

**T**EACHER'S Day is celebrated this month and Cambridge English For Life (CEFL) would like to take this opportunity to wish all teachers a Happy Teacher's Day.

Teachers are an inevitable part of our lives. They play a significant role in the formative years of our development. To younger children, teachers are often seen as a 'second parent' - as someone who takes care of them and guides them at school.

As they grow older, they see their teachers or lecturers as mentors; someone who could help them accomplish their goals in college or university. Great teachers are those that students continue to talk about or keep in touch with even years after graduating.

So, what makes these teachers great? William Arthur Ward said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires".

Great teachers are those who recognise their student's talent, sharpen it and mould it, to bring the best out of them. Great teachers inspire, motivate, encourage and have a great desire to help.

They are and will always be remembered because they believe in us when others don't, they listen when others turn a deaf ear, they continue to give when others take, they are the educators who open doors and alter the course of our lives.

Another factor that makes these teachers have such an impact on students is their method of teaching that turns ordinary lessons into extraordinary discoveries. Students look forward to attending their classes. In language teaching, probably the most effective method is the 'communicative approach', through which lessons have a clear direction and a definite objective.

In this approach, the main objective should be two-fold: to give confidence to

# Nurturing young minds

Teachers play a significant role in the formative years of children.



the students in using the language and to develop the accuracy of the language.

Teachers who apply the "communicative approach" use a variety of techniques to encourage learners to participate - role plays, using scenarios relevant to the students; drama and storytelling; debates and presentations for the more mature learners; and lively discussions on topics of interest to the students.

By developing this confidence in a friendly, conducive environment, learning can take place.

It has been shown that children especially, but adults also, will be better motivated to use a language in a non-stressful learning environment. How often do children respond to a question about an English class with the all-encompassing: "Boring"?

What this means usually is that their attention is not engaged. And in these circumstances how can they be expected to learn? But if the student's perception is that learning a language is fun, he or she will not only be ready, but eager to join in, participate and thereby acquire the language.

There's also good and effective commu-

nication - one that is often overlooked by many, but a crucial point that makes a teacher's lesson effective. Most teachers are all too familiar with the feelings of anxiety and the agonising hours spent trying to plan every word and every sentence of a new lesson. And on the day, it doesn't work. Students don't do what is required and the objectives aren't met. What went wrong?

Effective communication means more than simply fashioning a composition; more than writing a lesson plan or a report. It means being sensitive to the needs of the students and tailoring the words used for optimum effect.

The communication must be shaped around the students so that they find the lesson or message relevant and meaningful. This means taking more proactive steps to understand the students and the setting in which the communication occurs.

Effective communication requires the skilful use of language, which can only come with proficiency. And lest we think that this is an original thought, let us remember Euripides who wrote: "The tongue is mightier than the blade" more

than 2,000 years ago! CEFL has used the "communicative approach" consistently and has been doing so for 10 years now.

The significant difference between what we might call the traditional teaching methods of 'chalk and board' and the communicative approach is simply that learners are provided with plentiful opportunities to use the language in meaningful ways. And the result is that students become more responsive and engaged in the lessons.

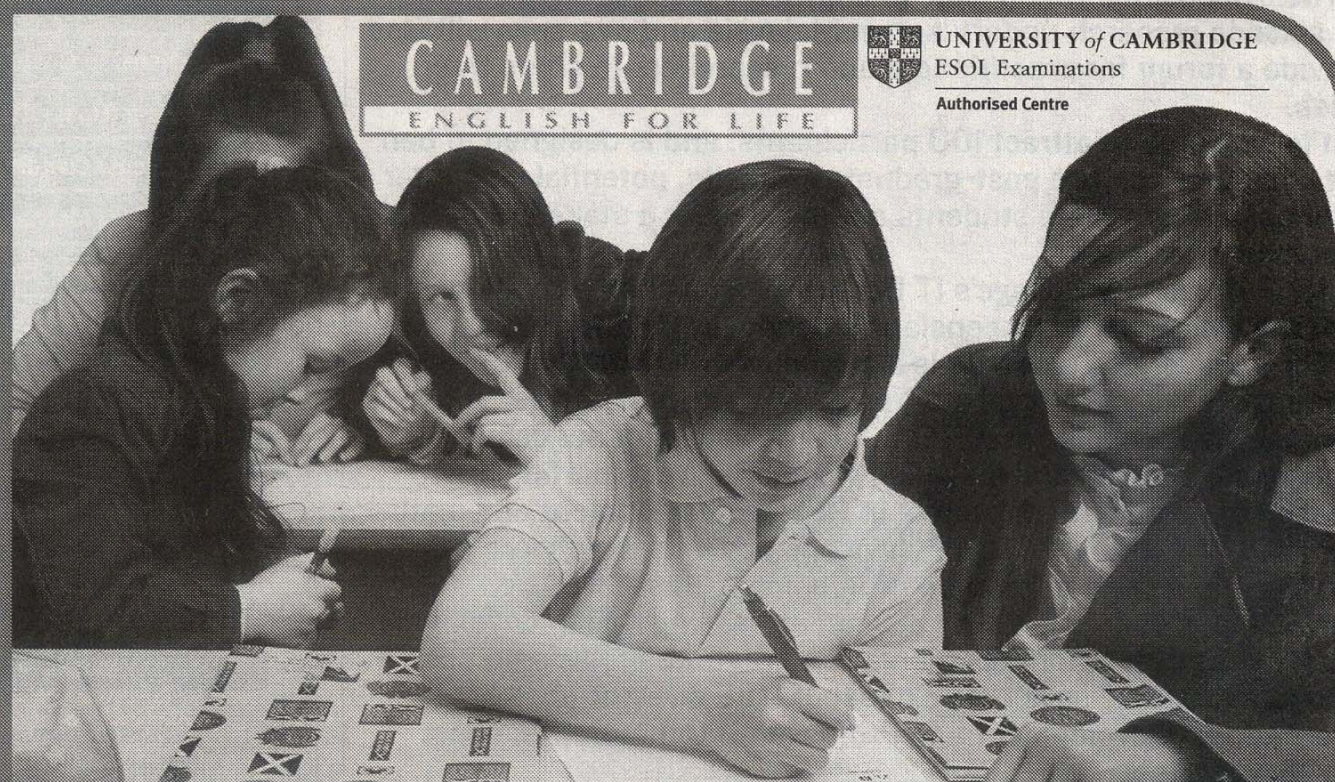
At CEFL, this communicative method of teaching is used both to help students acquire English and to prepare them for the Cambridge ESOL tests and examinations. Courses start for children as young as four years of age and progress by stages to a very high level of proficiency which brings enormous benefits for children studying for exams, moving on to college or university or getting a job.

And for adults there are conversational and Business English courses designed to meet their specific needs.

But in addition to developing English language proficiency and preparing learners for the Cambridge exams, CEFL courses are also enrichment programmes. The up-to-date course materials include topics of global interest: historical, environmental, cultural, among others, to broaden the minds of learners young and old, and widen their horizons. And in this way learners are encouraged to find out more for themselves so that they become independent learners in the process.

☐ For more information, visit CEFL's centre nearest to you or visit [www.cambridgeforlife.org](http://www.cambridgeforlife.org) or call CEFL HQ at 03-7883 0912.

# SS4 EDUCATION GUIDE



**CAMBRIDGE**  
ENGLISH FOR LIFE



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
ESOL Examinations

Authorised Centre

## Making Today's Learning Tomorrow's Success

Cambridge English For Life (CEFL) is the leading provider of English language courses in Malaysia and CEFL centres conduct the following preparatory courses leading to the Cambridge ESOL Examinations.

### Young Learners English (YLE)

- Starters
- Movers
- Flyers

### The Cambridge Main Suite

- Key English Test (KET)
- Preliminary English Test (PET)
- First Certificate in English (FCE)
- Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
- Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)

### Business English Certificates (BEC)

- BEC Preliminary
- BEC Vantage
- BEC Higher

**Registration open  
now for international  
students.**

### Cambridge English For Life Head Offices

LONDON

**Cambridge English For Life Limited** (7193394)

162 - 168 Regent Street  
London W1B 5TD

KUALA LUMPUR

**Cambridge English For Life Sdn Bhd** (386971-H)

A-1-10, Merchant Square, No. 1, Jalan Tropicana  
Selatan 1, PJU3, 47410 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Enquiries about CEFL courses and Cambridge ESOL exams can be made at the following CEFL centres:

**Ambang Botanic, Klang** Tel: 03-33243565 • **Bandar Baru Klang** Tel: 03-33435886 • **Bandar Kinrara** Tel: 03-80716300  
 • **Bandar Puteri Puchong** Tel: 03-80602013 • **Bandar Sunway** Tel: 03-56372912 • **Bandar Tun Hussein Onn** Tel: 03-90768511  
 • **Bangi** Tel: 03-82101525 • **Batu Pahat** Tel: 07-4319633 • **Bayu Perdana, Klang** Tel: 03-33233306 • **Blossom Heights, Seremban**  
 Tel: 06-6336001 • **Bukit Jelutong** Tel: 03-78459582 • **Bandar Sri Damansara** Tel: 03-62760778 • **Cheras** Tel: 03-91314122  
 • **Ipoh** Tel: 05-5469398 • **Johor Jaya** Tel: 07-3515212 • **Kajang** Tel: 03-87345889 • **Kajang Metro Avenue** Tel: 03-87377268  
 • **Kelana Jaya** Tel: 012-2368172 • **Kepong** Tel: 03-62726088 • **Kota Damansara** Tel: 03-61406030 • **Kota Kemuning** Tel: 03-  
 51227271 / 7261 • **Kota Kinabalu** Tel: 088-389290 / 1 • **Mahkota Cheras** Tel: 03-90190123 • **Bukit Jambul, Penang** Tel:  
 04-6460929 • **Putra Heights** Tel: 03-51926368 • **Serdang** Tel: 03-89414746 • **Seremban 2** Tel: 06-6017300 • **Setia  
 Alam** Tel: 03-33444603 • **Shah Alam, Seksyen 13** Tel: 03-55188553 • **Sitiawan** Tel: 05-6883688 • **Sri Petaling** Tel: 03-  
 90582771 • **SS2** Tel: 03-78741000 • **Taman Desa Petaling** Tel: 03-90572007 • **Taman Tun Dr. Ismail** Tel: 03-77108916  
 • **USJ21** Tel: 03-80235248 / 5829

☎ : 03 7883 0912 | ☎ : 03 7883 0712 | ✉ : info@cambridgeforlife.org | 🌐 : www.cambridgeforlife.org