

Functions

Module 1.4

Some questions to discuss

- What is the problem in these situations?
 - a. A foreign student staying as a guest with an English family says:
“I want breakfast at 9. I want scrambled eggs and orange juice”.
 - b. The same foreign student stops someone he hasn't met before in the classroom and asks “ What have you got on your watch?”
- Are the grammar structures correct?
- What is correct and suitable in one set of circumstances is partially or completely inappropriate in another?

Appropriacy & register

- Are those structures formal?
- Informal?
- Colloquial?
- Neutral?
- Appropriate?
- Inappropriate

Functions

- English is divided into separate items.
- We can divide the language up in terms of communicative functions rather than the way we are used to see grammar.
- The language we use to express particular ideas or to achieve particular results in specific situations. The purpose of an utterance rather than analyzing each component.
- The sentences or examples of language used are known as **exponents** of a function.

Functions

- Some exponents are fixed formulae that allow for little or no alteration, that means you cannot change any word without losing the meaning; while other exponents have more generative possibilities that allow a variety of situations by substituting different vocabulary .
- Phonology is related to functions as well due to the importance of stress and intonation. Any change of stress and intonation can make an exponent change its function.
-I am awfully sorry (genuine or sarcastic expression of anger).
- A lot of work in the area of function is to do with awareness of the audience, common sense and politeness. It is important to consider the cultural aspect as well.

Some examples of functions are

- Suggesting or making a suggestion
- Introducing yourself
- Asking for clarification
- Thanking someone
- Requesting
- Expressing likes
- Agreeing
- List as many as you can