

**BULLETIN: MARCH 2024
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ENGLISH MATTERS



MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES

**DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

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MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES

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**DIRECT
ENGLISH
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

A CHAT WITH

Tunku Iskandar

FESTIVALS FOR ALL



Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, Malaya's Father of Independence said, "Every one of us must respect each other's rights and feelings, be tolerant of each other's religion, customs and habits for in diversity can we find real unity." This is certainly true in a country like Malaysia, a country that celebrates a good convergence of festivals throughout the year.

As it so happens, this has resulted in the country's relatively high ranking in the number of public holidays. However, it is not Malaysia that has the highest number of public holidays in the world but rather it is Nepal with 36 days, compared to Malaysia's 23. It is also interesting to note that Liechtenstein takes the prize in Europe with 20 public holidays annually.

In December, Christmas provides the theme and spirit for celebrating for most of the population, whether they are Christians or not. As it coincides with the last week of the year, the celebrations are a mixture of the year-end rounds of office lunches, dinners and parties, followed very soon by the New Year Eve gatherings.

As the new moon rose in February 2024, marking the beginning of the Lunar New Year celebrated by Chinese all over the world including more than 7 million Malaysians, many of Malaysia's over 1 million Catholics started fasting or abstaining for Lent that will culminate before Easter at the end of March.

Overlapping that, in mid-March 2024, over 20 million Muslims in Malaysia together with over 2 billion Muslims worldwide will begin their obligatory fasting from dawn until dusk each day during the holy month of Ramadan, in the four weeks leading up to Eid Ul-Fitri.

These and many other celebrations by different ethnic groups in Malaysia such as Deepavali and Thaipusam mainly celebrated by Hindus as well as Gawai and Kaamatan in Sarawak and Sabah underline the principle of ‘unity in diversity’ that we live and breathe and lending power to the motto on our country’s coat-of-arms, Unity is Strength.

Malaysia has had its challenges over the past 66 years since independence as there were those who did not fully subscribe to being respectful and tolerant and created racial tension resulting in much heartache and soul-searching. By and large though, we as a country have prevailed and have become a beacon for other countries who believe Malaysia can be emulated successfully. Globally, we do not have a “one size fits all” formula but as Malaysians, we can live in harmony and be united through celebrating our differences.

Our newly elected Yang di-Pertuan Agong had reminded that all religions emphasise good values like compassion, respect, tolerance, moderation and kindness, and Malaysians should focus on these common values rather than on any racial or religious differences, tenets that have also been voiced out by his predecessors.

One of the principles often attributed to the Dalai Lama is “The whole purpose of religion is to facilitate love and compassion, patience, tolerance, humility, and forgiveness” and not doubt that a country like Malaysia with its plethora of festivals, religions and communities would do well to remember this.

Direct English Programme in St John's International Secondary School

English language competency is essential for academic success and career preparedness in today's globalised world, so schools must provide extra support to help students advance their language skills. Given the gravity of the situation, St. John's International Secondary School has decided to offer its Year 9, 8, and 7 students a Direct English curriculum beginning in February 2024. There are currently about 300 students enrolled in this programme.

The Direct English programme is a highly effective English program in schools. It is distinguished by an extremely well thought-out curriculum that incorporates speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills while adhering to academic standards. Innovative instructional strategies such as experiential learning and technology integration engage students and promote deeper understanding.

The Classic Direct English course contains 8 levels of English Proficiency. Each level consists of 9 units and each unit comes with three lessons (with a total 27 lessons per level). The course is delivered using the highly proven and successful Direct English Learning System.

This programme is taught by a group of Direct English teachers who have undergone major training. Because they have a deep understanding of curriculum design, pedagogical strategies, and theories related to language acquisition, these Direct English Malaysia teachers create dynamic learning environments that support students' growth and success.



DEILC Intensive English

Witnessing the exuberant graduation of students from Direct English International Language Center is a heartening experience, marked by palpable excitement, achievement, and promise. These students have committed themselves to mastering the English language, recognizing its profound significance in today's interconnected world.

For these graduates, fluency in English opens up a world of opportunities – whether it's pursuing higher education abroad, advancing in their careers, or simply expanding their horizons. They leave the Direct English International Language Center equipped with not only language skills but also confidence, cultural awareness, and a global perspective.



Mazars Malaysia Certificate Handover

Our specially designed Business English training was recently attended by participants from Mazars Malaysia. The participants gained organisational skills so that when they communicate, they are clear about their objectives and know exactly how to achieve them. The Mazars Malaysia Human Resource Manager, Ms. Grace Yap, accepted the certificates.



TRAINER'S THOUGHTS



Anusha Joshuane David

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Effective Teaching Methods for Young Learners

English language acquisition for young learners is a dynamic process that requires an innovative and engaging teaching approach. Recognizing the unique needs and characteristics of young minds is crucial for creating a positive and effective learning environment.

One successful method for teaching English to young learners is through immersive activities. Incorporating games, songs, and interactive storytelling not only captures children's attention but also facilitates language acquisition in a natural and enjoyable way. These activities promote active participation, enabling children to absorb language structures and vocabulary effortlessly.

Another essential aspect is incorporating visual aids and multimedia tools. Young learners are often visual and auditory learners, and utilizing colorful visuals, videos, and educational apps enhances their understanding and retention of English concepts. Interactive whiteboards and educational software create a stimulating environment that encourages active participation and collaboration among students.

Furthermore, a communicative approach is essential when teaching English to young learners. Emphasizing real-life communication situations helps children understand the practical use of language. Role-playing activities, dialogues, and group discussions foster language development by encouraging children to express themselves in English.

In addition to these methods, incorporating technology in the classroom can enhance English learning for young students. Educational apps, online resources, and interactive e-books provide opportunities for independent learning and reinforce language skills outside the classroom.

In conclusion, a successful English teaching method for young learners involves a combination of immersive activities, visual aids, a communicative approach, and the integration of technology. By tailoring lessons to match the unique learning styles of young minds, educators can create a foundation for lifelong language proficiency and a love for learning.

ENGLISH *for* EVERYONE

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English for everyone
Work, School & University and Life

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DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

Direct English International Language Center Intensive English course is a specialized program designed to rapidly enhance students' proficiency in the English language within a relatively short timeframe. Typically, these courses offer immersive learning experiences, where students are consistently exposed to English-speaking environments. Through structured curricula, they cover various aspects of language learning such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and communication skills. A distinguishing feature of the Intensive English courses is their fast-paced nature. With small class sizes, students receive personalized attention, facilitating a conducive environment for learning. Daily practice is encouraged both inside and outside the classroom, often through homework assignments, language labs, or immersive activities. This constant engagement with the language accelerates the learning process. Regular assessments and progress tracking mechanisms are integral components of these courses. These tools help instructors gauge students' development and adjust teaching methodologies accordingly. By providing a comprehensive learning experience, this Intensive English courses are particularly popular among individuals seeking rapid improvement in English proficiency for academic, professional, or personal purposes.



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