

ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: JANUARY 2023 (01/2023)



**DIRECT ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TRAINING**

**DIRECT ENGLISH
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

**BULLETIN
JANUARY 2023**

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A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

THE KING'S ENGLISH?

It was almost 40 years ago in 1989 the then Prince Charles the Prince of Wales expressed the fear that the English be the death of the English language! The guardian of the Queen's English denounced those who think the one and only proper form of English is anything other than that written and spoken traditionally by England's upper classes.



**TUNKU DATO SERI (DR)
ISKANDAR TUNKU ABDULLAH**

Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

Prince Charles, who was proclaimed as King Charles III earlier this year upon Queen Elizabeth II's demise, expressed the view in 2000 that it was incorrect to invent all sorts of new nouns and verbs and make words that shouldn't be and that Britain needs to ensure that British English maintains its position as the world language.

Is to use '-ise' or '-ize' the question? Many believe that using '-ise' in spelling e.g. as in 'realise' is British English and to spell it as 'realize' is following the American way. Actually the Oxford English Dictionary says that both '-ize' and the more British-feeling '-ise' are acceptable, and that the '-ize' spelling actually has a longer history than using '-ise'. However setting your spell-check to U.K. English will highlight 'realize' with red underlining!

In 1995, Charles promoted the concept that English is big business and called it "a global growth industry," perhaps the last big business that England has any hope of competing in. It was estimated at that time, around 350 million people already spoke English as their first language and another 450 million had learnt at least some English as a foreign language. Furthermore, three-quarters of the world's mail is written in English and some 80 percent of its computer data is stored in English.

However, there are also those who believe that American English has become the global language and words that never previously existed now used everywhere. Americans invent more words and phrases in a month than other English speaking nations do in a year and many believe it is this innovativeness has pushed American English past British English in worldwide popularity.

In Mark Twain's book *Following the Equator* (reprinted as *More Tramps Abroad*) published in 1897 he said, "There is no such thing as 'the Queen's English.' The property has gone into the hands of a joint stock company and we own the bulk of the shares!" The Queen in this era was Queen Victoria and this evaluation by Mark Twain was even before WWI.

There have also been some debates on who constitutes a 'native speaker' (of the English language). Generally, a 'native speaker' is someone who grew up speaking a certain language. It does not matter where you were born, be it in the UK, USA, India, Singapore or Malaysia, but you were born to English-speaking parents and your teachers spoke English in school and your friends all or mostly speak English, then you should be deemed a 'native English speaker'. Of course there is that other debate if 'Singlish' or 'Manglish' is deemed 'English'.

It is anyway a fact that the UK now actually has only about 15% of the world's native speakers of English whereas the USA has almost 60% and that English is now spoken across the globe by even more people (as a first, second or foreign language) than Mandarin or Spanish.

Melewar Learning Resources (MLR) Year-End Staff Meeting *and* Christmas Potluck Lunch

Melewar Learning Resources (MLR) held their Year-End Staff Meeting on 27 December 2022, Tuesday. The meeting ended with Christmas Pot Luck Lunch at the office, followed up by gifts exchange.



Year-end staff meeting is the perfect opportunity for complete company transparency. What went well, and what didn't go so well over the course of the year? What progress have we made on achieving company goals? What's next? What can the team expect going into the next year? An update about company's goals in the coming year provided a sense of security for the team, allowing us to comfortably enjoy our holiday.



It was an afternoon filled with warmth, joy, friendship and bonding. We would like to thank all of our team members for your hard work throughout the year. We look forward to another productive and successful year in 2023. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.

MY BLOG

Does Our Education System Kill Creativity?



Our educational system has come under heavy fire because it doesn't appear to have been improved upon or even adjusted to changing circumstances. One of the themes that has come up frequently in these debates is the concept of creativity. Can different people have different definitions of creativity? What can we do to help our pupils be more creative? Does the way our educational system operate lessen students' inventiveness, which is the great, final question?

I believe a lot of people believe creativity has only one meaning. Some of us may also take into account the notion that it is either innate or developable. None of these ideas is correct or incorrect. Imagination, self-expression, and innovation are all aspects of creativity. Utilizing reason and scientific ideas to resolve issues is another definition of creativity (McLennan, 2019). Undoubtedly, some individuals are more creative than others. It's merely a talent that some people have better than others.

As they teach in history classes, I don't believe that education is about memorising dates and information. We are urged not to colour inside the lines in class. Also, we are instructed that being "good" entails remaining silent and still (Dalile, 2012). While enthusiastic pupils are typically chastised for being overly exuberant. Perhaps it's time to alter both what and how we instruct. For instance, schools want to begin including a wider variety of courses into their

curricular (McLennan, 2019). We may take classes in poetry or art. We might even start delivering lessons in the conventional manner. Students might act out specific events in history class rather than memorising dates to feel more connected to what they are studying.

While there is no perfect educational system, some are superior to others. The instructional methods employed by schools can stifle innovation. The majority of educational disciplines, such as math, physics, and history (as I have indicated), demand structured correct or wrong responses. While there are art lessons offered in schools, they are typically taught as electives rather than as essential subjects. Perhaps the methods used to teach the aforementioned disciplines can help young children become more creative.

In conclusion, I would claim that our educational system is not purposefully attempting to kill creativity. The whole process of learning encourages critical thinking over creativity. There are, however, ways to foster our students' creativity while maintaining the positive aspects of our educational system. Think about how we define creativity as a first step. Our schools' next move is to expand their curricula to offer required, artistic disciplines. It's important, in my opinion, to keep in mind that despite the fact that our educational system does a poor job of encouraging creativity, many talented and imaginative individuals nonetheless graduate from it. Additionally, not everyone needs to be creative; we still need future leaders who have stronger critical thinking skills.

EMILY CHEN
TRAINER

OUR ALUMNA, OUR TESTIMONIAL

MARZIANA HARUN
COURSE: LEVEL 2, DIRECT
ENGLISH, UK



"Firstly, I would like to say thank you to Direct English Malaysia for contacting me to join this class. From the lessons subject that was prepared, it is easy to understand and to follow. The examples and exercises that were given made me more understand about English Language. Both Miss Emily and Miss Sharvenaa are very experienced and a lot of information was shared to me. Before this, when I learn English or join other English class, it was too boring but with both teachers it became more interesting and I was very excited to attend the classes."

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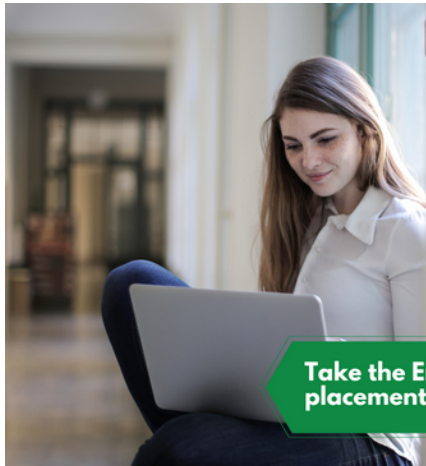
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