

English

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Welcome to the English Corner! Since this is the first time it is introduced, I would like to thank the Editorial Board for the space. In the meantime, these are the bits and pieces that I can offer but I hope there will be more interesting ideas in issues to come. Write to me with suggestions and comments! Have fun!

ROUND 1 OF ENGLISH PROJECT

Several meetings / briefings were held with/at various companies within Protasco Group both in and outside KL to forewarn managers, executives and staff on what to expect, create awareness, gather feedback from them and discuss implementation issues.

▶ Meeting with Roadcare Regional Managers & HR Head

Date : 23rd April 2002 (KL)

The meeting discussed the initiation of the English Project and came up with helpful suggestions.

▶ Meeting with Roadcare Administrative Officers

Date : 24th April 2002 (KL)

The meeting formally informed the Administrative Officers (AOs) about the English Project in general, as well as their dual-role in monitoring and facilitating English activities.

▶ Meeting with HCM, Protasco & C&H Head Of Departments/ Managers

Date : 10th May 2002 (KL)

Similar to the first one held with Roadcare, this meeting was attended by Head of Departments / Managers at HQ and site offices. The feedback and suggestions received shed another light on the implementation of the project.

▶ Design and distribution of three Key Forms:

- 1 **Personal Profile Form** (to be filled by each existing and incoming staff)
- 2 **English Language Centre Registration Form** (to be filled by potential Language Centres which can provide selective English courses, as and when it is deemed necessary, for staff at HQ, Regional, Area and Site offices)
- 3 **English Drive Monitoring Form** (for monthly activity monitoring purposes).

▶ One-Day Basic English, News Gathering & Writing Course

Date : 17th May 2002 (KL)

A mixture of seven Roadcare and four HCM (MIS Department) staff participated. The objectives were to refresh their basic grammar and introduce them to basic news gathering and writing. Apart from theoretical inputs, they were also provided with some practical exercises.

▶ BRIEFING :

Besides the meetings held at HQ in KL, several briefings on the English Project were also conducted at HQ and other Roadcare and HCM offices outside KL.

Briefing Venue	Date	Notes
Roadcare Regional Office, Kuala Terengganu.	13th May 2002	Briefing by En. Shukri.
HCM Office, Shah Alam.	20th June 2002	Briefing by En Shukri and Cik Aida.
HCM Office, Melaka.	21st June 2002	Briefing by En Shukri and Cik Aida
Roadcare HQ, KL	5th July 2002	Briefing by En Shukri and Cik Aida

We are now in **Round 2** of the English Project. Ahead of the official launching, which will be any time now, we look forward to see greater participation in English Speaking Day, Public Speaking, Vocabulary-cum-Activity Book and formation of English Clubs at HQ, Regional and Area offices. Thank you for your support!

COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH

There are several common errors in English. In the following sentences, try to identify the correct usage of words.

- 1 I hope (your / you're) feeling well.
- 2 Please don't forget (your / you're) wallet.
- 3 (It's / Its) my pen.
- 4 The cat scratches (it's / its) ear.
- 5 Do you know (whose / who's) coming to the meeting?
- 6 (Whose / Who's) car is this?
- 7 (They're / Their / There) working under the same project.
- 8 (They're / Their / There) are more papers in the drawer.
- 9 (They're / Their / There) shirts are of the same colour.
- 10 The changes made in the management did not (affect / effect) us

Corner

in any way.

- 11 The (affect / effect) of the economic slowdown towards the national productivity was tremendous.
- 12 The cupboard is (bear / bare). I found nothing inside.
- 13 I do not understand how you can (bear / bare) to work at this office.

Answers:

1. you're, 2. your, 3. It's, 4. its, 5. who's, 6. Whose, 7. They're, 8. There, 9. Their, 10. affect, 11. effect, 12. bare, 13. bear.



Adapted from HYPERLINK "<http://www.learnenglish.org.uk>"
<http://www.learnenglish.org.uk>

How many words can you make from this word below?

CONTRIBUTE

e.g. BITE

Note: I managed to come up with 38 words. How about you? **SR**

JOKE & LAUGH

Three immigrants to the U.S. were just mastering the language. One was telling the others about the difficulty they were having in attempting to start a family. He said, "I think my wife must be **impregnable**". The second said, "That's not the right word. She is **inconceivable**." To which the third replied, "You are both wrong. She is **unbearable**."

Source: G. Brunner (ajokeaday.com)

THINGS TO PONDER

- a Did you know that "verb" is a noun?
- b If the plural of "goose" is "geese", why isn't the plural of moose, meese?
- c If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- d Why is it called a pineapple when there is neither pine nor apple in it?