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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Come and join our exciting workshops for **FREE!**

Indonesian Colloquial Workshop

When:
Friday 25 November
2011 6pm-8pm

Where:
SLS Office

What:
If you have been learning Indonesian and struggling with its slang and colloquial, this workshop will help you in understanding colloquialism in Indonesian.

SLS BLOG

Sydney Language Solutions has re-launched its blog. You can find a lot of information about languages that you have a particular interest in or just general information about other languages! Not to mention that they are all originally made by our lovely teachers.

LANGUAGES TIPS & STRATEGIES

Some facts about Vietnamese

Tone is the use of pitch in language to distinguish lexical or grammatical meaning. Although some languages use pitch to express emotion, to emphasise, to compare or contrast ideas, tones in Vietnamese are used to distinguish words. That means the very tone attached to each word can fundamentally change the meaning of that word.

Tonal phonemes in Vietnamese are called *tonemes*.

For example, one word with exactly the same spelling with a rising tone conveys a completely different meaning from similar word with a low - broken tone.

As a result, in learning Vietnamese, it is very crucial that the learner

must try to memorise all the tones, how to pronounce them and write the tone correctly.

If the learners try to memorise the words in Romanised version (as in Lonely Planet), it may help the learner a bit in the first few weeks, but **will not help in the long run**. When the learner cannot remember to record the tones in the writing system, it is also very difficult for him/her to recollect the pronunciation and how to say the word correctly. As each change in the tone will carry a different meaning of the word, the incorrect tone will seriously affect the meaning and the listeners' comprehension of a sentence.



Therefore, **always remember to memorise your tones** if you want to learn Vietnamese seriously and not for a few weeks just to survive in the country ;)

Testimonials from our Students

Indonesian

"I found the Beginner's Indonesian course offered by Sydney Language Solutions to be fun and very user friendly. Gerry, the course instructor, is welcoming and enthusiastic; he adapts the course to the specific needs and interests of students and every class included discussion or a short video exploring a different aspect of Indonesian culture. If you're going to Bali soon or interested in the language, this course is a great place to start." ([Roger, Indonesian Beginner 1 - Intermediate 1](#))

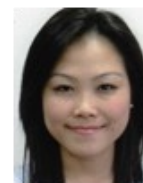
Korean

"Good all round course. Very well presented." ([Michael Ghazi, Samsung Australia, Corporate Training 2010](#))

"This language class was much more enjoyable & useful compared to one I attended in Korea." ([Korean Beginner 1 Student, June-August 2011 Session](#))

Mandarin

"Thank you Sydney Language Solutions for your assistance in my quest to learn Mandarin during July – October 2010. I have thoroughly enjoyed my lessons with my private tutor over the past weeks. I am very satisfied with your professionalism, excellent resources, quality and well-trained staff as well as teaching practices. I was able to learn in a supportive environment with great flexibility and encouragement. Once again thank you and I look forward to further lessons in 2011." ([Thuy Van Nguyen, 2010 session](#))



Japanese

"I am finding the Japanese course very interesting and hope to complete this course and go onto part 2 as soon as possible. I think the teacher covers a large amount of learning material in the 2 hours of the class and does a great job of giving the class as much information as possible in the time available. I am really enjoying the Japanese for beginners course, I find Katsumi to be a very good teacher. I would recommend the course to anybody wanting to learn Japanese." ([Steve, Japanese Beginners 1](#))



SYDNEY LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

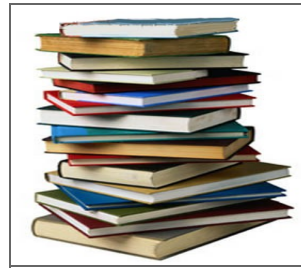
Sydney Language Solutions has launched a language exchange website. Exchange your native language with an English speaker and improve your speaking skill. It's all free and educational.

FREE Library

We are currently working on a new section in our website called FREE Library. So, what's special about it?

Well, if you are a fan of self study and want to give a try with other languages, this section should fits you the best!

There are different kind of resources that you can find there. **Resources** will be for people who want to find good websites to learn another language. **Recommended**



Books provides a list of books that you can buy for self study.

Free Audio File & Free Sample Lesson will be for people who want to try first lesson of our courses. **Free instructions** consists of some hints

about languages that we teach and lastly **Free OET & IELTS Tips** for people who are preparing for the test.

You know, it's never harmful right to know more things? So visit our FREE Library and learn new languages by your own!

It's All in the Tone of Your Voice

By Vicky

For speakers of English, European languages or those languages of the world that use a Romanised system, learning an Asian language can be a huge challenge.

Why you may ask? Having to learn tones and an unfamiliar script!

Tones are a fundamental part of any Asian language where the meaning of a word is dependent on how high or low the tone of your voice is. Get the

tone slightly wrong and you will change the meaning of the word altogether. Get the word wrong, and you could put your foot in your mouth big time!

For many non-Asian speakers, it is sometimes difficult to hear the slight differences in each tone and that is why it is so important to get it right from the very beginning. From the moment you take up learning an Asian language, you may

have to do things differently than you have in the past.

Where you have concentrated on writing the word down in a Romanised form that you can recognise, a more useful approach may be to memorise each tone and learn the importance of diacritics or specific marks used to indicate the phonetic value of a word. Do this correctly and you will be set for learning a language long-term.



Do you know JLPT and do you need it?

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) has been offered by the Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (formerly Association of International Education, Japan) since 1984 as a reliable means of evaluating and certifying the Japanese proficiency of non-native speakers. At the beginning, there were approximately 7,000 examinees worldwide. In 2009, there were as many as 770,000 examinees around the globe, making

JLPT the largest-scale Japanese-language test in the world. The JLPT places importance not only on a learner's (1) knowledge of the Japanese language including vocabulary and grammar but also on their (2) competence at using the knowledge in practical communication.

The test measures the knowledge described in (1) above through a section called "Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar)" and

the competence described in (2) above through two sections called "Reading" and "Listening." By using these sections in combination, the new test comprehensively measures Japanese communicative competence.

The JLPT is offered in five levels (N1, N2, N3, N4, N5). Test items differ by level in order to closely measure one's Japanese proficiency.