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Welcome to the *Gateway to English* module.

On the left menu of the Language Portal's Home page, below *Well Written, Well Said*, click on the *Gateway to English* section.

Here you'll find short, easy-to-read articles that deal with the finer points of the English language. These articles are grouped into seven broad categories: *Grammar and Syntax*, *Proverbs and Sayings*, *Punctuation*, *Spelling*, *Style*, *Typography* and *Vocabulary*. You can access the categories by clicking on the links or by using the scroll bar on the right side of the screen. In each category, the articles are listed alphabetically by topic.

Let's explore the section together.

We'll start by clicking on *Grammar and Syntax*. This category contains many helpful articles on topics ranging from adjectives to verbs. Let's select an article, for example, *Bring vs. take* under *Verbs*. The article explains the difference between the verbs *bring* and *take*. It also gives a few examples on how to use them. Many articles in this category are presented in this easy-to-read question and answer format.

To return to the section's main page, click on *Gateway to English* on the left menu.

If idioms and expressions are your *cup of tea*, you'll really enjoy the *Proverbs and Sayings* category. It contains articles on both English and French expressions. How do you say "faire boule de neige" in English? To find out, just click on *Faire boule de neige* under *Translating French Expressions*. You'll see a list of suggested translations ranging from the plain to the original.

Let's go back to the section's main page and click on *Punctuation*. The articles in this category focus on the use and misuse of punctuation marks. Do you often put commas in the wrong place? Or do you simply not use them when you should? Just click on *Commas 101* under *Commas* for a list of the basic comma rules and examples.

The *Spelling* category contains articles on spelling-related topics, such as *Plurals*, *Homonyms* and *Frequently misspelled words*. Let's say you're having trouble spelling words that sound alike. Take a look at *Sound-alikes*, under *Homonyms*. Here you'll find a useful list of words with similar sounds and different meanings or spellings.

Now let's look at the *Style* category. Is your writing bland? Is it as dull as a user's manual? If you'd like to spice up your writing, click on *Figurative Language: The Simile*, under *Figures of speech*. This short and easy-to-read article is sure to inspire you. When you finish reading it, test yourself by taking the *Simile or Metaphor?* quiz.

Let's go back to the section's main page and click on *Typography*. The rules for standardizing the style and look of text are covered here. You'll find many useful articles on such topics as abbreviations, capitalization and numerical expressions. For instance, should numbers under 10 be written out as words rather than numerals in a sentence? It depends. To find out, click on *Writing numbers under 10*, in the subcategory *Numerical expressions*.

Finally, do you "make" or "take" a decision? Are the verbs interchangeable? You'll find the answer in the *Vocabulary* category. Under *Word choice*, just click on *Make or take a decision?* This category also covers topics such as *Foreign words* and *Word origin*. Don't forget to read them—they're sure to entertain you!

The *Gateway to English* section is always changing, as new articles are added every week. Visit it regularly to keep your writing sharp.

You can continue exploring the Language Portal in the other modules. To access these modules, click on *Guided Tour of the Portal* at the top of the left menu.