

## An E-Mail Exchange

Can you find any problems in Jang-hak's letters? He wrote them to Mr. H after taking only one course — English 6 — in the English Language Program.

Read up to (not including) “The Problems, Identified,” and try to identify the problems in Jang-hak's letters. Then read “E-mail Tips” at E>G, Composition. Finally, compare your answers with Mr. H's (in “The Problems, Identified”).

*The name and e-mail address of the student have been changed, but the natures of the original name and address have been maintained in the new name and address.*

FROM --- |? <darknessanddoom@hotmail.com>  
SUBJECT: What up, sir? LOL

Hi professor, how's it goin'? Are u enjoying the winnter vacation?

I'm on campus and you just popped out in my head.LOL. I'm really sorry that I couldn't take any of your classes this semester. Cuz I'm kinda short of credits and I suppose I'll be very busy u know that. Hope I can take your class next semester.

And U know what? Weather's getting crazy in Korea. Oneday it's really hot and the very next day it's freezing like hell. LOL

I expect to see u on the campus soon and we can take a cup of coffee or something.

So, later sir.

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**From:** "John Holstein" <jfholstein@yahoo.com>  Add to Address Book  Add Mobile Alert

**Subject:** Re: What up, sir LOL

**To:** " | ?" <darknessanddoom@hotmail.com>

Top of Form

John	Holstein	jfholstein@yahoc	http://us.f302.mai
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Bottom of Form

Dear Mystery Writer,

Thanks for your letter, but, because I can't see your name anywhere, I don't know who you are. It doesn't matter, though, since you won't be my student next semester.

Have a happy, carefree, lazy spring semester 2006.

Mr. Holstein

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--- |? <darknessanddoom@hotmail.com> wrote:

Jang-hak from English 6 last semester. ^^ (Don't u think u should've checked the mail history? I did email U once during Chusok holidays last year.) Seems like U're still enjoying makin' that kinds of sarcastic jokes huh? Like U don't give a

damX if a student does not take one of your classes. LOL. Anyway I hope U really enjoyed your winter semester and I'm gonna come by your office and then we can take a cup of coffee. Talk to U later then sir.

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## The problems, identified

**From:** "John Holstein" <jfholstein@yahoo.com>  Add to Address Book  Add Mobile Alert

**Subject:** Re: It's me. sir!!

**To:** "| ?" <darknessanddoom@hotmail.com>

Top of Form

John	Holstein	jfholstein@yahoc	http://us.f302.mai
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Bottom of Form

Dear Jang-hak,

As I tell my students in English 5, wait a while before sending a delicate e-mail. I've waited a few hours.

You're more pleasant than many other people face to face, but your e-mail is more irritating than many people's. The unhelpful FROM heading, the unsuitably informal hip-hop language (e.g., "cuz," "U," LOL), the emoticons (e.g., ^^), the insolent "u should've. . ." the egocentricity (expecting me to take the time to look through approximately 500 e-mail addresses to identify you), the casual nature in which you informed me that you wouldn't take my course this coming semester, the presumptuous unilateral decision that we are going to have a cup of coffee -- all of these made it impossible for me to guess that the writer of the letter was the person who is so pleasant in a face-to-face encounter.

You say that I don't give a damn if a student doesn't take my class? I was sarcastic in my letter because I DO give a damn; it seemed to me, in the cavalier way you announced that you wouldn't take my class, that you, not I, are the one that doesn't give a damn. Actually, I dislike it very much when a student, to whom I've given many hours revising class plans and writing comments on homework (not so much on homework in English 6 but very much in other courses), decides that my course isn't worth the time he has to spend for it and then tells me very casually that he has better things to do.

There, I've had my say. I'll miss you in English 5. (*This student was going to take English 5 after English 6.*)

Mr. Holstein

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--- |? <darknessanddoom@hotmail.com> wrote:

I apologize for the way I talked in the E-mail I sent last time. Actually I can't tell the slight differences of English. I suppose I'm not in the that kind of level of English yet. But I surely sensed that U're pretty much upset about the way I talked to u. I think the reason I talked that way in the E-mail is that I belived that kinds of talking would show the closeness between U and me. But now I found out that it does not.

I'm really sorry if I hurt your feelings againg sir, I never meant to seem rude to U. (Why would I??)

Hope you would understand what I mean.

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**From:** "John Holstein" <jfholstein@yahoo.com>  Add to Address Book  Add Mobile Alert

**Subject:** Re: Sir,,

**To:** "| ?" <darknessanddoom@hotmail.com>

Top of Form

John	Holstein	jfholstein@yahoc	http://us.f302.mai
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Bottom of Form

Dear Jang-hak,

Your "offending" e-mail was upsetting, but that was only temporary because your behavior in person is very pleasant.

Students of any language have to learn the difference between closeness and familiarity. In Korean culture you know the difference; for example, most Koreans, no matter how much they love their father, won't use <banmal> to him, and neither will they use <banmal> to a teacher whom they like a lot. Though Americans may observe the young-old distinction less, it is still very important. It's good that you found this out before graduating and before making a costly faux pas with a business acquaintance in the real world.

Your e-mail gave me the incentive to revise my "E-mail Tips," at E>G, under Composition. There are more points in that article that you should know about.

Now, let me invite you for a cup of coffee!

Mr. Holstein

### Remaining problems

In Jang-hak's most recent letter there are still a couple problems. Can you identify them?