



# LANGUAGE LINKS

**Vol.2 No.3 March 19, 2012**

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>

## LEARNING STRATEGIES

### Learn American English by watching movie



Want to learn English by watching American movies? Looking for some tips on how to do it? If so, keep reading, because you are the right place. This article is for people who want to do it! I will show you three tips that will help you learn from movies. This is a very fun and successful way to improve your language skills.

#### 1. Watching American movies without subtitles to improve your listening skills

It forces you to focus. It is easy enough to watch a movie in a foreign language, if you have subtitles. You just need to read, you do not need to listen carefully. So start watching American movies without subtitles and you will quickly improve your listening skills.

#### 2. Observe American movies with subtitles, and repeat after the local speakers

Subtitles can be sometimes useful. You can watch an American movie with subtitles and repeat out loud after the players to improve your pronunciation. Do this for at least 15 minutes a day and you will speedily notice a big improvement in how you talk.

#### 3. Translating subtitles in your local language

It takes time to translate the English subtitles in your local language, but it is extremely effective. You will learn hundreds of words and useful phrases. And it will help you learn the most useful, spoken American English.

That's how you can learn English by watching American movies. Always keep in mind that you must speak at least some English to use these methods. Good luck and have fun watching movies and learning.

Adapted from: <http://english-preparation.blogspot.com/2011/05/how-to-learn-old-english.html>

**Usana**

# Culture Corner



## How Do You Celebrate?

People everywhere celebrate the New Year. It is a time to say goodbye to the past and to think about new beginnings. In many countries, people get together with family and friends on December 31 to eat, drink, dance, and welcome January 1 at midnight.



In many Western countries people make New Year's resolutions. They make promises to themselves to make changes in their lives over the coming year, such as to lose weight, get a new job, or learn a new skill.



In many Asian countries, people also celebrate the Lunar New Year, usually in late January or early February. People spend time with family and eat special foods. In most countries, the holiday lasts for several days.



In late February or early March, some countries celebrate a special festival called Carnival. Many think that Carnival first started in Italy or Greece. People dressed in costumes, wore colorful masks, ate, drank, and danced all night on the Tuesday before the start of Lent.

A period of time in the Christian calendar of forty days before Easter, when fasting is common.

This tradition spread to France, Spain, and Portugal, and later, to Brazil and the United States.



Now, two of the biggest Carnivals take place in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and New Orleans in the United States. People still wear flamboyant costumes, and at Carnival in Rio there is a huge parade that lasts for four days.

In New Orleans, Carnival is called Mardi Gras, French meaning Fat Tuesday and lasts for three weeks\*. Both celebrations combine music and traditions from all over the world. Millions of visitors travel from around the world to join the party.



Anderson, N. J. 2003. *Active Skills for Reading*. Massachusetts: Thomson Corporation.

# Here's the Answer...

## The difference between words: later and soon

The word "**later**" is used to talk about a future time, but we don't know exactly when in the future it will be. However, when we say "**later**", it sounds like it will not be in the immediate future. The word "**soon**", on the other hand, is used when something will happen in the immediate future, and usually the person has a general idea of when it will happen.

For example:



A: I had a really nice time with you tonight. Let's go out again sometime.

B: Ok. I'll **see you later**. Bye.



A: We're going to take a ten minute break now, and then we can finish talking about the project.

B: Ok, **see you soon**.



I don't have time to write the report now, but I'll do it **later**. I have lots of time because the deadline isn't until next month.

I don't have time to write the report now, but I'll do it **soon**. The deadline is this Friday.



So, in the first example, the person says "**See you later**." because they don't know exactly when they will see the other person. The expression, "**See you later**." is a friendly, casual way to say goodbye to someone.

In the second example, the person says "**See you soon**." because they know they will see the other person after a short time has gone by - in this case, after ten minutes.

In the third example, the person uses "**later**" because they don't know exactly when they will write the report, but they know they have a fairly long period of time in which to do it. In the fourth example, they use "**soon**" because it must be done in the immediate future - in this case, before Friday.

<http://englishhelponline.me/2010/11/01/the-difference-between-words-later-and-soon/>

**Napassawan**

# Let's complete this story!

speed                      least                      sign  
pale                      seat                      have  
law                      laughs                      cop



There was this car that was driving very slowly down the highway. A State Trooper pulls it over.

"What \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> I done wrong, officer?" the driver asks.

"You are going 26mph\* on a major highway. There is a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> against that," the officer says to the driver. "You must go at \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> 50mph."

"But when I turned on the highway, the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> said 26!" the driver replies.

"HA HA HA!" The officer \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> out loud. "That is because this is Interstate 26! The 26 isn't the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> limit!"



The driver leans back in her car \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> and the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> sees another woman sitting beside her. She looked as \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> as a ghost.

"What happened to her?" the officer asks.



"I don't know, but she has been that way ever since we got off of interstate 160."

\* mph = miles per hour

1. have    2. law    3. least    4. sign    5. laughs  
6. speed    7. seat    8. cop    9. pale

Pimravee

Adapted from <http://thejokes.co.uk/jokes-about-car-drivers.php>

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editor :** Mr. David Rogers

**Editorial Team :** Ms. Usana Wongnarkpet  
Ms. Napassawan Phromsumphun  
Ms. Piyaporn Juntarat  
Ms. Pimravee Chaiprugkul

**Production :** Ms. Raevadee Tantayavit

