



LANGUAGE LINKS

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LEARNING STRATEGIES

Keeping the listener interested



What is the secret of being an interesting speaker? When you speak English, how can you make sure that the person you are speaking to really wants to listen?



How can you make sure that you can keep your listener's attention?



- **Vary your vocabulary** - Effective speakers usually use a variety of words for the same idea. When speaking English, it's important to avoid repeating the same words too often - this can make what you say sound very boring.
- **Plan what you want to say** - It's important to think about the topics you are going to discuss *before* the discussions begin. Simply take a few minutes to remind yourself of all the words you know about this topic.
- **Involve your listeners** - The most effective speakers find ways to keep their listeners involved. The easiest way to do this is to ask questions - don't worry, the listeners don't actually need to answer. But questions such as 'Have you thought of...?', 'Do you know about...?' asked *before* you tell your story will get the listeners to think about the topic, and to be more interested in what you have to say.

Adapted from : <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Usana

Culture Corner

A Gesture in Another Culture



❶ You may have been told when you were younger that you shouldn't talk with your mouth full. Eating habits are viewed very differently by different cultures. At a British dinner table it would be seen as rude to slurp your food and drink. In which country is slurping a compliment?



Correct Answer: Japan and China.

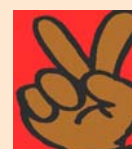
In Japan and China, if you slurp your food it is a sign that you are enjoying it.

In Egypt it is said that you should not eat all of the food on your plate and that you should eat finger food with your right hand. The practice of eating with only your right hand is common in all Muslim countries as well as India as the left hand is used for other things, such as personal hygiene.



If sitting cross-legged whilst eating (or for any activity) it is suggested that you should not have the soles of your feet pointing in the general direction of anyone else as this is a serious affront to Muslims. Exposing the soles of your feet can also cause offence in Russia. Finally, when in a Buddhist country it is important to not have the soles of your feet pointing in the direction of a statue of Buddha as this is frowned upon.

❷ When both middle and index fingers are held up in the USA it is seen as representing "V for victory" regardless of whether you palm is facing towards or away from you. However, in the UK, what is the intention of a person doing "the V-sign" with the back of their hand pointing towards you?



Correct Answer: To insult you.

In the UK, when "the V-sign" is made with your palm facing the person you are signalling to you are again displaying "V for victory". Americans must be careful when visiting the UK or Australia to have their hand facing the right direction so not to offend the locals.

Likewise one of the most widely recognised hand gestures in the world is the raising of the middle finger (also known as "the finger"). This causes serious offense in most cultures it is displayed to. In the Middle-East a common insult is a variation of "the finger" as it is inverted to suggest that the recipient is impotent or weak.

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

Piyaporn

Here's the Answer...

Word Usage: Percent or Percentage?

The words **percent** and **percentage** are closely related—does it matter how they are used in a sentence? Read this word usage tip to find out.

The rule for using percent and percentage is straightforward. The word percent (or the symbol %) accompanies a specific number, whereas the more general word percentage is used without a number.

Examples

percent (adverb, noun): of each hundred

Example

Fifteen percent of the control group responded to treatment with Drug A.

More than 95% of the participants who responded to the survey reported positive results.

percentage (noun): part of a whole that can be expressed in hundredths

Example

A large **percentage** of the population has been exposed to rotavirus.

The **percentage** of the population exposed to rotavirus is between 70% and 75%.

A large **percentage** of the crop has spoiled.

Quick Tips: Percent vs Percentage

1. Always write out the number and the word **percent** at the beginning of a sentence (eg, "Ten percent...").
2. The noun **percentage** requires an adjective to describe its size (eg, "a large percentage") when it does not refer to specific numbers in the sentence.
3. Some style guides recommend a numeral and the symbol % rather than the word **percent**, even if the number is less than 10 (eg, "A total of 5%...")

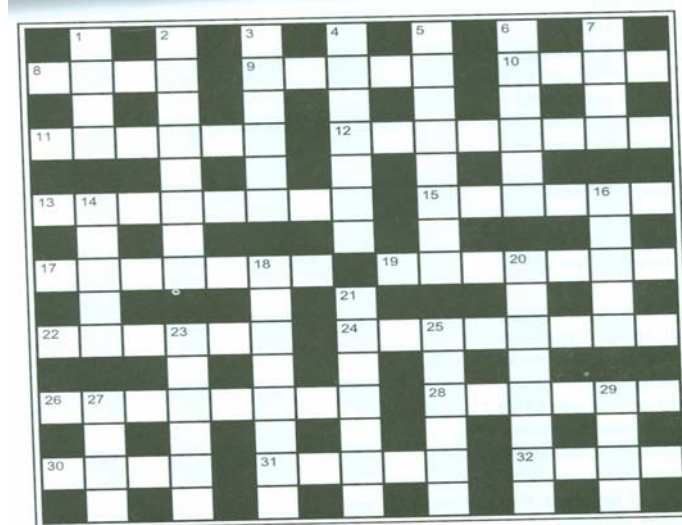


<http://www.biomedicaleditor.com/word-usage-percent.html>

Napassawan

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No. 5



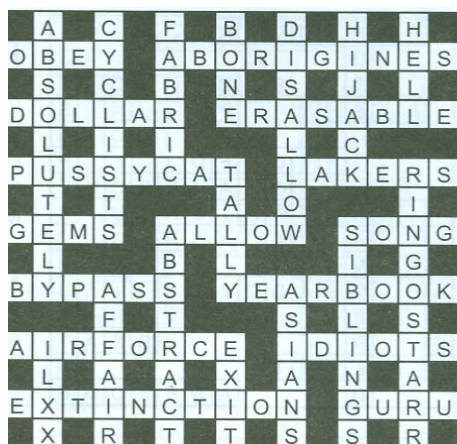
Across

- 8 _____ graph is a famous person's signature
 9 Device known as a 'wireless' in Britain
 10 Long narrative poem telling of a hero's deeds
 11 Story from ancient times
 12 Activity in which roles are performed
 13 Wife of prince
 15 Pantry (Synonym)
 17 Honest (Synonym)
 19 Series of rulers from the same family
 22 Newspaper chief
 24 Country where a person was born
 26 Footwear protecting shoes from water or snow
 28 'Empowering people' is Acer's _____
 30 Special public celebration
 31 Fixed way along which a bus travels
 32 Frost

Down

- 1 Not speaking
 2 Provincial or colonial ruler
 3 Structure over a river
 4 Something you write on an envelope
 5 Unfair behaviour during a game
 6 Red Hot Chili _____s, American rock band
 7 Renowned female singer
 14 Fast
 16 Eat at home
 18 Opposite to Southern
 20 A card game
 21 Become happier
 23 Hard substance that forms on teeth
 25 Full form of Mr.
 27 Meat from a young cow
 29 Highest stage of development

Answers no.4



From: Crossword Puzzles Book

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