

ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: JULY 2023 (07/2023)



DIRECT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING

DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

BULLETIN
JULY 2023

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A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

EVERYTHING CONNECTS...

In life, we cannot isolate ourselves from others and expect to be able to become successful and gain the confidence of our human counterparts. Robin Sharma, the Canadian author and leadership expert said, “The business of business is relationships; the business of life is human connection.”

Humans have formed relationships and connections through many means, by forming communities in villages, congregating in religion, creating professional and business associations and other ties. Many such groupings went beyond the boundaries and confines that were originally imagined, reaching to the far corners of the globe. Individuals reached out to find soulmates through pen-friends, writing endless personal letters and baring their innermost thoughts to people they may never ever meet in their lifetimes.

Some may feel it easier to share their feelings with a person they feel will support and encourage them. It is unclear if it was John Lennon or Yoko Ono who said, “A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality” and behind those words is the belief that to make reality happen, a combined energy can create that reality.



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

Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

Fast-forward to today, it has become much easier to be able to create and maintain connections using social media ('soc-med') not only with friends and associates but also with total strangers. There are those though who do not believe such connections using Facebook and Instagram are 'real' because many if not most followers and contacts on such platforms are those whom one has never met and may never meet and get to know.

However in this fast and furious times where siblings may be living in the four corners of the world, where close friends from school and university now take up jobs on different continents, quite unlike former times when we seldom venture beyond even the state or province we were born in, soc-med may be the only lifelines to those friends and relatives, being able to send happy news, sad incidences, new-baby photos and suchlike.

Wishing close friends and relatives a happy birthday is the next best thing to being able to wish them in person. The new face-to-face connection is ‘face-time’ on your device, and the Internet has actually not only made it easier to remain in touch, but we are able to do so cheaper, using networks like WhatsApp, Line and WeChat.

However, I often wonder about the sensibility of being in dozens of WhatsApp groups, connected tenuously to some friends but also many strangers, causing you to open your WhatsApp 25-35 times a day to read the barrage of posts that have little or no interest to you, often even containing unverified rumours or even scams.

Consequently, one report says Malaysians spend almost 3 hours daily on social media, which some may find as slightly relieving to be below Nigeria’s addictive 4 hours of soc-med a day! However, I suspect the data do not take into consideration the time spent on the Internet reading the news, watching movies and sports and “doing research”. When Leonardo DaVinci said “Realize that everything connects to everything else” he definitely did not foresee what we have today.

Direct English

Certificate handover

Melewar Learning Resources (MLR) / Direct English Malaysia had a busy month because of the distribution of the highly sought-after Direct English, UK certificates.

The certificates were handed over to our clients who successfully completed our Training programmes. The certificates were given to the representatives of these clients by S. Hemachandran, Melewar Learning Resources' Corporate Manager.

One of our most recent clients this year is Black Sire. The Black Sire participants took our specially designed Business English Training for their finance staff. The participants learnt how to organise discussions so that when they communicate, they are clear on their goals and know exactly how to get there. The certificates were given to Ms. Sophie Chin, the Executive of the Training Department.





A long-standing collaboration between Merck, Sharp & Dhome (MSD) Malaysia and Melewar Learning Resources has resulted in the active participation of their staff members in our courses. Many of their employees found our Business English, Presentation Skills, and Business Writing courses to be of great value. We also administer Linguaskill Test for them. The certificates were accepted on behalf of the participants by Ms. Yoke Teng Lee, Ms. Ching Ying, and Ms. Siang Rou from the Training Department.

About 200 Certificates of Achievement, Direct English, UK, were handed over to NEIVCE. These represent the number of students who successfully completed the programme from the recent cohorts. Ms Ong Kay Yong, the Academic Coordinator and Mr Dallon Chai, the Academic Liaison Officer of NEIVCE received the certificates.



ART & Language

Integrating art into academic subjects can enhance learning experiences by fostering creativity and multidimensional thinking. In an English class, incorporating painting sessions provides a unique opportunity for students to engage with literature, language, and self-expression through visual art.

Engaging in painting sessions allows students to develop and refine their language skills. Painting sessions in language institutions offers numerous benefits, from enhancing literary interpretation and language skills to fostering creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Our students had a fantastic time, painting their self-portraits while discovering color combinations, painting techniques, and drawing skills. This activity brought together teachers and students, as they joined in. At the end of the session, everyone had Middle East sweet treats to celebrate Eid Al-Adha.



TRAINER'S THOUGHTS

MENTAL HEALTH

According to a 2014 survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing in England, 1 in 6 people aged 16+ had experienced symptoms of a common mental health problem such as depression or anxiety, in the past week. Women were more likely than men to experience such symptoms.

This does not tell us anything we don't already know, however the awareness of mental health issues worldwide is not where it should be. Furthermore, it is even lower in asian continents. We tend to prioritise our physical health and forget the perils of psychological issues.



DALJIT SINGH

TRAINER

Treatment of mental health has progressed over the years but it is still underutilised due to the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Many people do not realise how much their thinking affects their quality of life. Those affected by mental illnesses are unable to control their thinking and this leads to further difficulties in life, made even more complicated without a good social support. It does not make one weak to ask for help. It does not make one weaker than others for needing talk therapies or medications. It simply means there is a path for betterment.

Hence, the talk surrounding mental health should improve. Be it your friend, family or even yourself. Start at home, and go from there.

ENGLISH DIRECT *to the* WORLD



Take your first step on your English language learning journey today with our FREE online English Proficiency Test

FREE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST

Register now!

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DIRECT ENGLISH

Free
Accurate
Quick
Reliable

Direct English Proficiency Test is designed to give a quick way of assessing your knowledge of English grammar, English vocabulary and English usage.

This adaptive test has a database of hundreds of questions that are designed to increase in complexity as the test takers move through them.

This is to say, test takers will start answering the easy questions at the beginning of the test, and as the test progresses, the difficulty of the questions increases.

At the end of the test, test takers will receive test results where they will be informed of their English proficiency level.

Test takers will also be informed of their actual performance in the test, where their percentage/score for 'Technical Vocabulary', 'Grammatical Accuracy' and 'General Rules of English Language' will be made known to them.



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