

# ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: MAY 2023 (05/2023)



**DIRECT ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TRAINING**

**DIRECT ENGLISH  
INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

**BULLETIN  
MAY 2023**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

A Chat with Tunku Iskandar  
• P. 2

Black Sire employees complete  
training in Business English  
• P. 3 - P. 4

Trainer's Thought • P. 5

English Direct to the World  
• P. 6

# A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

## LIVING TO EAT

Food is an intrinsic part of life as there is no doubt we need nourishment to be able to live. However we so often hear of the flip-side expressed as “live to eat”. Virginia Woolf wrote in her 1929 essay ‘A Room of One’s Own’, “One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

The Islamic month of Ramadan that has just ended demonstrates how we sometimes forget the objective of fasting from sunrise to sunset. Self-discipline, making sacrifices and instilling empathy with the poor and needy are originally part of the raison d'être of the annual fast. In some affluent societies, this is often forgotten and the abundance of food consumed at iftar or the breaking of fast at sunset, and feasting after the end of Ramadan at Hari Raya open houses is sadly the case.

In Malaysia, as in many parts of the world, love for food is a cultural cornerstone. Food binds families, society and even nations together. Was it any surprise that Malaysians were aghast when an online guide for traditional food listed curry laksa as hailing from Singapore? Netizens from Malaysia condemned the veracity of this, accusing the guide as being biased against Malaysia.

This was just one example of the so-called usurping of Malaysia's supposed food dominance in South East Asia, following similar incidents with other food items such as satay and chicken rice. Malaysians have themselves been at the sharp end of similar criticism from Indonesians who regard their saté as being the real thing and the Malaysian satay is a poor copy. Nonetheless, I for one will make the Indonesian nasi goreng istimewa my first meal (fried rice with a fried egg sunny-side-up and 2 sticks of saté) whenever I visit Indonesia.

Perhaps we often forget that culture has no political or national boundaries and that culture transgresses borders as social networks broaden within a region with migration.



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

One obscure example is when the Portuguese sailed to Africa, India, SouthEast Asia and North Asia in the 16th century, they brought along the way dishes from Mozambique, to Goa and on to Malacca and Macao. Today you can find African Chicken on the menus of restaurants in these past Portuguese colonies.

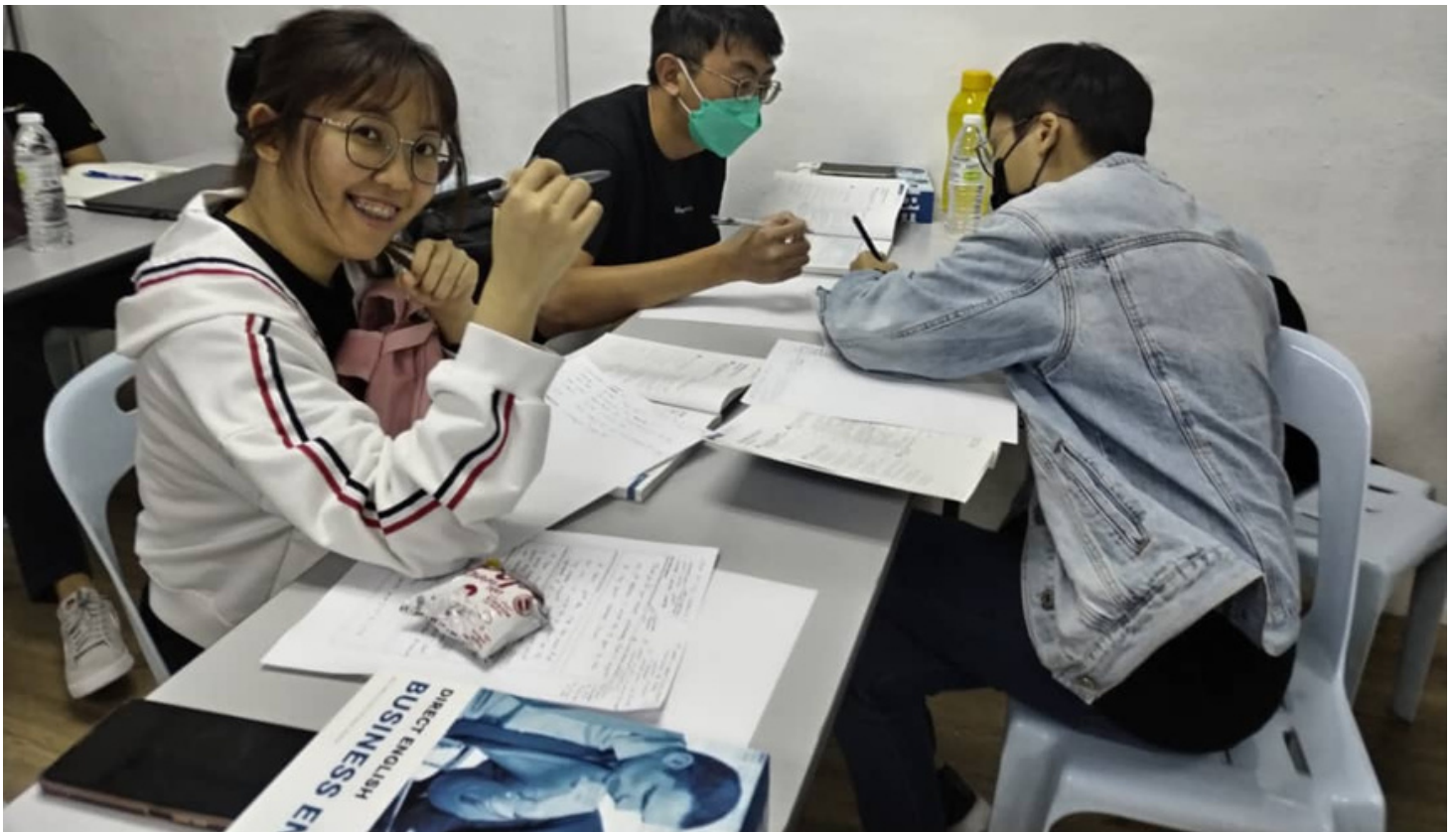
Yee Sang, a dish that is popular in Malaysia and Singapore at Chinese New Year especially amongst the Chinese populace was not brought by immigrants who came from various parts of China since the mid-19th century. It was actually created by the grandfather of Malaysia's present Minister of Transport Anthony Loke. Loke Ching Fatt was a first generation immigré to Malaya and he created this raw-fish dish for his catering business in Seremban in the 1940s. A fierce food feud ensued in 2012 when there was an attempt to claim yee sang on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list as Singaporean!

We must heed the wise saying of Mahatma Gandhi “There's enough on this planet for everyone's needs but not for everyone's greed.” Food is a universal resource which belongs to all mankind. If we love food but waste it and we don't take care of it means we don't respect food.

# Black Sire employees complete training in Business English

The Black Sire personnel had been quite busy during the previous weeks of April when they took the Business English classes offered by Melewar Learning Resource.

The Business English (Direct English, UK) course, delivered by MLR trainer Jane Teh, catered perfectly to the needs of the participants as it was designed to polish and enhance their Business English and communication for them to use Business English more competently and professionally in their work environment.



Topics that were covered in the course include Presentation, Negotiations, Customer Care, Managing Change etc. There are also topics on Internal and External Communication and Business Writing.

These units helped the participants overcome fears that they had about communicating in English. It also built their confidence through a series of conversation exchanges that dealt with different functional areas. Participants learned how to structure conversations to ensure that when they communicate, they understand what they need to achieve and how to do it.



# TRAINER'S THOUGHTS



## FURRY FRIENDS

**DALJIT SINGH**

TRAINER

I was walking to the kitchen this morning and stepped on a soft toy. I began to think about all the squeaky toys that are now all over my house. They all belong to the youngest member of the family. My seven-year-old Maltese.

Having a pet is just like having a child. If someone had told me this a decade ago, I would have disagreed. But now, not so much. You feed them, you clean up after them, and you care for them. You watch them grow up.

Sometimes their barks interrupt your Zoom teaching sessions. But I have to be honest; though my kids may have been glad to see me (sometimes), not once did they jump at my presence. There is a certain type of comfort and joy that comes with the tail-wagging excitement of a dog greeting you when you're home.

From my experience, when children greet you at the door, they're about to ask for something expensive. That's not quite the case with our furry friends. They are genuinely ecstatic and pleased with a little attention. And, before you know it, they're growing old beside you. Even then, all they want is you by their side.

Perhaps someday we will learn to deserve dogs. Until then, let's settle for treating them with some love and respect.

And if I may end with some advice, adopt; don't shop.

# ENGLISH DIRECT *to the* WORLD

Our Business English (Direct English, UK) course is tailored specifically for working adults and professionals as well as clients from the corporate sectors.

The course is designed to polish and enhance the Business English and communication skills of the learners to enable them to use Business English more competently and professionally in their work environment.

The course will also enable learners to build their confidence in carrying out their important work or business functions.

There are nine units to be completed in the course and these nine units cover a wide range of topics that include Presentation, Negotiations, Customer Care, Managing Change etc. There are also topics on Teamworking and Social English.

The course comes with a learning pack that consists of Course Book, Workbook and audio-video learning materials. Learners are also provided with online learning support materials to help enhance their English proficiency. This is made available through "Direct English Interactive".



**BUSINESS ENGLISH**  
Direct English, UK

**DIRECT ENGLISH**

**FREE**  
English  
Proficiency  
Assessment

- ✓ Tested and Proven Learning System
- ✓ Premium Learning Materials from Direct English, UK
- ✓ Certified / Qualified Trainers
- ✓ Certificate of Achievement by Direct English, UK

**APPLY NOW!**

+603 - 2022 4128 / 4138 6017-993 4128 info@directenglish.com.my

## HRDCORP CLAIMABLE COURSE!

Learners are required to sit for the Direct English Placement / Proficiency Test prior to enrolling in this course. Direct English Placement / Proficiency Test is a 15-minute online test that can be taken anytime, anywhere. This multiple-choice test is designed to give you a quick way of assessing your knowledge of English grammar, English vocabulary and English usage.



MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES



+603 2022 4128 / 4138



+60 12-605 4128



[www.melewar-learning.com](http://www.melewar-learning.com)  
[www.directenglish.edu.my](http://www.directenglish.edu.my)



[info@directenglish.com.my](mailto:info@directenglish.com.my)  
[info@directenglish.edu.my](mailto: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