



At CEFL, students develop critical thinking skills.

A holistic approach to learning English

As the school holidays approach, Cambridge English For Life (CEFL) finds itself looking to the future and planning for the new intake in 2012. But in the coming months, exam season will be upon us. This is a very exciting time as it is the culmination of a year-long effort to prepare the students, both linguistically and mentally, for the challenges that await them – in this case, the annual Cambridge ESOL exams.

CEFL's courses prepare learners for the Cambridge exams and in preparing for these exams, learners develop the skills they need to use English in education, work and leisure. The exams cover the four language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – with a carefully developed assessment of each skill. This encourages learners to acquire the full range of abilities they need to use English effectively.

Cambridge ESOL certificated qualifications are recognised by thousands of institutions around the world and the exams are taken by more than three million people every year – people wishing to improve their employment prospects, to seek further education, to prepare themselves for travel or for living abroad, or because they want an internationally recognised qualification. For many people, a certificate awarded by Cambridge ESOL – a department within Cambridge Assessment – a division of the University of Cambridge – is a mark of achievement and a reward in itself.

It is worth mentioning that these certificates have lifetime validity, and that a steady progression through the exam levels indicates clearly that a student has acquired the necessary skills to use English proficiently in challenging academic or professional situations.

Cambridge English For Life teacher, Annabelle Pinnington said, "As a CAE (Expert level) teacher, I have the privilege of seeing students nearing the completion of their journey with CEFL.

While some will stay with us and go on to take the CPE (Mastery level) course, others will be entering universities in overseas where English language proficiency is a must. Still others will be taking their newly acquired certificates to job interviews as proof of an 'Effective Operational Proficiency' in the language."

What Pinnington likes about teaching at

CEFL is the professional approach to every course and every lesson. This includes

=> Detailed lesson planning which includes differentiation to meet the needs of ALL the students;

=> Engaging activities which involve the students and promote active learning;

=> The learner centred approach with the teacher as facilitator;

=> Meaningful use of the language in every lesson;

=> Regular progress checks and feedback.

One of her favourite things to do after having finished teaching these bright young teenagers is to take a little trip to the colourful, bright, and airy Junior English classroom. The Junior English course includes a systematic phonics programme called Jolly Phonics where children learn letter sounds, letter formation, and the blending of letters for reading. They also gain the ability to identify sounds in words, effectively learning how to read their first words successfully. Much of the classroom time focuses on using TPR (Total Physical Response), which encourages learning through direct experience via the five senses.

At CEFL, the goal is to provide learners with truly valuable tools that we hope will stay with them for the rest of their lives. One such tool is that of developing critical thinking skills – so important for students planning to study overseas.

Many of the materials they use in class are authentic texts from the UK or other English-speaking countries. Authentic, in this sense, means that they have not been developed specifically for learners of other languages. This gives learners the opportunity to experience a more authentically native English-speaking experience, as well as the chance to come into contact with a wide range of accents and speech patterns.

Teachers also actively encourage independent learning here at CEFL. From a very young age the students are encouraged to engage in self-study and self-correction, leading them to assess themselves and constantly strive to improve.

● If you're interested in giving your child the best possible head start in life, do not hesitate to call 03-7883 0912 or visit the CEFL website at www.cambridgeforlife.org



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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.

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* Business English Communication Skills = HRDF claimable.

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