

**BULLETIN: JUNE 2024  
(06/2024)**

# ENGLISH MATTERS



**MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES**

**DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE CENTRE**



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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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

**A Memorable Hari Raya • P. 4 - P. 5**

**English for Workplace Communication  
• P. 6 - P. 7**

**DE honors for NEIVCE students • P. 7**

**My Blog • P. 8**

**English for Everyone • P. 9**



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ENGLISH  
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# A CHAT WITH

## *Tunku Iskandar*

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE TAPESTRY



When Carole King recorded her 2nd album in 1971 and named it “Tapestry”, she probably did not realise that the word tapestry has its origins from Old French, tapis, which was itself derived from Latin tapetis and having its origins from Greek tapētos, meaning “carpet” or “rug”.

There is an abundance of foreign words that have integrated into the English language such that they have become indispensable parts of the English language tapestry. The English language is fascinating, enriched by the contributions of countless cultures and tongues from around the globe.

While its roots have Anglo-Saxon and Germanic origins, the English has become a dynamic and versatile language, with words from diverse backgrounds. There are so many words having foreign origins that have been woven into the fabric of the language thereby enriching it.

William Shakespeare certainly acknowledged the influence of foreign words in his plays, where he often used words borrowed from other languages, particularly Latin, Greek, French, and Italian. This reflects the dynamic nature of language and how it evolves through contact with other cultures.

One of the strongest influences on English vocabulary comes from Latin, having its origins from Roman Empire conquests resulting in Latin taking on the role as the language of scholars and administrators throughout Europe. Words such as "alibi," and "agenda" have been regarded as integral to English discourse, whereas have their legacy from ancient Rome. We often throw in Latin phrases like "ad hoc," "per se," and "vice versa" making our discourse seem more scholarly.

However we also interweave our conversations with French words and phrases like haute cuisine and haute couture, whereby such terms seem to lend sophistication and words like "rendezvous," "faux pas," and "deja vu" have been integrated into everyday speech and we do not anymore think of the origins. Whilst less prevalent, German has been brought into everyday English usage such as "kindergarten" to "delicatessen," and some words we use so often such as "noodle" and "hamburger".

It is interesting that the Arabic language has been incorporated into English especially scientific words such as "algebra" and "algorithm," and not to forget that "coffee" which is a word used internationally, (supposedly English or American) actually has its roots in the Turkish and Arabic languages. The Orient bring many contributions to the English vocabulary, especially in cuisine, martial arts, and spirituality, such as "kung fu", "yoga", "zen", "curry" and "sushi" have insinuated into the English language to become household words in English-speaking countries, reflecting the global influence of Asian culture.

Perhaps the reason that English is regarded as the "Language of International Communication" is because of its adaptability and although it is not the most spoken language in the world, it is spoken as a first language by around 400 million people worldwide and also the most common second language in the world.

The American author, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The English language is the sea which receives tributaries from every region under heaven", emphasising how English has been enriched by the inclusion of words from various languages and also underlining the English language's adaptability and diversity.



# A Memorable **Hari Raya**: Unity and Celebration at Melewar Learning Resources

The Hari Raya celebration at Melewar Learning Resources was a vibrant and memorable event that brought together board of directors, colleagues, clients, stakeholders, trainers and teachers in the spirit of unity and cultural appreciation. Held at the cozy restaurant Nosh, Tipple and Brew, the event provided the perfect setting for a relaxed and informal gathering. The venue was adorned with traditional decorations, with colors like green, gold, and white creating a festive atmosphere. Elements such as ketupat (woven rice cakes), lanterns, and Islamic motifs enhanced the cultural ambiance, making the restaurant feel welcoming and celebratory.

A key highlight of the celebration was the delightful array of food and refreshments. A variety of traditional Malay and Muslim dishes, including rendang, satay, and an assortment of sweets like kuih, were served. To cater to diverse dietary preferences, vegetarian options were also available. Additionally, traditional drinks like bandung (rose syrup drink), was offered, ensuring a refreshing culinary experience for all attendees.

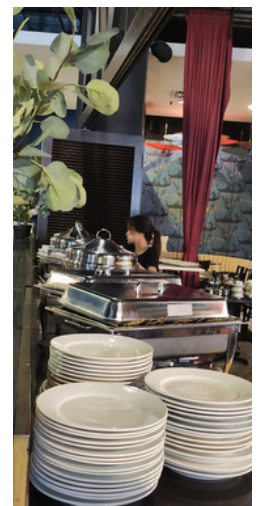




The informal nature of the event allowed attendees to mingle and enjoy the festivities at their own pace. Social networking emerged as one of the key highlights, as attendees connected and shared their experiences. The relaxed setting provided an excellent opportunity for building relationships and fostering a sense of community. The restaurant environment encouraged open conversations, making it easier for everyone to engage and interact.



Overall, the Hari Raya celebration at Melewar Learning Resources was a resounding success. The event not only provided an opportunity for cultural exchange but also strengthened the sense of community within our company and with our extended network. The delicious food, festive atmosphere, and relaxed setting at Nosh, Tipple and Brew left a lasting impression on all who attended, making it a day to remember.



# English for Workplace Communication

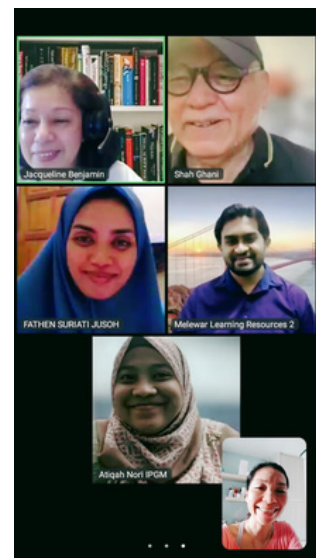
## KPT-PACE

### University Malaysia Terengganu & Melewar Learning Resources

In a dynamic effort to bridge the gap between academic proficiency and professional communication, University Malaysia Terengganu has recently inaugurated a comprehensive English at Workplace Communication course. This course, provided by Melewar Learning Resources, was secured through a successful tender bid. This course has seen an impressive turnout of students enrolling to improve their workplace communication skills. This initiative underscores the university's commitment to equipping its students with the necessary tools to succeed in their professional lives.



The course, which began earlier this year, addresses various aspects of communication essential in a workplace setting. From mastering the art of concise and clear email writing to understanding the nuances of effective verbal communication in meetings, the curriculum covers a wide spectrum. Special sessions on intercultural communication and conflict resolution ensure that students are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of global workplaces. The expertise of Melewar Learning Resources, particularly trainers Mr. Shaharudin Ghani, Ms. Jane Teh, Ms. Jacqueline, Ms. Fathen, and Ms. Nurul Atiqah, has been pivotal in shaping a relevant and practical curriculum. The delivery of the program is done via a combination of face-to-face and online training, offering flexibility and accessibility to students.





Set to continue until August, the course allows students ample time to delve deep into these critical communication skills. The extended duration supports a progressive learning approach, where concepts are reinforced through practical exercises and real-world simulations. This hands-on methodology aims to foster a robust understanding and confidence among students, preparing them to handle various workplace scenarios with ease and professionalism.



## Direct English Honors for NEIVCE Students

Melewar Learning Resources (MLR)/Direct English Malaysia and the New Era Institute of Vocational & Continuing Education (NEIVCE) have a long-standing partnership. Every NEIVCE student takes Direct English classes as a part of this collaboration. Mr. Chai Yu Yii, NEIVCE's Academic Liaison Officer, received more than 300 Certificates of Achievement from Direct English UK recently. Students who have finished their Direct English courses from the most recent batches are given these certificates.



# MY BLOG

## WHY LEARN ENGLISH?

Jacqueline Benjamin  
MLR Trainer



**“Hey we matched on tinder like 1 month ago! Would love to get to know you more and see where we go from there! If you’re keen, do hit me up!”**

**As a trainer, I work with many people looking to improve their English for work and academic opportunities. Then there are the non-native English speakers who do so to meet the love of their lives. They want to join online dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, eHarmony, Match, Coffee Meets Bagel to name a few; to be proficient in English, to create a winning profile and to navigate their way through the myriad of nuances within today’s online dating language. “... hit me up”? Yes, I help these initiates understand such phrases and advise them on language to convey their meaning accurately. Although they could connect with candidates from their own country, they prefer to enter the largest world market which is the English-speaking one.**

**Dating apps are de rigueur for singles under the age of 35. This group doesn’t rely on chance encounters nor have the patience for social networking. These platforms feed the fast-paced, tech-savvy lifestyle of today’s society, offering an alternative to conventional methods of finding love. How logical that their heavily internet- supported existence would also provide a structured, algorithm-driven approach to finding potential partners. Browsing profiles, chatting and setting up dates from the comfort and privacy of their homes are super-convenient and efficient! Face-to-face interactions could be intimidating even time-consuming. Much better to duck out of the reality of a sometime embarrassing process and instead confine your chat to someone pre-screened to match all your requirements.**

**Does it work?**

**Dissenters maintain that online dating may lead to snap judgments based on profiles and photos, rather than genuine human interaction. The plethora of choices mushrooming on these platforms also fosters a "shopping mentality," whereby individuals become addicted to trawling for better options instead of committing to one person and working at that relationship. Why resist the quick dopamine fix when you swipe right!**

**Nevertheless, ask around and you will find many contented couples who met online. This summer I will be witness at 2 weddings; both relationships initiated through fibre optics. Parents and the older generation have stopped being scandalized. Instead they almost preen with pride when they inform their friends, mostly due to gratification of being a part of this cutting edge phenomena. Some even recommend the Zen App to their counterparts! In a whirl of technology people connect in search for that timeless quest for companionship.**





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# ENGLISH *for* EVERYONE

**Empower your kids with strong English skills early on by enrolling them in our dynamic after-class English programme, held three times a week! At our programme, we believe in the power of personalized education. Our experienced and dedicated instructors tailor each lesson to focus on the specific areas your child needs to improve, whether it's reading, writing, speaking, or comprehension. This ensures that every student receives the individual attention they need to thrive. Our engaging and interactive approach not only builds essential language skills but also boosts your child's confidence and enthusiasm for learning. By providing a supportive and stimulating environment, we help your child overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. Join our programme today and watch your child shine with newfound proficiency and a love for English. Together, we can lay a strong foundation for their academic success and lifelong learning journey!**

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