

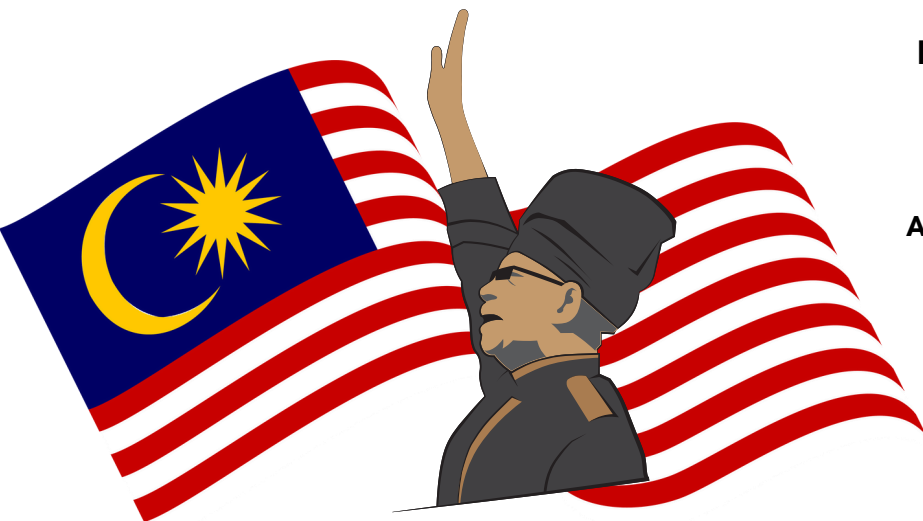
**BULLETIN: AUGUST 2024  
(08/2024)**

# ENGLISH MATTERS



**MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES**

**DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE CENTRE**



**BULLETIN AUGUST 2024**

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# A CHAT WITH

## *Tunku Iskandar*

### PLANS OF MICE & MEN



The phrase "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry" originates from Robert Burns' poem "To a Mouse" and captures the idea that even the most carefully made plans can be disrupted by unforeseen circumstances. We don't have to look beyond our own personal experiences to realise the truism that despite our most careful efforts to control outcomes through meticulous planning, life's uncertainties can upset the results.

Planning is an intrinsic human activity, rooted in our desire for security, efficiency, and achievement. From major forward planning such as 5-year National Masterplans and National Budgets to sorting out your daily calendar or working out the route for a car journey to "balik kampung", all of these activities require a similar approach, involving setting objectives, identifying resources and evaluating outcomes.

In personal life, individuals often make plans to pursue education, careers, relationships, and personal growth. All too often, having painstakingly and meticulously planned their academic path students may suddenly encounter unexpected health issues or family tragedies that disrupt their carefully planned path. External factors such as changes in industry trends or company restructuring may result in frustration, disappointment and having to adapt plans accordingly.

**Business organizations invest considerable resources to institute strategic plans by undertaking financial forecasting and operational strategies to put themselves on the right path. It is however not possible to anticipate all the numerous possible stumbling blocks that may be encountered or unexpected challenges such as technological disruptions, regulatory changes, or global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. Very recently, when CrowdStrike released a faulty software update that began impacting IT systems globally, many companies were rendered helpless when their computer systems were affected.**

**Humans cannot foresee every variable or prepare for every risk. It is rather humbling that, even as the most intelligent beings in this world with the best cutting-edge tools at our disposal, we have to accept the certainty of uncertainty. Voltaire, the famous French philosopher succinctly said, "Uncertainty is an uncomfortable position. But certainty is an absurd one!" meaning that you can't ever really know anything but if you're so certain that you need never question anything, you're bound to run into problems.**

**However, the inevitability of plans going awry does not diminish their importance. We still need to plan as it fosters discipline, purpose, and proactive thinking. With planning, we are able to create a framework for decision-making and resource allocation, even if we are forced to make adjustments. Having a balance between meticulous planning and flexibility and recognizing when to pursue a course of action and when to pivot in response to changing realities are all important skills.**

**Recognising that the best-laid plans may indeed go awry due to unforeseen circumstances, the act of planning itself remains indispensable to human endeavor. It reflects our values and aspirations, and provides a foundation for navigating life's uncertainties with resilience and creativity. Sylvester Stallone, the highly-acclaimed Hollywood star and film-maker puts it simply when he said, "Plan B. You've always got to have a Plan B."**

# SUMMER CAMP

## DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTER

Direct English International Language Center (DEILC) recently organized an exciting summer camp that combined education and entertainment for its students. The camp provided a unique opportunity for 33 students to improve their English skills in a fun and engaging environment. Under the guidance of three dedicated teachers, the students participated in a variety of interactive learning sessions at the center. These sessions were designed to enhance their language proficiency through games, storytelling, and group activities that encouraged communication and teamwork.

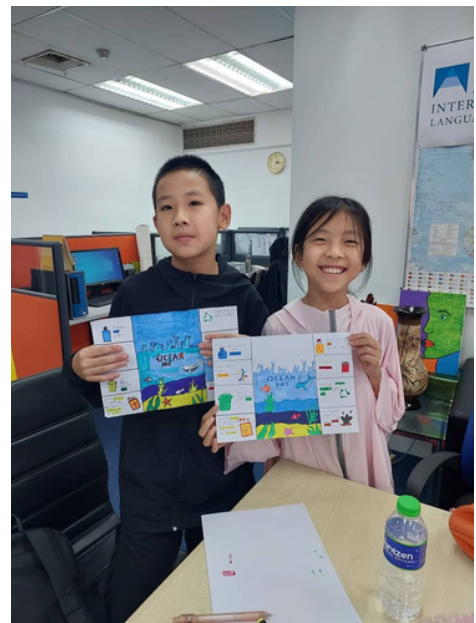


One of the highlights of the camp was the trip to Splash Mania, a renowned waterpark that provided the perfect setting for a day filled with adventure and enjoyment. From 9:30 am to 6:30 pm, students experienced thrilling rides and participated in energetic water gun battles and splashing contests. The waterpark's vibrant atmosphere and exhilarating attractions



allowed the students to bond with their peers and teachers while creating lasting memories. This day of fun and play not only offered a break from traditional learning but also fostered camaraderie and teamwork among the students.

The combination of educational activities at DEILC and recreational experiences like the visit to Splash Mania made the summer camp an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. The students returned with improved language skills and cherished memories of their adventures. This innovative approach to learning demonstrated the center's commitment to providing a holistic educational experience that balances academic growth with personal development and enjoyment.



# UniMAP and MLR

## Join Forces to Boost Future Workforce Preparedness

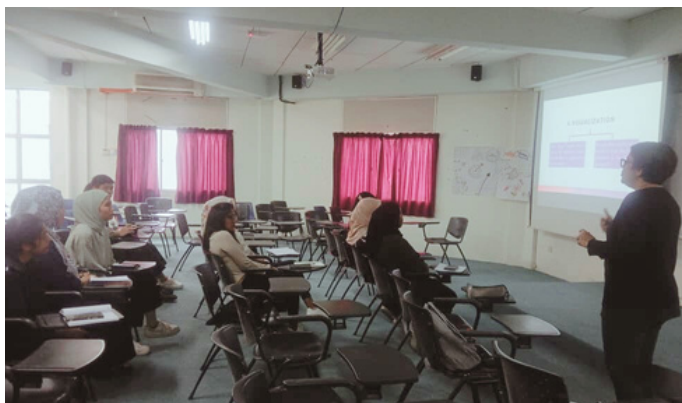
The University of Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) and Melewar Learning Resources (MLR) have teamed to offer a comprehensive training program aimed at boosting the professional readiness of students who are about to graduate in an effort to better prepare them for the demands of the modern workplace. This cutting-edge three-month program offers learners a flexible and interesting learning environment by fusing face-to-face and online training. The initiative has commenced and will run until October. Students will have a plenty of time to develop essential skills that businesses are starting to value more and more.



The training focuses on essential soft skills, such as teamwork, presentation, and negotiation abilities. These skills are vital in today's collaborative work environments, where effective communication and the ability to work well with others are key to success. Additionally, the program places a strong emphasis on improving English proficiency, an important asset in the global job market. By enhancing their language skills, participants are better equipped to navigate international business contexts and connect with diverse teams.



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The success of this program is driven by the expertise and dedication of its trainers, including Ms. Jane Teh, Ms. Selvarani, Ms. Sumitra, Ms. Cecelia, and Mr. Daljit Singh. These experienced professionals bring a wealth of knowledge and practical insights to the training sessions, ensuring that participants receive top-notch instruction and guidance. The program is coordinated by Mr. Hemachandran, the Corporate Manager of Melewar Learning Resources, who oversees the seamless execution of the training and ensures that it meets the highest standards of quality and relevance.



# TRAINER'S THOUGHTS

**Navigating  
English within  
the Generation Z  
workforce of  
today  
- How has the  
language evolved**

**Selvarani Chelvakumaran**  
Trainer  
Melewar Learning Resources



The 21st century has seen significant changes in the English language, especially as Generation Z (Gen Z) enters the workforce. Gen Z's unique communication style is reshaping workplace interactions. Born into a digital world, they naturally blend formal and informal communication, creating a distinct style characterized by brevity, inclusivity, and digital slang.

A notable evolution is the widespread use of digital slang and abbreviations. Gen Z, as linguist Gretchen McCulloch observes, "grew up with the internet as a natural part of their lives," leading to the adoption of shorthand like "TL;DR" (too long; didn't read), "FOMO" (fear of missing out), and "IRL" (in real life). These terms have moved from casual online conversations into professional contexts, reflecting a shift toward concise communication. This preference for brevity aligns with the fast-paced nature of digital communication platforms.

Gen Z's language also emphasizes inclusivity and diversity. This generation is notably aware of identity and representation issues, often using gender-neutral pronouns and inclusive terminology. Sociologist Emily Bazelon notes, "Generation Z is redefining social norms, particularly around gender and inclusivity." This linguistic shift reflects broader societal changes and highlights Gen Z's commitment to inclusivity. Companies are adopting these language norms to align with the values of this emerging workforce, fostering a more inclusive workplace culture.

Furthermore, Gen Z frequently incorporates meme culture and viral content into their communication, often employing a playful and ironic tone. Linguist Amanda Montell explains that this approach makes communication more engaging and serves as a bridge between generations.

As the youngest generation in the workforce, Gen Z is bringing a new linguistic landscape to professional environments. Their blend of digital shorthand, inclusive language, and cultural references is redefining communication norms. Understanding and adapting to these changes is essential for businesses aiming to foster effective communication and collaboration. By embracing Gen Z's linguistic innovations, companies can better connect with this dynamic and diverse generation, ensuring a more cohesive and inclusive work environment.



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