

**BULLETIN: MAY 2024  
(05/2024)**

# ENGLISH MATTERS



**MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES**

**DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE CENTRE**



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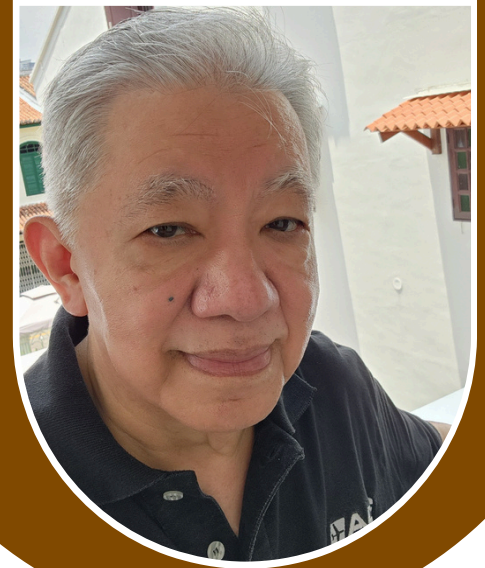
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**DIRECT  
ENGLISH  
INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

# A CHAT WITH

## *Tunku Iskandar*

### Odds & Ends



Aesop, the ancient Greek philosopher well-known for Aesop's Fables is said to have coined the idiom "don't count your chickens before the eggs are hatched". The use of idioms exist in many languages and since time immemorial.

The English language is also full of idiomatic expressions, having been developed over the ages by native speakers using phrases that non-native speakers may be bewildered with. Invariably those who naturally use them forget that others may not understand because the idiomatic meaning may be rather different from the literal sense.

"Odds and ends" is one such expression, and when I recently used it talking to someone in reference to some miscellaneous items being not yet finalised, I realised from her quizzical look that I had mistakenly taken for granted that the phrase is universally understood.

The word "odd" or "odds" appear in a few other expressions than "odds and ends", such as "against the odds", "be at odds with" and "odd man out" with each having a different meaning for the word. We can also find a few idiomatic expressions containing "even" that may be confusing for some such as "even-steven" and "even keel".

No doubt many of us are familiar with some other idioms such as “no pain, no gain” or even “it takes two to tango” but some others such as “in for a penny, in for a pound” and “the whole nine yards” are perhaps more obscure and I suspect even those who use it now and again may not know the origins anyway.

Some are rather strange and involve animals, such as “no room to swing a cat” (meaning a cramped space), “the elephant in the room” (referring to a sensitive subject no one wants to broach) or “let the cat out of the bag” (revealing secrets) and “smell a rat” (suspecting something wrong).

If you are familiar with the expression “you can't have your cake and eat it too”, have you ever given some thought if it should actually be “you can't eat your cake and have it too”? Moreover, why is something easy “a piece of cake” but something that “takes the cake” is something extreme?

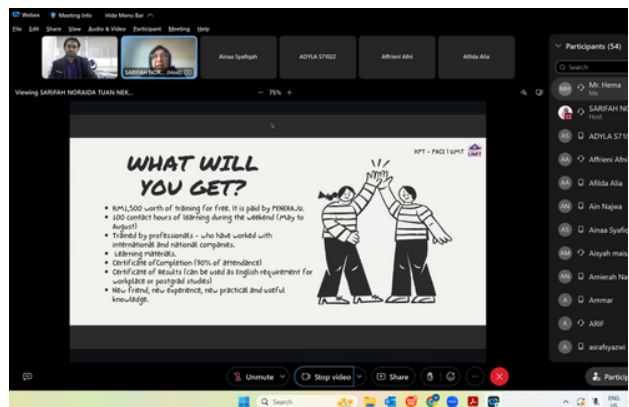
There are other expressions that are creative and interesting and also easier to guess their meaning such as “better late than never” and “bite more than you can chew” but others are strange such as “cry over spilled milk” and “bite the bullet” and invariably those have a few different theories about their origins.

It is not surprising to know that William Shakespeare was a master of creating idioms many of which have become used in everyday life even today, such as “live in a fool's paradise”, “without rhyme or reason”, “stood on ceremony”, “wearing your heart on a sleeve”, “the world is your oyster” and so many more. Without a doubt, using idiomatic expressions will certainly be “adding spice” to an otherwise bland conversation.

# Empowering Tomorrow's Workforce: MLR and UMT Collaborate to Enhance Professional Readiness

Melewar Learning Resources is gearing up to deliver the English for Professional Workplace programme in collaboration with UMT, a significant initiative under Malaysia's Minister of Higher Education. Selected through a rigorous tender bidding process, MLR's outstanding proposal and track record positioned it as the preferred partner for UMT. Scheduled to run from May 10th to August 10th, 2024, the programme aims to enhance the professional readiness of 250 university students through a blend of online and face-to-face classes.

The programme's curriculum is designed to equip students with essential language proficiency and communication skills required in today's workplace. Beyond linguistic instruction, modules cover diverse aspects of professional communication such as business correspondence, presentation skills, and intercultural competence. This comprehensive approach reflects MLR's commitment to empowering students with the tools and confidence needed to navigate the complexities of the modern work environment.



Moreover, the programme fosters collaboration between academia and industry, providing students with valuable insights into real-world expectations and demands. Through industry-relevant case studies, guest lectures, and hands-on projects, participants gain practical experience and a deeper understanding of professional dynamics. As the programme unfolds, it promises to catalyze positive change in students' lives, enhancing their employability and positioning them for successful careers in today's competitive global marketplace.

# Direct English International Language Centre

Nestled in a vibrant urban setting, the Direct English International Language Centre stands as a beacon of cultural exchange and linguistic celebration. Within its walls, language becomes a bridge connecting students from diverse backgrounds, fostering not only communication but also understanding and empathy. Guided by dedicated educators, learners embark on a journey of self-discovery, unlocking their potential while forming lasting friendships that transcend borders.



More than just a place of academic pursuit, the centre is a melting pot of cultures, where inclusivity and diversity are celebrated. Regardless of background or proficiency level, every individual is welcomed and empowered to thrive. Through extracurricular activities and cultural experiences, students immerse themselves in a rich tapestry of global perspectives, gaining not only language skills but also a deeper understanding of the world around them.

At its core, the centre embodies a vision of a world united by language, where communication transcends barriers and fosters collaboration. Inspired by passionate educators and motivated learners, it serves as a catalyst for personal growth and global citizenship. Through its transformative power, the Direct English International Language Centre illuminates minds, ignites hearts, and propels individuals towards a future filled with endless possibilities.



# TRAINER'S THOUGHTS



**Daljit Singh**  
Trainer  
Melewar Learning Resources

## Private Vehicles VS Public Transport

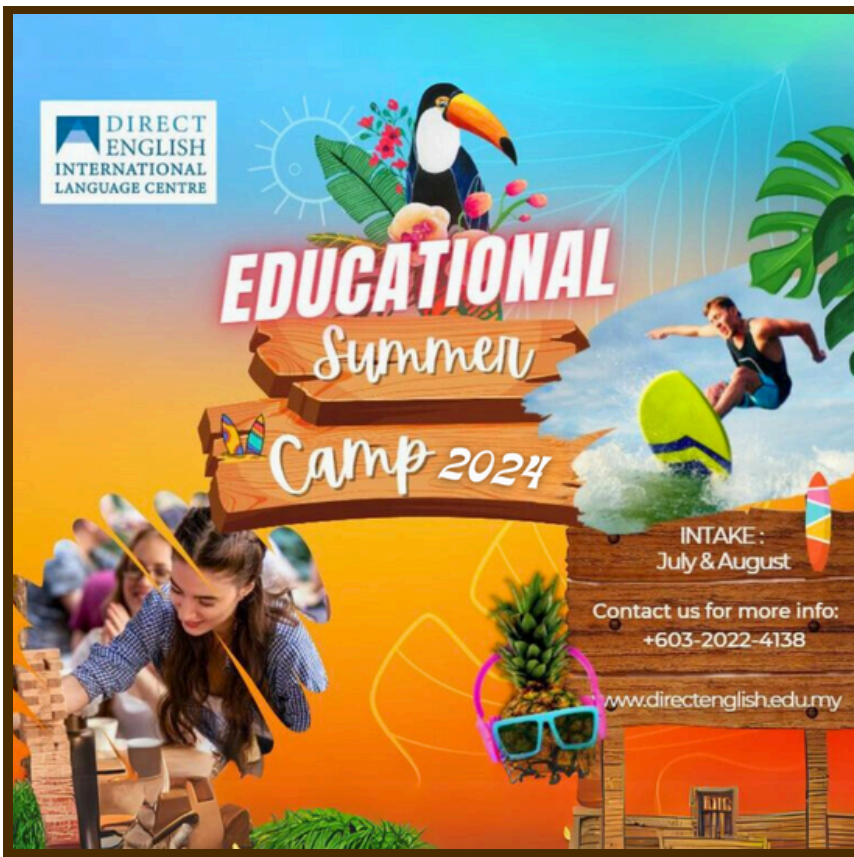
Owning a car undoubtedly offers a plethora of advantages, chief among them being the freedom to traverse wherever and whenever one desires. However, the act of driving itself comes with its fair share of inconveniences, none more notorious than the omnipresent scourge of traffic congestion. Few experiences rival the frustration of being ensnared in a snarl of vehicles during rush hour, casting a shadow over an otherwise promising day.

Yet, despite the aggravations of driving, many still opt for the familiarity and autonomy it affords over public transportation alternatives such as buses or trains. The allure of personal space and control over one's journey often outweighs the potential benefits of shared transit. Each individual's preference is shaped by a myriad of factors, including convenience, comfort, and habitual routines.

However, there exists a considerable contingent, myself included, who find solace and satisfaction in relinquishing the responsibility of piloting a vehicle to the capable hands of public transit operators. The train, with its rhythmic chugging and panoramic views, offers a welcome respite, allowing passengers to reclaim precious moments for themselves amidst the daily hustle and bustle.

Likewise, bus passengers revel in the knowledge that they are not burdened with the demands of navigating through congested streets. Instead, they can devote their attention to personal pursuits, whether it be catching up on reading, engaging in leisurely conversations, or simply gazing out the window as the urban landscape unfurls before them.

In closing, I urge readers to consider the merits of embracing public transportation as a means of mitigating traffic congestion and fostering a more sustainable future. By collectively reducing our reliance on private vehicles, we can alleviate the strain on our roadways and cultivate a more harmonious coexistence within our urban environments. Let us embark on this journey together, one bus ride or train commute at a time.



# ENGLISH *for* EVERYONE

Join us for an unforgettable experience where education meets adventure. Our carefully crafted program is designed to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and inspire a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime. Led by experienced educators, our camp offers a dynamic blend of interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and outdoor exploration. From captivating language activities to artistic endeavors, there's something for every curious mind. But it's not just about academics! Our campers also have the opportunity to connect with nature, make new friends, and build confidence in themselves. Through team-building activities, sports tournaments, and talent shows, they'll create memories that will last a lifetime. Don't let your child's summer go to waste—enroll them in our Educational Summer Camp today and watch them grow academically, socially, and personally. Spaces are limited, so secure your spot now for an enriching summer experience!

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