



# LANGUAGE LINKS

**December 6, 2011**

Language Links is an internal publication of the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2791.php>

## Association of Southeast Asian Nations



The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**, commonly abbreviated to **ASEAN** is a geopolitical and economic organization of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, which was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Since then, membership has expanded to include Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Its aims include the acceleration of economic growth, social progress, cultural development among its members, the protection of regional peace and stability, and to provide opportunities for member countries to discuss differences peacefully.



English is a formal language used for communication not only among the ASEAN member countries but also throughout the world. The major role of English in Asia today is as a lingua franca. English is the de facto lingua franca of the grouping of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and with the signing of the ASEAN Charter in December 2008 will assume official status as the working language of ASEAN. English is also the working language of the extended grouping known as ASEAN + 3, which includes the ten states of ASEAN plus China, Japan and Korea.

To put this another way, the use of English by English-knowing multilinguals for whom English is not a first language represents today's major role of English in Asia. When, for example, Thais, Vietnamese, Indonesians and Chinese meet, the language they are most likely to use as a medium of communication - as a lingua franca - is English.

Country (Area)	Spoken Language(s) or Dialect(s)	Commercial Language(s)
Brunei	Malay English	English
Cambodia	Khmer	Khmer
Indonesia	Bahasa Indonesia Javanese English	English
Laos	Lao	French
Malaysia	Malay English Tamil	English
Myanmar (Burma)	Burmese English	English
Philippines	Pilipino English	English
Singapore	Malay English Tamil Mandarin	English
Thailand	Thai English	English
Vietnam	Vietnamese	English



References:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association\\_of\\_Southeast\\_Asian\\_Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations)

<http://www.ied.edu.hk>

<http://www.export911.com/ref/lang3.htm>

# Here's the Answer...

## Differences between Go and Come

☞ Use 'go' to express the entire **movement away from the current location** of the speaker or listener to another location.

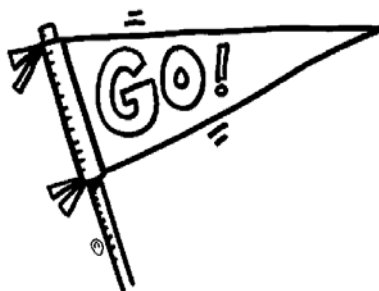
For example:

Let's go to a film tonight.

Where did John go this afternoon?

Let's go and see Peter and Diane.

I want to go and live in Greece



**Important Note:** 'Go' is often used together with 'there' to indicate a location **away from** the speaker.

Verb Forms: Go - Went - Gone - Going

☞ Use 'come' to express movement **from a different location to the current location** of the speaker or hearer. For example:

Would you like me to come over for lunch?

Please come to my party this coming Friday.

Can I come and sit on your lap?

When did you come to live here?



[http://esl.about.com/od/vocabularyintermediate/ss/confusing\\_verb\\_pairs.htm](http://esl.about.com/od/vocabularyintermediate/ss/confusing_verb_pairs.htm)  
Swan, M. 2000. *Basic English Usage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

# Culture Corner

## The Body Language of Greetings in Different Cultures

Here is a closer look at some of the world's cultures, and how people of these cultures greet one another:

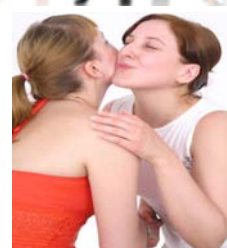
### Great Britain

British verbal greetings may be accompanied by a handshake. A small kiss (just a peck on the cheek) may be given between females, or perhaps between a female and a male, but not between two males.



### France

One common French greeting is a light handshake. Another common greeting is a kiss on the left cheek followed by a kiss on the right cheek. Depending on the situation or the people greeting, the kiss may be just a touching of cheeks or a real smack.



### New Zealand (Maori people)

The Maori greeting, called the "Hongi," means, "Sharing of breath." In this greeting, the two people touch or rub their noses together and inhale.



### United States

Although sometimes just a smile accompanies the greeting, a firm handshake is a common greeting between males, and also happens (less commonly) between a male and a female. Women tend to shake hands with one another only if it is their first time meeting, or if it is a business situation. Female friends often greet with a hug.



### Mexico

Handshakes are common, and may be accompanied by a strong "abrazo" (hug) and a few hearty pats on the back between men, if they know each other well. Also, a kiss is a common form of greeting, and is usually just a touching of cheeks with a kissing sound rather than a real kiss. Unlike the French double-kiss, the kiss greeting in Mexico is just done on one cheek.

If you learn the proper way to greet someone in another culture, including understanding body language, you may be pleasantly surprised at how well you will be received when traveling to another country. Greetings are often people's first impressions of one another, so learning how to greet someone appropriately is important in making a good first impression.



Source: <http://www.brighthub.com/education/languages/>

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