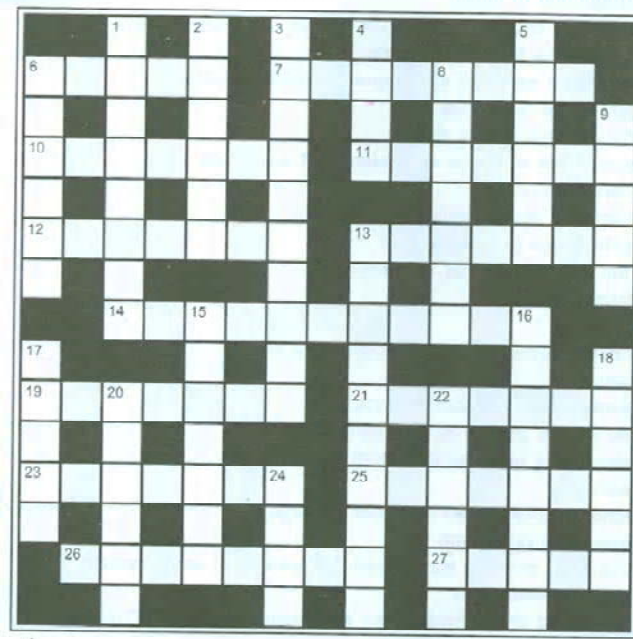
No. 3

Across

- 6 By product of fire
 7 Opposite to Decrease
 10 Person rejected by a community
 11 Become aware of something
 12 Inactive substance, as in sugar pill
 13 Money that you spend
 14 Finding somebody game
 19 State of being free from the attention of the public
 21 Person suggested for a prize
 23 State of poor health
 25 Dinosaur and mammoth are _____ animals
 26 Particular example of something
 27 Sticky substance used in making varnish

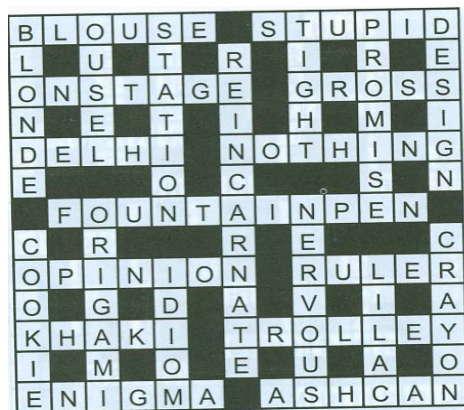
Down

- 1 Path made for people to walk along
 2 Period of ten years
 3 Merriam-Webster, Oxford
 4 Mark of a healed wound
 5 To give work to somebody
 6 Charlie Brown's pet beagle
 8 Same meaning as 26 Across
 9 Illness with high body temperature
 13 In danger of extinction
 15 Regional form of a language
 16 Kind act
 17 Month between March and May
 18 V3 of beat
 20 Land that surrounded by water
 22 Fully grown
 24 Go under



From: Crossword Puzzles Book

Answers no.2



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