

# CAMBRIDGE

ENGLISH FOR LIFE

Oct - Dec 2004

## MASTERING MATHS - THE CEFL WAY

Understanding and using mathematics are increasingly crucial to an individual's ability to function in society and succeed in the job market. The recent re-introduction of Science & Maths in English to the National Curriculum adds to the challenge.

The magnitude of this challenge becomes more evident as mathematical discourse and syntactical structures have a number of features that make it difficult for students who are speakers of other languages to gauge meaning as mathematical structures often do not conform to the usual norms of English language. Vocabulary in a mathematics class not only includes specialised 'maths terms' but also everyday terms that take on new meaning when used in a maths context (e.g. table, column, product, sum).

To meet the challenge, the Cambridge Education For Life group has systemised an effective and flexible maths programme known as Cambridge Maths For Life (CMFL). This programme, which stems from recommendations made by Cambridge International Examinations and the Malaysian Schools Mathematics Curriculum Development Centre, has been researched, designed and structured

specifically for students whose native language is not English.

CMFL caters for different abilities and starting points of young learners. It is a broad and balanced maths programme for children aged 5 to 13. The programme begins with a Placement Test



(skills assessment) which places the child on a course appropriate to his or her level of proficiency in maths. The lively lessons which follow are prepared using clearly defined learning objectives that offer extensive practice and reinforcement of key mathematical skills. Students will find learning maths at Cambridge a highly rewarding and enriching experience.

Students with a strong foundation in primary maths will find progression to the

advanced levels much easier. Essentially, the students will need to understand and discuss the concepts, thinking through the various stages, and will benefit from talking through the concepts with their classmates and teachers using the English language. The concepts are introduced logically and progressively. Well-structured lessons provide activities that give practice and reinforcement of the concepts and skills taught in each lesson.

The ability to use English effectively, combined with strong skills in mathematics, will inevitably widen the range of opportunities for all learners. Through oral and mental maths, worksheets, practical work and structured play, the CMFL programme will help the child to master maths effectively.

Teaching mathematics with understanding to students who are speakers of other languages provides them with a tool for successful living. It also offers them an opportunity to increase their English fluency at the same time as they acquire other skills. Students transfer maths knowledge learned to English. More important is the development of their ability to communicate their answers and the reasons for them. For Life.

# LEARNING

## ENGLISH FOR LIFE

Take a 'crash course' in English and see what it gets you. Probably nothing. A crash course – full-time for a week or a month or two – may increase your awareness of the language, but it will seldom improve your proficiency. Time and again we are told we must improve our proficiency in English. And no doubt we should. But how?

At Cambridge English for Life (CEFL), English courses are available which aim to build gradually on a firm foundation to reach a level of proficiency in the language which will be beneficial. Courses have been developed that meet the needs of learners of all ages and prepare them for Cambridge ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) examinations. In this way learners have a valid measure of their progress, not to mention a useful qualification.

Learning a language is not like learning just any subject, like maths or history. In those subjects we are confronted with a mass of facts or theories, things we can learn by rote. Learning a language is not like that. Whilst there are some rules which can be applied, mostly languages are learned by absorption. We must 'immerse' ourselves in the language to be able to use it properly. And inevitably that cannot happen overnight.

Many companies and organisations who have a requirement for staff to acquire a language, literally immerse them. Staff are sent to the country where the language is spoken, stay with local families and attend daily classes in the language of the country. In other words they read, hear and speak nothing but that

language. In this way they can readily absorb the language and achieve remarkable proficiency in relatively short periods.

But this is an ideal scenario. In Malaysia, the reality of learning English is attending classes, usually

once or twice a week, returning to our normal routine after class, which in Malaysia might mean not speaking the language again in any meaningful way until the next class. It is therefore essential that the time spent in class is of maximum benefit.

To develop a thorough understanding of a language and to

acquire the ability to use it effectively, learners must be exposed to all four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Only in this way can effective usage of the language be developed. Taking an English writing course, which is supposed to improve your ability to write in English sounds fine in principle; but in practice usually achieves little more than providing the learner with some formats and stock phrases which may or may not be appropriate in the multitudinous varieties of writing and writing styles that confront us in real life. To learn to write in English, you must also learn to speak; you must read and listen too.

CEFL's courses provide for development of all the language skills and the Cambridge exams test each skill so that learners have a detailed measure of their proficiency. Each learner is



Time spent in class is of maximum benefit



CEFL – a place where students and teachers have close rapport



Tutorial sessions at CEFL – where learning comes alive







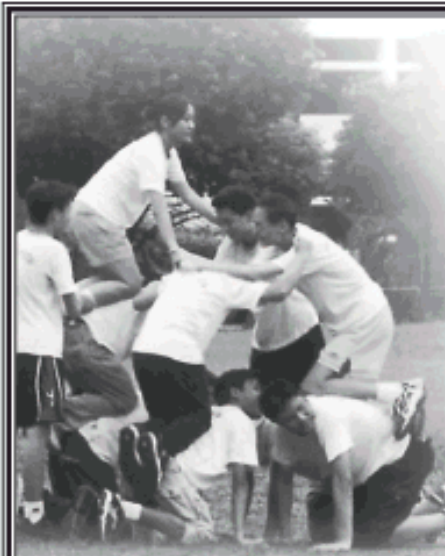
Students engrossed in syndicated work

pre-tested and placed on a course at a level appropriate to his/her proficiency. So, for example, a learner at elementary level would be placed on a course of study leading to the Key English Test (KET) the first of the Cambridge ESOL Main Suite of examinations. Thereafter the learner can progress from one level to the next, eventually reaching the highest level examination, the Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) which meets the English language entrance requirements of institutions of higher learning worldwide and is also widely recognized by employers all over the world as an indication of a high level of proficiency in the language.

This gradual progression allows learners both to learn at their own pace and have adequate time to absorb the language and reinforce their learning. For young learners aged between 7 and 12, there are three levels to go through, before progressing to the five levels in the Main Suite. For adults there are three levels of business English and for those more concerned with developing just their speaking skills there are two levels of conversational English.

CEFL's existing network of centres extends throughout the Klang Valley and includes Bangi, Batu Pahat, Bukit Mertajam, Johor Jaya, Kota Kinabalu, Penang, and Seremban. In this way CEFL hopes to spread not only the quality teaching of English, but also the availability of the prestigious Cambridge ESOL examinations which have for so long been the benchmark for English proficiency assessments.

For further details of CEFL courses and the Cambridge ESOL Examinations call Dr Elsie Chin or Keith Harris at 03-7710 8916.



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# CAMP DISCOVERY

**IMMERSE YOUR CHILD IN A WORLD OF SELF-DISCOVERY**

Help your child develop his or her potential this holiday by enrolling in one of these holiday camps organised by Camp Discovery. The Camps are designed to prepare young people to face tomorrow with greater confidence, motivation and self respect.

At Camp Discovery we believe that every child is a genius. The interactive Camp activities have been developed to create a sense of excitement and purpose to unleash your child's potential.

**CAMP DISCOVERY (11-16 yrs old)  
 22nd - 26th Nov 2004**

**CAMP EUREKA (7-12 yrs old)  
 2nd - 5th Dec 2004**

**CAMP LEADERSHIP (15-19yrs old)  
 6th - 8th DEC 2004**

*Start your child on the exciting journey of discovery and learning and the acquisition of skills that will serve to be among the child's greatest assets in life.*

## IT'S HOLIDAY TIME SOON...

### ... And CEFL Has Holiday Programmes To Suit Everybody

**Camp Discovery is back and better than ever.** Building on last year's successful and exciting holiday camps Camp Discovery this year will have three separate camps each catering to a different age group.

Once again David Tan and his team will be offering their own brand of fun and exciting activities which promote self awareness and bring out the best in the participants. In each of the camps the programme is designed to help children to enjoy learning and better understand their own gifts and talents.

**CAMP EUREKA (AGES 7 - 12)** for the age of youth and innocence uses teambuilding games to develop self confidence and problem solving skills. The Nature Trail and Visual Mapping direct the children towards self-realisation and their place in the world around them.

**CAMP DISCOVERY (AGES 11 - 16)** As the name suggests, it is in the early teenage years when the potential that is in every child is discovered. In Camp Discovery, the participants will enjoy a time of learning, exploring their potential and will make great friendships. The camp activities will equip them with skills that will better prepare them for the future, with a sense of pride and purpose.

**CAMP LEADERSHIP (AGES 15 - 19)** Here, the participants will be trained in skills to make them better leaders. Packed with games, role plays and outdoor activities Camp Leadership is both engaging and challenging. A great learning experience.

And there's more...

Our Intensive English Plus Programme will once again be available for children from 7 - 16 focusing on grammar, vocabulary and communication skills. There is also the special interest project and wonderful memories for the children to take home.



And more...

Last but not least is our Pre-School holiday programme with lots of fun activities: arts and crafts, music and movement, story telling, poetry recitations and more.

