



LANGUAGE LINKS

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Understanding how you learn best

There are different ways to learn. Find out what kind of learner you are in order to better understand how to learn more effectively.

The visual learner

Do you need to see your teacher during lessons in order to fully understand the content of a lesson?

Do you prefer to sit at the front of the classroom to avoid visual obstructions (e.g. people's heads)?

Do you think in pictures and learn best from visual displays including: diagrams, illustrated text books, overhead transparencies, videos, flipcharts and hand-outs?

During a lecture or classroom discussion, do you prefer to take detailed notes to absorb the information?

Learning Tip! - you may benefit from taking part in traditional English lessons, but maybe private lessons would be better.

The auditory learner

Do you learn best through verbal lectures, discussions, talking things through and listening to what others have to say?

Do you interpret the underlying meanings of speech through listening to tone of voice, pitch, speed and other nuances?

Does written information have little meaning until you hear it?



Learning Tip! - you may benefit from listening to the radio or listening to text as you read it. You could try reading text aloud and using a tape recorder to play it back to yourself.

The Tactile learner

Do you learn best through a hands-on approach, actively exploring the physical world around you?

Do you find it hard to sit still for long periods?

Do you become distracted easily?

Learning Tip! - you may benefit from taking an active part in role plays or drama activities.

Other English Learning Tips

Travel to an English speaking country:-

- England, America, Australia, Canada, South Africa, one of them is only a few hours away from you.
- Specialist holidays are available to improve your English.
- Take an English speaking tour or activity holiday.

Spend your time on things that interest you. If you like cooking then buy an English-language cookbook or find recipes on the net and practise following the recipes. You'll soon know if you have made a mistake!

Keep something English on you (book, newspaper or magazine, cd or cassette, set of flashcards) all day and every day, you never know when you might have five spare minutes.

If you are too tired to actively practice just relax and listen to an English pop song or talk radio station.

Get onto Skype. Start networking with other learners / native speakers / teachers (don't just restrict yourself to seeking out native speakers).



REFERENCE:

<http://www.learnenglish.de/improvepage.htm>

Here's the Answer...

Scared or Scary

Q: What is the difference between scared and scary?

*A: **Scared** is an adjective used to describe a person or maybe an animal that is frightened or worried.*

For example:

*"Hirantha was too **scared** to go white water kayaking in Sri Lanka."*

*"I am really **scared** about speaking in front of the class."*

*"She's **scared** to walk alone at night."*



***Scary** (UK also scarey) is an adjective used to describe something or someone that causes fear or terror.*

*For example: "The horror movie was really **scary**."*



Note! - Just remember "I'm scared of scary things, but I'm not scary."

<http://www.learnenglish.de/mistakes/scared.html>

Culture Corner

FUN TRIVIA



Which physical gesture, commonly recognised 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?

- ☐ A downward nod
- ☐ An open smile
- ☐ Clapping your hands
- ☐ The "thumbs-up"



The correct answer is 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.

Giving gifts is a common sign of friendship, love and respect in just about all cultures. However, what the gift is can carry very different meanings. Which gift, which may be harmless in Britain, is a symbol of death in China?

- ☐ Jewellery
- ☐ A silver trophy
- ☐ Pet cats
- ☐ Clocks



The correct answer is "clocks".

It would also be unwise to give a Chinese person any gift which comes in groups of four, as four is unlucky in Chinese culture, much like the number thirteen in western cultures.

One common problem when in other countries is choosing the correct flowers to give as gifts. If you choose the **wrong** type/colour of flower you may cause panic as each country seems to have their own flower associated with death and funerals. In Brazil these would be purple blooms, in Scandinavia it is white roses, in Latvia it is red flowers and in France it is white lilies and chrysanthemums.

Source: <http://www.funtrivia.com/playquiz/quiz31230423c0d88.html>



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