



## **Brighten Up Your English**

**Let your English flow naturally**

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### **Being good at grammar, poor at communication**

Many people who are interested in English must inevitably spend a lot of money to gain the English language taught from many language centres in Thailand. Having completed of that course, they enjoy at much expenditure they paid to. Eventually, they become expert grammarians whom are often appreciated as godfathers of English grammar. With proud of other's appreciation, this way of thinking makes the grammarians misunderstand the fact of learning English. Although they are considered experts in English grammar, they definitely fail in using spoken English. They will lose their confidence when invited to lecture or deliver speech to the public at any time. Worse, some always refuse to use their spoken English when invited. Finally, they become disrespected by others. Has such kind of situation ever happened to you? If yes, you are suggested to attempt to use some techniques, as I committed, which will be described step by step below. By following this, you will find yourself being more confident and convinced in your spoken English undoubtedly whenever you use it.

### **Love English as your beloved**

Initially, you are required to reply the following questions in your mind: "Have you ever lost your heart to someone else in your life?", "Have you ever arranged to have carried on the longer relationship between her and you?" Or "What procedure have you carried on then?"

In the first question, if you say yes, it means you are thinking that she is important to you ever since you lost your heart to her. You are curious to know everything about her; for example, her family, and her life. You want to stay closed to her by all means, for example, writing a letter telling

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how much you have concerned about her, phoning her in order to hear what she said, or making an appointment with her for food outside etc. This procedure is always used in general by those who are in love and those who are beloved. If you want to fulfill your love with but never hold relationship with her in between, it will be like someone who is clapping his palm with that palm too. That becomes a secret and useless love. So you have to make relationship with her as much as possible in order that your love will be succeeded. However, you may experience some obstacles on the way you are walking. You have to overcome them without being disheartened. If you sometimes feel tired, do not fail, just have a bit rest to charge the battery of your mind. If you fail, it will not lead you to attain what you long for. And so is the procedure of learning English. There is a saying:

“There is nothing fails when you carry on your duty consciously” or

“Where there is a will there is a way”.

Now, when you have tried to follow this way again and again and have been unfulfilled, after considering thoroughly that it has been going on to failure because she has already processed by another, it is only you who consider what a new way is: finding another girl who is more appropriate to you or finding no one else and being alone to keep her as your precious teacher till you recovered. It surely takes time to learn the English language but will go to fail for those who have highly expected to be able speak it within a short period of time. This language is not easy to learn within a limited time: one-month course, two months-course, three months-course etc. You have to be patient to it. If you can follow so, you will become a good person who can speak English well. Similarly, if you love English and want to speak it correctly and fluently, you have to understand it well too. You have to go to see it. Do not expect it coming to you only. Many Thai people are, nowadays, taught to expect that English will some time come to them. So they are supposed to be ready to welcome when it comes. The fact is that when it comes, they are ready to run away because they are afraid and losing their self-confidence constantly.

Around 70 percent of the aim of learning English in Thailand is to know only what A B C is and how it can be compounded correctly according to grammar but never makes stress of how it can be used: only knowing is insufficient, it should be taught to be used in daily life. Therefore, if you want to succeed with your English well, try to avoid the following ideas:



## 1. Being afraid of mispronunciation

Being afraid of something: ghost, dog, cat and so on, can occur to an individual. And Thai people in general have no exception. It is not harmful if they are afraid of what will be harmful and are not afraid of what will not. But it is very harmful if they are afraid of what will not be harmful and are not afraid of what will. If you want to be able to speak English well, you ought not to be afraid of mispronunciation for English is not what you will be afraid. Conversely, it is what you feel confident when using it.

There is no one who speak English well in this world has never done their mispronunciation before. Remember that **the more you speak English the more you improve your spoken English**. Why does the writer mention so? It is because the writer does not want you being too much afraid of pronunciation.

As the writer has been working on “English for propagation of Thai art and culture” for more than two years at Monk Chat Centre, one of centres conducted in Buddhachinarat Sangha College, the writer have used spoken English with foreign visitors very often. Most of them, who are from different countries and the writer, sometimes with different pronunciations, and sometimes with wrong English sentences, understand what it exactly means. The reason why the conversationalist and the writer understand each other is that we have spoken naturally with the same English sentences. Each sentence anyway has it own meaning to let us know the content in general. With this good experience, it gradually encouraged the writer to stop shyness and collect self-confidence. For example, the Thais who were born in the Central part of the country speak the Thai language with Thai pronunciation, while those who were born in Northeastern part speak Thai language with their own pronunciation. In contrast, they use different pronunciation, and in comparison, they use the same language: Thai. So they understand the meaning of what they all conveyed.

## 2. Being afraid of wrong grammar

Have you ever realized what kind of English four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing you have first studied? And actually what is the first skill to be done? If your



answer is listening, you are going to the right way. If your answer is another, you are going to the wrong.

The writer notices its reasons why Thais are persuaded by out of date curriculum. Thai students learn English as foreign language instead of the second language. They are taught to have learned how to read and how to write ever since they were at the primary school. In addition, there was no a teacher who could speak English. That situation is changing from time to time. The Thai government has now provided the scholarship for those who have good marks and acquired to pursue their education abroad.

It is true believed that many countries where spoken English is used as official language never care about grammar. By the same way, most of Thais never care about the Thai language when they speak.<sup>2</sup> Because the main purpose of the English language is the instrument with which the speaker uses to convey his information to the listener. If you can make your listener understand what information you are giving, though you use a wrong grammar, you are going to success in general. For example, if you ask someone: “Where you go?” instead of ‘Where are you going?’”, they know what you mean though it is an affirmative sentence.

Grammar is the most important when is used as a written language. A good writer creates his/her work precisely and honorably because correct grammar and content value their writing works.<sup>3</sup>

In summary, speaking with wrong grammar is not good but is a desirable thing to do if you want you English improved.

### **3. Being afraid of non-understanding what they said**

The writer has heard the story of this situation told by one of my students during in English class as well. He told me that he was very curious to greet foreign visitors who came to Monk Chat Centre. Having greeted, he could not understand what they replied in return as they

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<sup>2</sup> Grammar is also important but not the most important when speaking – the writer

<sup>3</sup> Except for some quotation words quoted in novels etc.



spoke very fast and unclearly. Actually, they used English with medium fast and clearly. The problem was that the student was not accustomed to their pronunciation. With this trouble, if without a good instructor, he might become disheartened at last. So the way to overcome this trouble is to use your English more often and pay more attention of what they said. Do not catch all points of sentences of what they spoke about because you will not follow all that. Instead, you should try to notice what word in sentence he/she stressed. Because what is stressed in each sentence is what he or she specified as well. By this way, you will find the main point or the main idea of their words. On the other hand, if you have already noticed the word stressed in sentences, yet could not understand what is meant, you should use one of these phrases to interrupt them: **“Excuse me”** or **“Pardon me”** to let them repeat that again. And now you have used the English phrase to improve your English.

In summary, when you do not understand what the speaker said to you, do not be afraid of asking them to get rid of your doubt. Whenever you want to ask any questions, do not hesitate. Do ask them immediately. Do not be afraid that your question will not be stupid. Do keep in mind that “the only stupid question is what you do not ask”.

#### **4. Being afraid that they will not speak to**

Here is one of obstacles making you become frustrated and supposed to change the mind out of your previous inspiration. Actually, this problem scarcely occurs as mostly when you talk to them, they will reply you with gentle manner in return, except we ask them with improper questions for example, you raise the questions regarding their money, wife, or even their secret story. Such questions are improper to be asked. You will possibly be answered with improper words such as “None on your business” etc. It may be okay if the conversationalists are your close friends. So you ought to realize their culture in order to avoid misunderstanding one another. However, do not feel under pressure because most the foreign visitors understand This well. They read the book regarding Thailand before coming to visit Thailand. Your



English will be improved whether it is wrong or not. You will find yourself as the adventure who has never been scared of altitude of the Everest Mountain.

Do remember again that your wrong English at this time leads you to improve yourself to be the right English speaker next time. As a result, do not be afraid that they will not speak to you in return, do be afraid that you yourself will be afraid of speaking to them first.

### **Three principles to brighten up your English**

#### 1. Listening and speaking in English whenever you have an opportunity

Do start speaking slowly. By doing this, you can build much more confidence in your mind. However, you must try to find time to speak with those who can speak English well as much as you can do. Do not be afraid of speaking English even with Thai people. Whenever you can go abroad where English is used as official language, you will be able to speak English without any struggle and it will be your natural language too. For example, if you are much rich you can go to England or the United States of America to learn some English courses or pursue your graduate degrees. You will absorb the pronunciation flown by the native speakers directly. However, even the people from the two countries have a different pronunciation: English people speak with British English accent while Americans with American English. It is good to know the different pronunciations of the two countries and try to imitate them. But practicing English with your own accent will be the better way now to be able to improve your spoken language than imitating either British's or American's only.

If you are not much rich, England or the United States of America are not appropriate places for you to learn English. You are suggested to go to India where spoken English is available instead. The reason is that the cost of living in this country is still low. The majority of Indians can use four skills of English well. You can improve your English with them at any occasion. In other words, you can decrease your expenditure while remaining there as well.

India nowadays is one of courtiers in Asia providing a diverse array of sophisticated fields of studies in the world: English, computer science, eastern philosophies etc. Many internationals have flown to this country to study some of them. Anyway, there is a big difference of social status: caste system, language culture, service giving and so on. When you face it, just consider that there is no



easily affording happiness without suffering. You will go through this phenomenon inevitably before your education bears fruits.

## **2. Thinking in English**

Thinking is also the way to assist you to accept a new word, phrase and sentence of English in your mind before you speak. Do begin thinking whichever is closest to you: table, chair, paper, glass of water etc. All this can help you speak English faster and better. You can remember when you often think about that again and again. It is said that mostly human beings spend at least 27 times of seeing and speaking of English vocabulary to remember it well. When you accumulate words day by day, you will be able to use your English more confidently too.

## **3. Reading and taking note in English**

From what you have seen, what you have read and what you have thought, you are able to use it in your writing paper. Taking note is not directly concerned with speaking can help you know about vocabulary, phrase and sentence in order to using it correctly.

## **Conclusion**

A good speaker is also a good listener. Without practice and practice, no one can speak English. So English always come with practice. Those who can speak English effectively must take their walk constantly to reach the purpose too. I hope the reader enjoy the technique and take it for your better-spoken English.

## **Examples of wrong English grammar**

### **1. No one likes you except I.**

In educated speech, me follows the preposition except. This problem is troublesome because, to the unsophisticated, the sentence sounds as if it can be completed to “No one likes you, except I do,” but current educated usage adheres to technical rule that a preposition requires an objective pronoun (me).

**2. Please *lay* down.**

Liberal as grammar has become, there is still no sanction for using lay with the meaning of recline. Lay means to place, as in “Lay your hand on mine.” Lie is the correct choice.

**3. Neither of these things *are* worth the money.**

The temptation to use are in this sentence is, I admit, practically irresistible. However, “neither of” means “neither one of” and is, therefore, is the preferable verb.

**4. The judge sentenced the accused *to be hung*.**

A distinction is made, in educated speech, between hung and hanged. A picture is hung, but a person is hanged – that is, if such action is intended to bring about an untimely demise.

**5. Take two *spoonsful* of this medicine every four hours.**

There is a strange affection, on the part of some people, for spoonsful and cupsful, even though spoonsful and cupsful do not exist as acceptable words. The plurals are spoonfuls and cupfuls.

If, for secret reasons of your own, you prefer to take your medicine in two separate spoons, you may then properly speak of “two spoons full (not spoonsful) of medicine.”

**6. Your words seem *to infer* that John is a liar.**

Infer does not mean hint or suggest. Imply is the proper word; to infer is to draw a conclusion from another’s words.

**7. Smitha and Phiraya are *alumni* of the same Buddhachinarat Sangha College.**

As Smitha and Phiraya are obviously women, we call them alumnae; only male graduates are alumni.

**8. Unseen in Thailand.**

Formerly, the Tourism authorities of Thailand tried to campaign against the country with the slogan “Unseen in Thailand” meaning Thailand has a lot of unseen resources. Though it is wrong English and later replaced by Unseen Thailand, many people still use “Unseen in Thailand.”





**The following are some examples with similar meanings:**

**1. Do you speak English?**

Fluently	Do you speak English fluently?
Rapidly	Do you speak English rapidly?
Very well	Do you speak English very well?
Correctly	Do you speak English correctly?

**2. Do you think English is easy?**

Hard	Do you think English is hard?
Difficult	Do you think English is difficult?
Complicated	Do you think English is complicated?
Tough	Do you think English is tough?

**3. I've got to go to the train station.**

Must	I must go to the train station.
Have to	I have to go to the train station.
Ought to	I ought to go to the train station.
Should	I should go to the train station.
Supposed to	I'm supposed to go to the train station.

**4. Do you wish some assistance?**

Want	Do you want some assistance?
Would you like	Would you like some assistance?
Advice	Would you like some advice?
Care for	Would you care for some advice?