09 - VOCABULARY:
STARTING AND FINISHING

"I started studying English 3 years ago" is the same as "I began studying English 3 years ago" – but "**begin**" is a little more formal than "**start**."

The phrase **"let's get started"** is an informal way to announce the beginning of an activity. You can also say that something **"got off to a good start"** if it began well.

Other phrases for a good start include an **encouraging start** or **promising start.** For example, "The soccer team got off to a promising start, winning the first four games of the season."

If it is not so certain that there will be good results in the future, then you can say a **shaky start** or **unsteady start –** "The business had a **shaky start** in the second quarter of 2013, with sales numbers fluctuating daily."

If the beginning of something did not meet expectations, you can call it a **disappointing start** – and if it was REALLY terrible, you can describe it as a **disastrous start.**

Sometimes things go so badly that you need to get out of the situation and have a completely **fresh start** or **new beginning.** When a successful person or company started without being famous or rich, then we say they had a **humble/modest beginning.**

"Finish" usually implies *completing* something, whereas "end" is used for a more passive situation/state:
I **finished** my homework. The semester **ends** in December. We need to **finish** the project. We **ended** our partnership with that company.

When you make the final changes to something before it is completed, we say you **put the finishing touches on it.**
Two expressions used to talk about ending something are **come to an end** or **draw to a close.**

You can also say **"the beginning of the end"** to describe something that will probably end soon – "The explosion at the factory was the beginning of the end for our company."

When something ends quickly, then it comes to an **abrupt/sudden end.** On the other hand, when an activity appears that it will continue forever, then we say there's **no end in sight.**