



LANGUAGE LINKS

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LEARNING STRATEGIES

English speaking tips

Here you will find some tips on how to improve your English conversation skills.

Fluency

The main goal is fluency. Remember that you don't have to know that many complex grammatical structures to achieve that goal! First of all try to speak as fluently as possible (even when making grammar mistakes). Then, after developing a more fluent speaking style, you can focus more on grammar aspects.

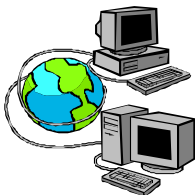
English vocabulary learning

Many people think that knowing a lot of words is the key to fluent speaking. It's true! However, there are many people who have wide vocabulary and still have problems with fluency. They try to learn more and more words because they think vocabulary is the biggest hurdle. They don't realize that the problem lies elsewhere. They will try to use a direct translation of the word or phrase they want to say, but this often results in them getting stuck.



If you have the same problem, remember that almost all words can be exchanged for other words. If you are speaking and suddenly stop when trying to think of the exact translation of a word, forget it! Try to say what you have in mind using other words - practising this is a real key to fluent English conversation!

Learn English by practice



Of course the best way to practise is through actual English conversation with other people. We recommend contacting other people using any communication aids which provide voice chat (like Skype). However, in case you don't have the opportunity to use such methods, it's better to practise by standard chatting than not to practise at all.



So the most important thing you have to remember is:

The more you practise, the more fluent your English speaking will become:

Good luck!

Adapted from : [www.http://speaking24.com](http://speaking24.com)

Usana

Culture Corner



Time

British people place considerable value on **punctuality**. In Britain, people make a great effort to arrive on time. It is often considered impolite to arrive even a few minutes late. If you are unable to keep an appointment, it is expected that you call the person you are meeting to inform them. Some general tips follow.

You should arrive:



- ↪ At the exact time specified – for dinner, lunch, or appointments with professors, doctors, and other professionals.
- ↪ Any time during the hours specified for teas, receptions, and cocktail parties.
- ↪ A few minutes early: for public meetings, plays, concerts, movies, sporting events, classes, church services, and weddings.

If you are invited to someone's house for **dinner** at half past seven, they will expect you to be there **on the dot**. An invitation might state "7.30 for 8", in which case you should arrive no later than 7.50. However, if an invitation says "sharp", you must arrive ahead of or on time.

Invitations

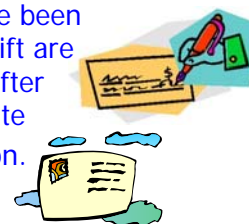


↪ "**Drop in anytime**" and "**come see me soon**" are idioms often used in social settings but aren't always meant to be taken literally. It is wise to telephone before visiting someone at home. If you receive a written invitation to an event that says "RSVP", you should respond to let the person who sent the invitation know whether or not you plan to attend.

↪ Never accept an invitation unless you really plan to go. You may refuse by saying, "Thank you for inviting me, but I will not be able to come." If, after accepting, you are unable to attend, be sure to tell those expecting you as far in advance as possible that you will not be going after all.



↪ Although it is not necessarily expected that you **give a gift** to your host, it is considered polite to do so, especially if you have been invited for a meal. Flowers, chocolates, or a small gift are all appropriate. A thank-you note or telephone call after the visit is also considered polite and is an appropriate means to express your appreciation for the invitation.



<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/social.htm>

Piyaporn

Here's the Answer...

How to use 'used to' in English



What is the difference between '**used to**' and '**is used to**'?



There's a big difference between '**used to**' and '**is used to**'. Avoid making mistakes by remembering the verb pattern below.

used to + verb

- to describe past habits or states and it no longer happens
For example:

*He **used to** smoke, but he doesn't now.*

*She **used to** live in Glasgow.*

*She **used to** love cats but one attacked her once and so she doesn't like them anymore.*



To be used to + verb with 'ing' To be used to + something

- to describe something that you are now familiar with

For example:

*We're **used to** tourists here - we get thousands every year.*

*Five years ago, I didn't know about the internet. Now I **am used to** **working** with it.*

*Eventually we **got used to** the smells of the laboratory.*



<http://www.english-at-home.com/grammar/how-to-use-used-to-in-english/>

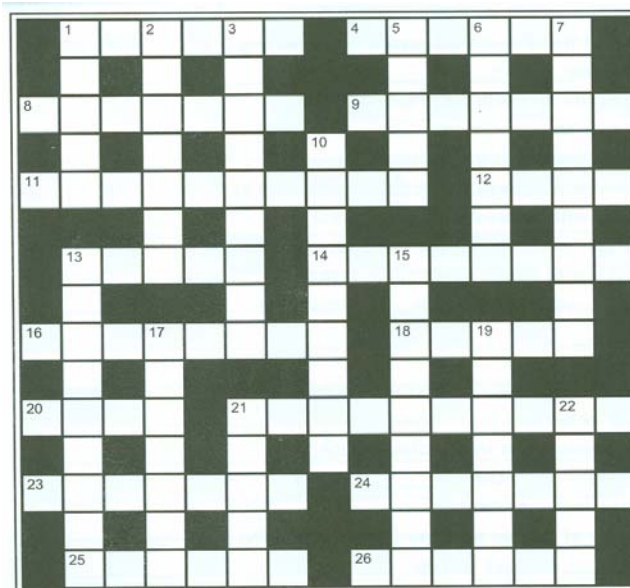
Napassawan

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No. 1

Across

- 1 Wearing dirty, worn-out clothes
 4 Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian are _____
 8 Used when you are leaving somebody
 9 Situation in which a difficult choice must be made
 11 All the members of a group
 12 Equal to 2.54 centimetres
 13 Main idea
 14 Most likely
 16 RED CANAL (anagram)
 18 Like an elf
 20 Good-> Better -> _____
 21 Technical expert
 23 Person who bets
 24 Ugly -> Uglier -> _____
 25 (Football) Goal _____
 26 Immediately



Down

- 1 Small rock
 2 That can be heard clearly
 3 Male partner
 5 Thin slice of potato fried in deep fat
 6 United States of _____
 7 ‘;’ is called _____
 10 Ship that has been lost at sea
 13 Bunny with bow tie is _____ of Playboy, check mark is _____ of Nike
 15 For the night
 17 Edible
 19 Sci-fi is the informal term of Science _____
 21 Opposite of here
 22 Passage between rows of seats in church



From : Crossword Puzzles Book



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