

ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: NOVEMBER 2023 (11/2023)



DIRECT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING

DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Commencement of MSD training
• P. 4

Exploring the Avian Wonders: English
Class Trip to Kuala Lumpur Bird Park
• P. 5

Trainer's Thought • P. 6

English Direct to the World
• P. 7

A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

REQUIRED READING

“The man who does not read good books is no better than the man who can’t.” This quote by Mark Twain, the well-known American writer and publisher underlines the widely-regarded concept that books contain a treasure chest of information and experiences waiting for us to discover.

However, what is a good book? Growing up in the English-language school system that existed in Malaya (and Malaysia) until the early 1970s, there were books that became required reading especially if English Literature was one of the subjects one was studying for exams. There was at least one, actually several, William Shakespeare plays in my time which included Twelfth Night and Romeo and Juliet. However, there were also well-known and well-read novels such as Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women and Mark Twain’s Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Thus required reading books were generally ones which we had to read, whether we liked them or not.



**TUNKU DATO' SERI (DR)
ISKANDAR TUNKU ABDULLAH**
Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

My mother was a voracious reader, books and magazines were tucked away on bookshelves, laying open on living room tables and as a boy, I very easily slipped into the habit of reading anything and everything that was available. Readers Digest was delivered by the postman monthly without fail and I have continued subscribing until today, looking forward to reading true-to-life anecdotal short stories, regular fun articles and jokes. I recommend it for everyone especially those who wish to improve their grasp of the English language.

She also had other magazines that I picked up perhaps more to enjoy the high-quality photographs contained in them, from National Geographic to LIFE Magazine and from time to time, the occasional copy of Punch, a British magazine devoted to humour and satire. No doubt I was lucky to have the treasure trove all around.

I will concede that today's environment makes it doubly difficult to set one's mind to read books and magazines or even newspapers. Devices such as smart mobile phones, laptops and satellite television have made access to news, entertainment and information very conveniently at our fingertips. Perhaps this convenience has led to laziness to go out and find a book or indeed even pick up a book to read and it has become so easy to be distracted from reading and instead see the here-and-now live-streaming. This has caused a number of publishers to resort to putting their publications on e-books to try reach these non-readers.

Although the tastes of young people have changed over time, I personally still believe reading is the key to increased proficiency in any language and also the key to maintaining the proficiency that has been achieved. When one is not in an environment of speaking English on a daily basis, reading is the next best way to improve one's vocabulary.

Are there any alternative ways? A friend recently said that he improved his English language skills by reading newspapers, watching English language programmes on TV as well as going to the movies. Immersing oneself in content in this way would certainly help to become more conversant with the language in an informal way, as would reading as well.

Nonetheless, Nobel Prize-winning American novelist William Faulkner once said, "Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad you'll absorb it." So we should all treat reading like going for a jog and give our brain a good workout!

COMMENCEMENT OF **MSD** TRAINING



Merck, Sharp and Dohme (MSD) Malaysia Sdn Bhd has started their Business English training with Melewar Learning Resources (MLR) / Direct English Malaysia. This training will go on till January 2024.

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On the first day of their Business English training with Mr. Shaharudin Ghani, all of the participants were in excellent spirits and relished the experience. The goal of the training is to help participants become more proficient communicators and business English users so they could use the language more successfully and professionally at work. Topics that will be covered in the course include Presentation, Negotiations, Customer Care, Managing Change etc.

MSD is a leader in a broad range of therapeutic areas, including oncology, vaccines, hospital acute care and primary care, with established presence in cardiology, infectious diseases, women's health and animal health. MSD is focused on helping to address many of the world's unmet medical needs.



Exploring the Avian Wonders: **English Class** Trip to Kuala Lumpur **Bird Park**



In an exciting escapade to enhance DEILC students language skills and appreciate the beauty of nature, the Intensive English class recently embarked on a memorable journey to the Kuala Lumpur Bird Park. This splendid adventure offered the students a unique opportunity to not only brush up on their English but also to be captivated by the vibrant world of avian wonders.

Nestled in the heart of Malaysia's bustling capital, the Kuala Lumpur Bird Park is the world's largest free-flight aviary, providing a sanctuary for over 3,000 birds from 200 different species. The students was ready to be mesmerized by the diverse and exotic birdlife. One of the most breathtaking experiences was the feeding session where the students interacted with friendly and colorful lorikeets. These playful birds eagerly perched on their arms, offering a hands-on experience that brought smiles to the students faces and a plethora of new vocabulary to their lesson.

Throughout the trip, DEILC students couldn't help but marvel at the park's efforts in conservation and education. The knowledgeable staff and informative displays offered valuable insights into the world of ornithology, emphasizing the importance of protecting these magnificent creatures and their natural habitats.

DEILC trip to the Kuala Lumpur Bird Park was more than just a class excursion; it was an adventure that broadened the students horizons, brought the Intensive English studies to life, and fostered an enduring love for the avian kingdom.



TRAINER'S THOUGHTS

CURATING OUR BEST LIFE

Recently, I have been playing a lot of sports, mainly tennis and pickleball. Pickleball is the new craze taking over Malaysia, and perhaps the world as a popular racket sport. It is played like a mini-tennis game, using a slighter larger than ping pong paddle, in a badminton sized court with a plastic ball. I reckon it is more intense than tennis, being that the ball travels fast and participants are standing in a much smaller court. If you want a racket sport that truly tests your reflexes, you have to try this!



JANE TEH
Trainer

It only ever gets easier when I get better. I have this notion that I can curate my best life. Practice makes perfect. That's the only way. Keep repeating the work, keep honing the art and keep at practicing at court coverage, ball control and ball anticipation from the opponent. Sports are very interesting. On court sportsmanship and off court attitude also speaks volumes of a person. We are human first, with love for the sport, second.

Have you ever stopped to think what is your best life? Many do not have this luxury because they are either struggling to make ends meet or too busy with life to even ponder this question. For me, health and wellness is priority. If I could, I would like to live up to 200 years old. I always say, if I am still fit as a fiddle, looking gorgeously ageless, with my joints and limbs still perfectly functional, a decent bank account to boot and lots of friends to socialize with; why would anyone wish to die? It is only when we are physically, financially or mentally no longer functional that it would be a terrible way to live.

I think balance and wellness is very important in today's world. People often work too hard till their brain gets sick, but could be highly functional without any physical symptoms for a long time. Many chronic conditions are caused by much neglect. Let's be more aware to listen to our body and slow down. It is okay to press pause. It is okay acknowledge not being okay. It is okay to take some time out and off from whatever we are immersed in to breathe and relax. We owe it to ourselves to take good care of us, before we are able to even consider taking care of others in our care.

Hence, I challenge all of you to ponder this question. "What is your best life?" and go forth to put into action to curate all the necessary experiences while accumulating all the skillsets needed. If one could live life by choice, why leave it to chance?

ENGLISH DIRECT *to the* WORLD

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.



DIRECT ENGLISH

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Free Accurate Quick Reliable

Take your first step on your English language learning journey today with our FREE online Direct English placement test.

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+603 - 2022 4128 / 4138
+6012-605 4128
info@melewar-learning.com

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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 **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



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deilcmalaysia



Direct English (Corporate
Training Centre) Malaysia

Direct English International
Language Centre

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