



# LANGUAGE LINKS

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## LEARNING STRATEGIES

### English learning tips



Learning to communicate in another language may be challenging, but it is also a very rewarding and enriching experience. It is the best passport to discovering another culture. Here are a few tips we've put together to help you make the most of the experience.

#### **Find out what kind of learner you are**

Ask yourself what your preferred learning style is and use it to your advantage. It is important to use a variety of strategies (using a book, listening to recordings, rehearsing dialogues, learning vocabulary, writing things down, listing verb forms, etc.) to practise the different skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

#### **Work at your own pace**

Make the most of the time you have available to study.

As a general rule, don't try and do too much at once.

#### **Why not learn with someone else?**

It helps if you can learn with someone else. This will give you extra stimulus to keep working.

#### **Remember that you can go a long way with just a little language**

Even if you feel unsure about your ability to form correct, complete sentences, you'll find that it is possible to communicate with just a few words. Above all, don't worry about getting things wrong. The more confidence you gain in actually communicating, the more fluent you'll become.

#### **Don't get let yourself get stuck if you can't think of the right word**

Practise improvising ways of getting your meaning across when speaking spontaneously, even if you don't know the exact words or phrases. The important thing is to build up your confidence so you're not afraid of getting involved in a conversation.



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

**Usana**

# Culture Corner

## American Culture:

## Space & Time



- If you have an **appointment**, you'll probably 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 may get uncomfortable if they stand ( 'in your face' ) **closer than about two feet**.



- About the only things you are expected to bargain for are houses, cars and antiques. **Haggling** is largely a matter of finding the minimum price that the seller is willing to accept.



- 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 should be polite, of course, but it's only business to **'play hardball' at times**. Some foreigners pay excessive attention to status, or don't say what they mean, and that can be exasperating to an American.



- 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.



# HERE'S THE ANSWER...



## Listen or Hear



I'm unsure about the difference between '**listen**' and '**hear**'. It is not always clear for a lot of English language learners.



Let's have a look at them:

**Listen** is used to talk about or describe sounds that are being made around you and which you are making an active effort to focus on. **For example:**



- Have you **listened** to the conversation dialogues yet?
- She was **listening to** music on her iPod when I walked in.
- Mike **listened to** his teacher and then repeated what she had said. 'Just **listen to** yourself! You talk such rubbish!', she had said angrily.

Note that '**listen**' is nearly always followed by 'to' - you **listen to** something.



Just to repeat an important point; **listening** is *active* - that is you are making an active effort to listen to the sound.

**Hear** is used for sounds that our ears pick up, but we do not, unlike listen, need to be *actively* engaged in trying to catch the sound - it can just come to your ears! **For example:**



- Mike **heard** a bang in the night which woke him up.
- She **heard** someone screaming and called the police.
- I **heard** a loud explosion and then the building collapsed.



Note that 'hear' is not followed by 'to'. But, to make it a little more complicated let's look at this conversation:

- 'Did you **hear** what I said', asked John's father.
- 'No, I **wasn't listening**', replied John.
- 'Well, if you **don't listen** you will never **hear** what I am telling you!'.

Now, that last sentence seems a little mixed up but actually shows clearly how the two verbs are used - in this case, if John does not make an active effort to listen he will not hear his father's advice (even if he may have heard sounds his father was making!)

So, you can **hear** something without wanting to, but you can only **listen to** something intentionally.

[http://www.english4today.com/englishgrammar/grammarfaq/grammarfaq\\_answer.cfm?qid=6937](http://www.english4today.com/englishgrammar/grammarfaq/grammarfaq_answer.cfm?qid=6937)

Napassawan

# FUN WITH ENGLISH

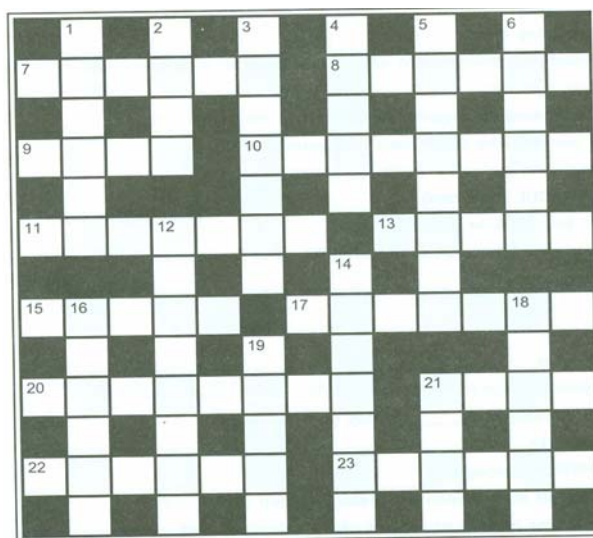
No. 1

## Across

- 7 Starchy root vegetable
- 8 Elephant's driver
- 9 A gemstone, usually green
- 10 Purple, egg-shaped vegetable
- 11 Refuse to do business / trade with
- 13 Thin pancake
- 15 Juicy fruit with sweet yellowish flesh
- 17 A breed of long-eared hunting dog
- 20 Winner
- 21 A barred enclosure
- 22 A type of vegetable eaten raw or cooked
- 23 Rabbit's favorite vegetable

## Down

- 1 Main ingredient of ketchup
- 2 Sweet baked food made with flour
- 3 State of having little money
- 4 Last letter of the Greek alphabet
- 5 Kids
- 6 A root vegetable
- 12 Cylindrical green fruit
- 14 Vegetable giving 'Popeye' superhuman strength
- 16 Resounded
- 18 A drink made with eggs
- 19 Name of woman who tells fortunes
- 21 Maize



From : Crossword Puzzles Book



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