

ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: APRIL 2023 (04/2023)



DIRECT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING

DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

BULLETIN
APRIL 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Chat with Tunku Iskandar
• P. 2

Direct English Holiday Camp
Welcoming our Thai Neighbours
• P. 3 - P. 4

My Blog • P. 5

English Direct to the World
• P. 6

A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

GOING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

It was Malaysia boleh again when Michelle Yeoh (Tan Sri) won the best actress award at the Oscars for her part in the metaverse-world movie Everything Everywhere All At Once. Although there were some people elsewhere who thought she is a Hong Konger, Malaysians proudly applauded her and there were even those who felt that her achievement should have deserved the declaration of a public holiday.

However going everywhere all at once had become the order of the day when borders all around the world started to open since a year ago and Malaysians were determined not to be outdone in the revenge travel race. With Malaysia's passport holding an enviable ranking of 9th strongest globally and 4th amongst Asian countries, Malaysians have indeed started going everywhere and anywhere as many destinations welcome Malaysians visa-free or with visa-on-arrival.

Malaysians can be found in both far-distant but favourite countries such as the UK and Australia, as well as close-by destinations such as Bali and Phuket and also in evergreen Saudi Arabia for Muslims going for umrah pilgrimage visits and now non-Muslim Malaysians are beginning to venture there, drawn by the allure of the hitherto-closed country as non-Muslims are now permitted to visit by possessing a tourist visa that can be easily obtained online.

The recent MATTA Travel Fair, Malaysia's largest and most successful consumer travel fair, saw outbound tour operators promoting travel to new and exotic destinations such as the Balkans, Iceland and even Cuba. This travel fair which had its beginning about 40 years ago had been located at the Putra World Trade Centre for few decades and had outgrown the venue's capacity to fit into the premises, partly due to reduced floor area available to the exhibition centre.

The March 2023 fair had apparently even surpassed the sales records of the record-breaking March 2019 fair by over 40% and the visitor count by some 50%, giving proof that Malaysians are hell-bent on going everywhere all at once.



**TUNKU DATO' SERI (DR)
ISKANDAR TUNKU ABDULLAH**
Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

This so-called revenge travel is a global phenomenon resulting from the euphoria of not being anymore restricted by 3 years of lock-downs, and it is not only in Malaysia but everywhere else where the "culture" of vacationing and travelling has been ingrained. Michelle Yeoh is clearly Malaysian but Hong Kong is contemplating inviting her to be their Tourism Ambassador which really would be a sad loss of face for Malaysia if she does that instead of being the face of Malaysian tourism.

Malaysia has so much to offer to not only foreign travellers but also to local Malaysians who may have not yet explored their own backyard so that they can appreciate those attractions sought after by foreign tourists including neighbours like Singaporeans and Thais. As said by the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step".

Direct English Holiday Camp

Welcoming our Thai Neighbours

Direct English International Language Centre is thrilled to have hosted our recent English Holiday Camp in Malaysia. With 18 students from Thailand in attendance, the camp was an unforgettable experience for all involved.



The English Holiday Camp provided an immersive environment for students to learn and practice English while enjoying fun activities and experiencing the unforgettable beauty of Malaysia. With the efforts of the Direct English Malaysia Team, the Coordinators and Teachers from Thailand, and contribution by ARA Studio, the camp was a major success, and an engaging time for all.



The students enjoyed several days of fun English classes and interactive activities. A notable send-off activity for the kids was a runway event, held at Direct English Malaysia, where the students strutted down the (makeshift) runway, practicing their walks and poses with the guidance of the owner of Ara Studio, building confidence and having a lot of fun.

The day came to a close after handing out certificates to all students present for completing 10 Hours of the Direct English International Language Centre English Holiday Camp.



Direct English Malaysia would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the students who participated in the camp. Your enthusiasm, energy, and positive attitude made this experience truly special. Direct English Malaysia would also like to thank the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the camp a success.

MY BLOG

The intricate madness of Language



There is nothing quite like learning a second language. Or even a third or a fourth. The level of freedom it provides when interacting with people from other cultures, tearing down barriers of communication and facilitating friendships, trade, and understanding is a beautiful thing.

However, if you've ever had to learn a second language (or a third or a fourth) there is a common frustration that typically arises - that being the grammar structure. Whether it be English, Bahasa Melayu, Afrikaans, Arabic, French or Russian, the insanity and inconsistency in grammar structure is by far one of the hardest parts of learning a new language.

For native English speakers, sitting in a middle school classroom as your English teacher writes notes upon notes on the whiteboard on how to use the preposition "behind", and explain in excruciating detail what conjunctive verbs and clauses are, is a common experience. While the theory is extensive and annoying, native speakers are still at the advantage of having lifelong experience in inherently understanding the language; but the application of English grammar when teaching 2nd language learners divines upon one the realisation that much of English grammar is violently wasteful.

When I first arrived in Malaysia, I began studying Bahasa Melayu. Upon commencement of this study (my first time learning a second language properly), I came to the realisation that English is a really difficult language in comparison to others. This isn't to say Bahasa Melayu is easy, but it's application of grammar is far less excessive than English.

There are no definite or indefinite articles in Bahasa Melayu. Furthermore, there aren't exactly tenses in conversational Malay. In contrast, the English language has nearly a dozen - simple past/present, present/past perfect, present progressive, past progressive, past perfect progressive, present perfect progressive, and then all the future tenses. It's absurd!

As a further example, in South Africa, one of the 13 official languages is Afrikaans (yes, 13, they couldn't decide). This is an extremely difficult language to learn - it's a combination of Dutch, German and English, and follows a grammar structure of SVIOMPV2I, which translates to Subject, Verb 1, Object, Manner, Place, Verb 2, and Infinitive. For new learners to the language, this is a nightmare.

And, while not necessarily grammatic, it is also important to note the languages with feminine and masculine vocabulary. French, Spanish, and Italian are the most notorious perpetrators of this memorisation ordeal, requiring learners to remember whether or not an apple is female-coded.

This is ultimately to say that our wonderfully globalised economy and society somewhat shot ourselves in the foot when the lingua franca for commerce and communication is English, one of the hardest languages to learn. Due to that, I have nothing but respect for those who undertake English as a second language, especially those whose first language is structured vastly differently. None the less, a second language is invaluable. It provides a great new perspective on a culture, and if the majority of media and business is conducted in that language, it is unfortunately a survival tool in order to get ahead. That being said, never be afraid to ask for help with grammar - not even most natives have the full grasp on it after all.

OLIVIA CROWTHER
TRAINER

ENGLISH DIRECT *to the* WORLD

DIRECT ENGLISH WITH 8 PROFICIENCY LEVELS

FREE English Proficiency Assessment

APPLY NOW!

+603 - 2022 4128 / 4138 +6012 605 4128 info@melewar-learning.com

HRDCORP CLAIMABLE COURSE!

Direct English with 8 Proficiency Levels offer a perfect approach to English language learning because it was built for people of all ages and walks of life. The uniqueness of the methodology employed in this learning programme lies in the total flexibility in its complete learning system for participants to learn at their own personal pace and style.

The unique cyclical syllabus, course materials and face-to-face sessions of General English are all fully integrated to provide a complete, effective and highly flexible learning system. Such flexibility, coupled with world-class learning materials, personalised tutorials, conversation classes, multimedia resources, and organised social activities, adds to the overall success of its proven learning system.

The course materials come with a learning pack (for each level) that consists of Study Guide, Course Book, Companion, Workbook and Audio/Video materials. Besides the packs, learning is also supported by Direct English Live!



MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES

 **DIRECT
ENGLISH**
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE


**DIRECT
ENGLISH**

Bulletin: APRIL 2023 (04/2023)



+603 2022 4128 / 4138



+60 12-605 4128



www.melewar-learning.com
www.directenglish.edu.my



info@directenglish.com.my
info@directenglish.edu.my



MYDECORptraining
deilcmalaysia



mydecorptraining
deilcmalaysia



Direct English (Corporate
Training Centre) Malaysia

Direct English International
Language Centre

3B, LEVEL 3, BANGUNAN MING,
JALAN BUKIT NANAS,
50250, KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA