

**BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER 2024
(09/2024)**

ENGLISH MATTERS



MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES

**DIRECT ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE**



BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2024

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**DIRECT
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A CHAT WITH

Tunku Iskandar

**QUIRKY
OBSESSION
WITH**



A "dissectologist" is a term used to describe puzzle solvers who consider themselves puzzle enthusiasts. Such people enjoy working on a puzzle whenever there is downtime. These "puzzlers" are often seen hunched over newspapers or magazines or perhaps clutching their smartphones, on a quest far beyond the average pastime. These are warriors in the battle of mental gymnastics, and the battleground? Puzzles. Erno Rubik, the Hungarian inventor widely known for creating the Rubik's Cube said, "Solving life's problems is similar to solving a puzzle"..

How do you become a dissectologist? Usually it all starts innocently enough, stumbling across a Sudoku grid in a magazine or a cryptic crossword in the newspaper perhaps while at the doctor's waiting room. Getting hooked is not so easy but once you solve that initial puzzle you're no longer a casual dabbler, you have transformed into a dedicated solver, a puzzle expert, an aficionado of brain teasers.

It usually begins with crossword puzzles, perhaps the "easy puzzles" but these are the gateway addiction for many of us, and graduating to the "big puzzles" with over 100 clues across and down, and on to those with cryptic clues. It's an elated feeling, knowing that your brain was able to work out the answer.

Cryptic crosswords however require you find clues within the clues, where you have to become a master-dissectologist, as answers often do not seem to have any relationship to the clues. You not only have to think outside the box, but you also have to have a jack-in-the-box mindset. Cryptic puzzle clues do not seem to make any sense but when suddenly the answer hits you on the head, it can bring about a “high” that may seem to be akin to winning a mini-lottery. When you solve one, it is not just an accomplishment, it gives you a smug sense of superiority over those who opt for “simpler” puzzles.

For some, having becoming adept with solving crossword puzzles, the wish for a new “high” takes them to Sudoku, taking them on a new journey of numerical gymnastics. It is said that Sudoku’s tantalizing rows and columns challenge your sanity but in an orderly way. There are no clues, just blank squares that need to be filled so that every number 1 through 9 appears only once in each row and column. Therefore this requires you to dig deep your inner mathematician gene, perhaps you didn’t even know you have.

However, patience is a virtue when becoming a puzzler. Getting stuck halfway and throwing your pencil across the room in frustration will not help you become a better puzzler. Sometimes putting aside the puzzle you are working on and start on another different puzzle helps to clear your mind. Often, even having a fresher mind the next morning allows you to be able to solve it and leave you wondering why you could not see the solution the previous night.

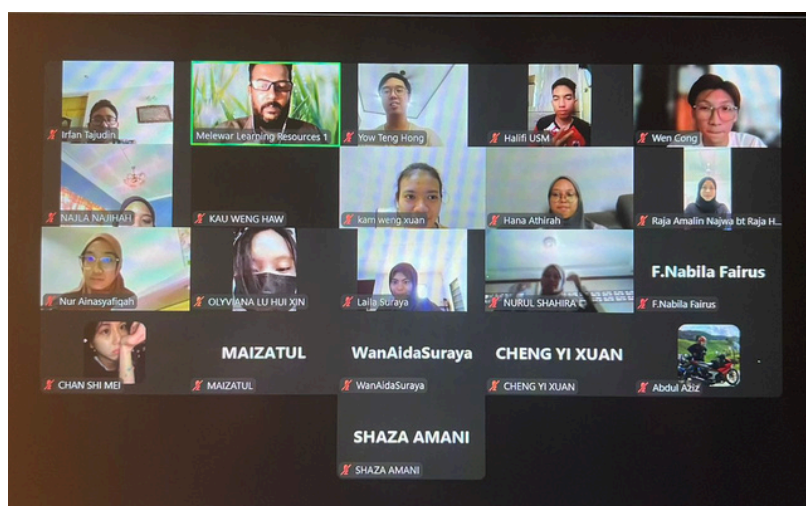
An added bonus, studies have shown that doing puzzles can reduce dementia risk by increasing our cognitive reserve. This passion for puzzles is a testament to human curiosity and perseverance. In becoming a dissectologist, we join a long lineage of intellectual adventurers, each searching for those elusive answers that makes it all worthwhile. Carol Burnett, the famous American comedienne attributes her agile mind to doing puzzles daily, said “I do the 'New York Times' crossword puzzle every morning to keep the old grey matter ticking”.

English for Workplace Communication

KPT-PACE

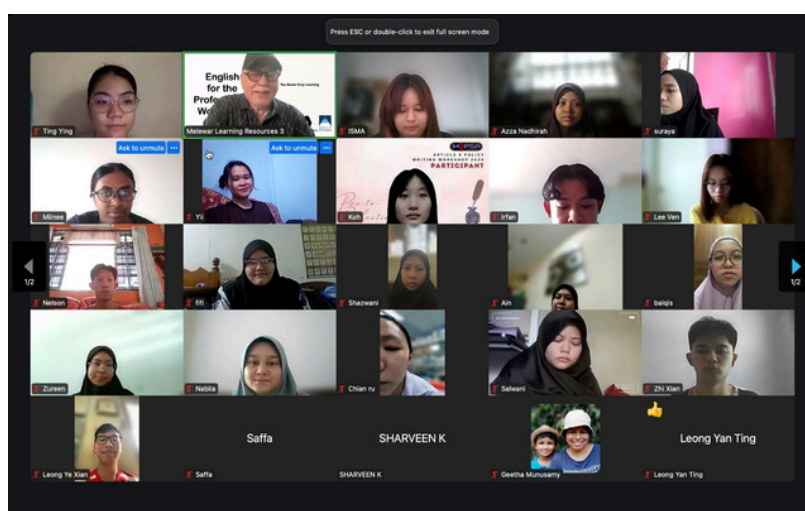
University Sains Malaysia & Melewar Learning Resources

In order to improve the professional readiness of students who are almost done with their degrees, the University Sains Malaysia (USM) and Melewar Learning Resources (MLR) have teamed up to offer a comprehensive training program. Participants will have plenty of chance to polish the abilities that employers are increasingly valuing during this three-month program, which mixes in-person and online training. It started in August and will run through October.

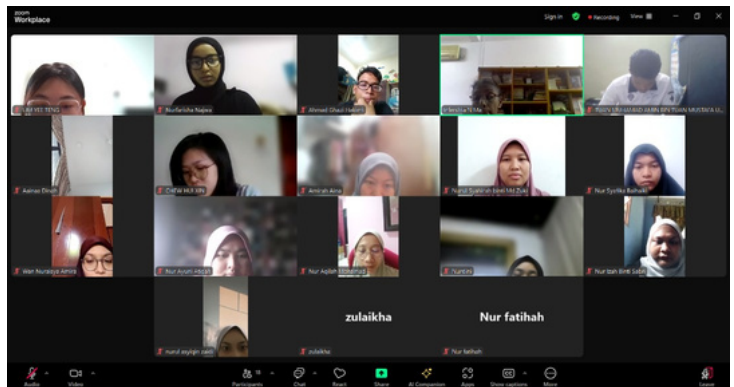
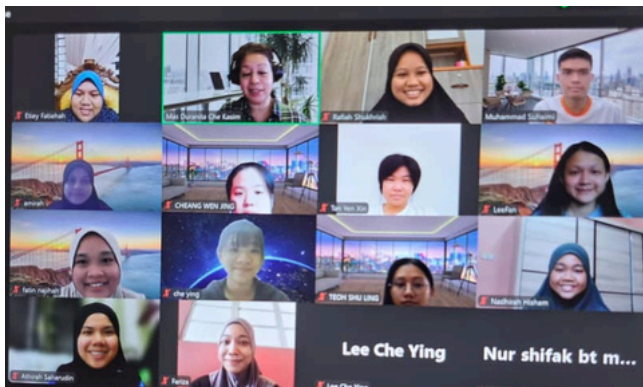
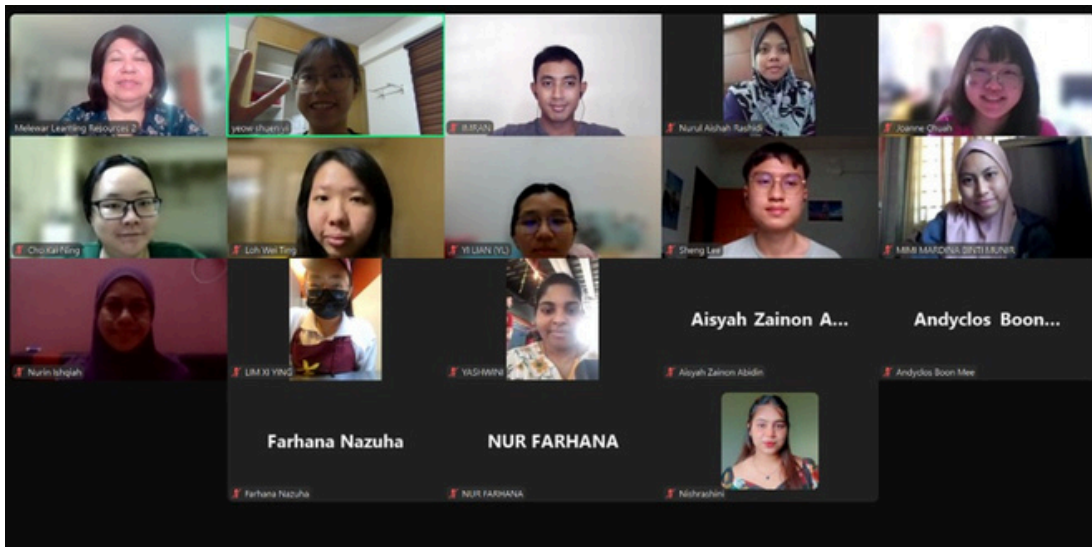


Critical soft skills, such as teamworking, presentation, and negotiation, are heavily emphasised in the training program because they are essential in today's collaborative work contexts. Success in every field requires both good communication and the capacity for cooperative teamwork.

Furthermore, the curriculum places a high priority on improving English language ability, which is a valuable skill in the global employment market. Participants who enhance their language proficiency are better able to interact with varied teams and function in global corporate environments.



The success of the program may be primarily ascribed to the proficiency and dedication of its instructors, Dato Aminah Tun, Mr. Shah Ghani, Mr. Moorthy, Ms. Jacqueline, and Ms. Juanita. These seasoned specialists guarantee that participants receive excellent guidance and support since they bring a wealth of experience and practical knowledge to the training sessions.

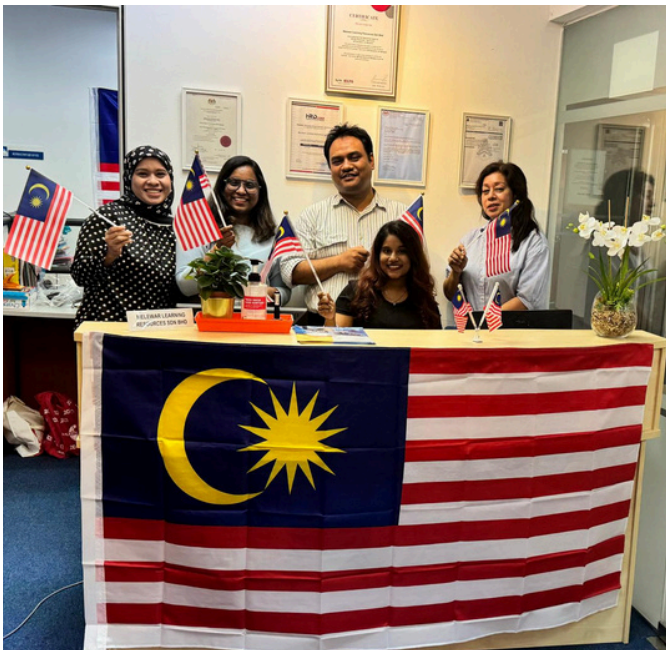


In conclusion, the collaboration between USM and Melewar Learning Resources represents a significant step forward in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and professional competencies. By equipping students with vital soft skills and advanced English language proficiency, the program prepares them to meet the demands of the modern workplace with confidence. As participants move forward in their careers, the lessons learned and the skills honed during this program will undoubtedly serve as a strong foundation for their future success.

Celebrating Malaysia's Independence Day: A Global Festivity at Direct English International Language Center

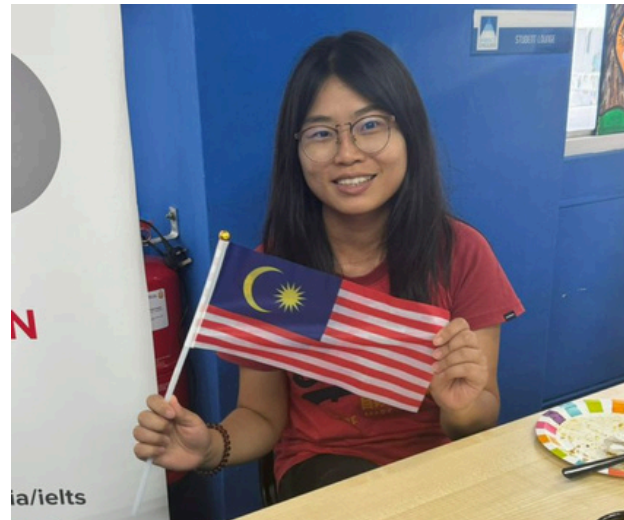
Recently, the Direct English International Language Center celebrated Malaysia's Independence Day with great enthusiasm and excitement. The event saw active participation from students hailing from various corners of the globe, including Poland, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Türkiye, China, and many more. This diverse gathering created a vibrant and culturally rich atmosphere, underscoring the center's commitment to fostering international camaraderie and understanding. The celebrations were meticulously planned to ensure everyone had a memorable and educational experience, highlighting the significance of Malaysia's independence.

The day was filled with engaging activities, including quizzes and fun games designed to test the students' knowledge of Malaysia.



These activities were not only educational but also entertaining, allowing students to learn more about the country's history, culture, and traditions in an enjoyable manner. The quizzes sparked friendly competition among the students, and the games brought out their playful side, leading to moments of laughter and joy. The enthusiasm and participation from the students reflected their eagerness to embrace and understand the culture of the country they were currently studying in.

As the celebration progressed, the students were treated to a sumptuous lunch featuring a wide array of Malaysian delicacies. This gastronomic experience was a highlight of the day, providing everyone with a taste of Malaysia's rich culinary heritage. The delicious food served as a delightful conclusion to the day's events, leaving everyone satisfied and happy.



The Independence Day celebration at the Direct English International Language Center was not just an event; it was a beautiful blend of learning, cultural exchange, and joyous festivity, bringing together students from different backgrounds to celebrate and honor Malaysia's independence.



TRAINER'S THOUGHTS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Does it Make Students' Lives Easier or Lazier?

Ms Fathen Suriati Jusoh
Trainer
Melewar Learning Resources



Living in the 21st century with the emergence and advancement of technology, it is undeniable that students now have information at their fingertips. With just one click, by entering their questions into Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, they can get their tutorial tasks and assignments done in less than a minute.

However, does this advanced technology truly help students grow cognitively? The rapid growth of technology has drastically changed the educational landscape over the past decade. Ten to twenty years ago, completing tutorial tasks and assignments required students to spend hours or even days digging through books and research journals in the library. Although Google was available, the resources found online were often unreliable, and citing books was a must. The ability to justify and support each answer with credible sources from the library provided a deep sense of satisfaction, and this process was a crucial part of cognitive development for students back then.

While AI applications can provide students with sources of information, not all of these sources are reliable. Sometimes, the links provided do not even lead to existing resources. This situation raises questions about the credibility of the information AI provides. Do AI applications make students' lives easier? Yes, they do, by providing instant access to information. But if students simply accept the information at face value and submit their work without verifying the sources, how can they grow cognitively? How will they develop and expand their knowledge if they rely entirely on AI throughout their undergraduate years?

Dear students, while lecturers and instructors cannot stop you from using AI applications, as they undoubtedly make our lives easier, it is crucial to use them wisely. Let these tools guide your studies, but also encourage you to do external reading and research to help you grow both cognitively and wisely. This approach will ensure that your undergraduate years become a meaningful and fruitful journey.



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Direct English with 8 Proficiency Levels offer a perfect approach to English language learning because it was built for people of all ages and walks of life. The uniqueness of the methodology employed in this learning programme lies in the total flexibility in its complete learning system for participants to learn at their own personal pace and style. The unique cyclical syllabus, course materials and face-to-face sessions of General English are all fully integrated to provide a complete, effective and highly flexible learning system. Such flexibility, coupled with world-class learning materials, personalised tutorials, conversation classes, multimedia resources, and organised social activities, adds to the overall success of its proven learning system. The course materials come with a learning pack (for each level) that consists of Study Guide, Course Book, Companion, Workbook and Audio/Video materials. Besides the packs, learning is also supported by Direct English Live!

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