

ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: DECEMBER 2023 (12/2023)



**DIRECT ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TRAINING**

**DIRECT ENGLISH
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

BULLETIN
DECEMBER 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Chat with Tunku Iskandar
• P. 2 - P. 3

TalentCorp - YES! We are Ready
• P. 4

Business English Training for Mazars
• P. 5

MSD Presentation Skill
• P. 6

Exploring the Wonders of the Deep
• P. 6

My Blog • P. 7

English Direct to the World • P. 8

A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

MINDING OUR PS & QS



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

Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

American rapper Lil Uzi Vert used “Ps and Qs” as the title for one of his singles, reminding himself to be on his best behaviour with his lady. Indeed this is the popular meaning of “Ps & Qs” today, which to mind your manners and to be polite as well as to be careful not to offend someone else, especially one’s elders or superiors.

However, there does not seem any consensus about the origins of these two letters, “P” and “Q” and what they actually mean pertaining to manners! One popular theory is that in the old days printers would remind their apprentices to be careful of which letter they use on typesetting machines as the lower-case “p” and “q” are very similar and apt to be mixed up. There also appears to be another theory of the origins of the phrase which involves pints and quarts of ale served in public houses or pubs in England.

Whatever the origins, today its use mostly pertains to the phrase “Mind your Ps and Qs” reminding us to mind our manners, something that we in Asia are very conscious of in all our interactions. Take for example, when we enter the house we would remove our shoes, as is the accepted courtesy in most Asian homes. Such manners are ingrained in our personae since our childhood when we are reminded to kiss the hand of our elders when introduced to them.

Politeness in European or North American culture is on a different plane and may vary too in different levels of society and while there may be no intention to be rude, Asians may sometimes feel that the “Ps & Qs” of those cultures are lacking in delicacy. Unfamiliarity with Asian culture may also be regarded by those in “the West” as Asian being over-polite with the Japanese custom of bowing is one such possible example.

The erosion of Ps & Qs was lamented very recently by HRH Sultan Nazrin of Perak who believes that courtesy includes politeness in communication as it reflects the intellect and character of an individual. He was lamenting the harsh, vulgar, slanderous, disparaging, and insulting language often publicly voiced without hesitation, and sometimes with pride and arrogance by even highly educated, high-ranking, and titled individuals. To that end, he urged that the Fifth Principle of the Rukun Negara (National Principles), 'Courtesy and Morality' is infused into education programmes to ensure Malaysians are not influenced by uncivilised behaviours with incorrect values, and the principles are understood, internalised, and practised by the community.

'Manners maketh man' is the motto of Winchester College as well as New College in Oxford, both founded by William Horman of Wykeham in the 16th century which emphasises that politeness, good manners and civility are essential to humanity and that being respectful, considerate, and polite to others is just as important as our skills, abilities, and accomplishments.

I personally believe we should follow the advice from Irish author and essayist Jonathan Swift who said, “Good manners is the art of making those people easy with whom we converse. Whoever makes the fewest people uneasy is the best bred in the room”.

TalentCorp – **YES!** We are Ready

At Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), two amazing days of YES! We Are Ready! were jam-packed with enthusiasm and insightful talks from TalentCorp partners. Melewar Learning Resources took part in the events where more than 350 students from different UTHM faculties enrolled in this incredible workshop.

S. Hema Chandran, the Corporate Manager of Melewar Learning Resources, gave participants confidence boosts and knowledge on how to increase productivity at work by sharing his knowledge of soft skills and public speaking. Participants were also given guidance on how to improve their communication abilities under the topic of "Wow Your Employers with Excellent Public Speaking & Soft Skills."



The two-day YES! We Are Ready programme was created to get participants ready for their future professional endeavours. MLR believes the information and perspectives exchanged at the event will help the students in their future professional endeavours.



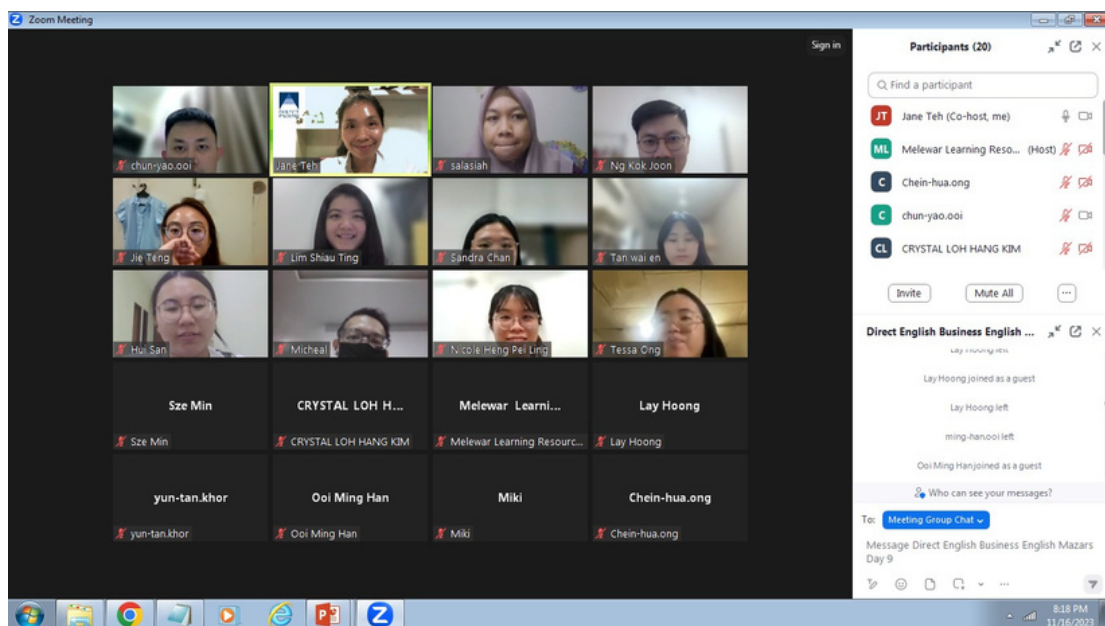
Business English Training for Mazars Malaysia

During the first few weeks of November, the employees of Mazars Malaysia thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Direct English Business English classes offered by Melewar Learning Resource.

The Business English (Direct English, UK) course was a perfect fit for the participants' needs as it was tailored to improve their communication skills and polish their business English, enabling them to use it more competently and professionally in the workplace. The online training was conducted by MLR trainer Jane Teh.

The course included a variety of subjects, such as managing change, customer service, negotiations, and presentations. Additionally, business writing and internal and external communication are covered.

The participants were able to get over their anxiety over speaking English thanks to these units. Through several dialogues covering several functional domains, it also increased their self-assurance. To make sure that they communicate with clarity and understanding of the goals and methods involved, participants were taught how to organise conversations.



MSD Presentation Skill

Not too long ago, the employees of Merck, Sharp, and Dohme enrolled in the Melewar Learning Resource's Presentation Skill training programme.

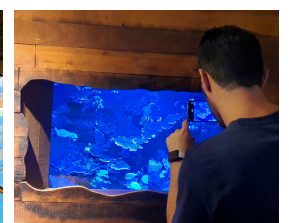
One of the well-known trainers for MLR, Dato Aminah Hj. A. Karim, conducted the training. The training was conducted in four parts. Gaining proficiency in articulating ideas in a clear and compelling manner as well as promoting successful communication with a variety of audiences are the goals of the programme. Managing unforeseen events with composure and conquering anxiety were two more topics covered in the course.

It is evident from the participant response that they are satisfied with the training, and it has given them more confidence to give presentations, which will be very helpful in their profession.



Exploring the Wonders of the Deep

In a thrilling aquatic adventure, students from DEILC recently embarked on an educational journey to Aquaria, KLCC, immersing themselves in the mesmerizing world beneath the waves. The excursion offered a unique blend of entertainment and learning as students had the opportunity to witness an array of marine life up close. From graceful seahorses to majestic sharks, the aquarium's diverse exhibits sparked curiosity and awe among the students, fostering a deeper appreciation for the importance of marine ecosystems. The hands-on approach allowed students to touch and feel various aquatic creatures, creating a memorable and educational experience that goes beyond traditional classroom learning.



MY BLOG

EXPLORING MY LINGUISTIC JOURNEY: ORIGINS, TRANSITIONS, AND THE DOMINANCE OF ENGLISH

My life's narrative unfolds across diverse geographical landscapes, beginning in Ankara, Turkey, where I first drew breath to a Lebanese mother and a Palestinian father. The ensuing chapters of my journey took me through the rich cultural tapestries of Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Pittsburgh (USA), and eventually brought me to my current abode in Malaysia. Each locale introduced me to a unique linguistic milieu, but amidst this kaleidoscope of languages, English emerged as the dominant force, shaping my communication style, and claiming its position as my primary language.

The trajectory of my linguistic development saw a swift transition from a British preschool environment to an American educational system. The immersion in these English-centric settings moulded my linguistic identity, resulting in an American-inflected English. As I progressed to college in the United States, my linguistic assimilation continued, further refining my English to align with the nuances of American speech.

Upon relocating to Malaysia, my linguistic landscape underwent another transformation. The Malaysian context introduced new lexical elements, such as local slang like "La," and a penchant for shorter sentences featuring the ubiquitous word "can." This linguistic evolution mirrored the rich tapestry of influences that surrounded me.



RAJAA ABUGHOSH
DEILC PRINCIPAL

Having resided in Malaysia since 2009, I can confidently affirm that English's significance extends beyond the educational sphere; it permeates the professional landscape, shaping the communication dynamics in workplaces. The assertion that English is the universal language finds resonance in my experiences, as it proves essential not only for tourists but also for individuals navigating the intricacies of daily life.

Living in a country where English is not just a secondary language, but a pervasive force brings a sense of comfort and convenience. I am not only proficient in the language but have mastered it, enabling me to seamlessly execute my daily agenda. The realization that English is indeed a universal language is palpable, and I am grateful to be a part of a global community where linguistic diversity converges under the common thread of English proficiency.

ENGLISH DIRECT *to the* WORLD



DIRECT ENGLISH, UK
with 8 Proficiency Levels

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

ENROLL NOW ▶

+603 - 2022 4128 / 4138
+6017-9934128
info@directenglish.com.my

DIRECT ENGLISH

General English offers 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**



+603 2022 4128 / 4138



+60 12-605 4128



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



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



MYDECORtraining
deilcmalaysia



mydecortraining
deilcmalaysia



Direct English (Corporate
Training Centre) Malaysia

Direct English International
Language Centre

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