How to be a more successful learner of English?

On 14th February, 2003, we interviewed the Hon Sir Yang Ti-liang. He is the former Chief Justice and a former Executive Council member. He has served the legal sector in Hong Kong for 40 years. After his retirement, he has devoted his time to serving the community, especially on youth development. He currently runs English language courses for young people. He is Vice President of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and Chairman of the

Interview with Mr. Yang

Hong Kong Red Cross. Below is an extract of our conversation:

Bee: Did you encounter any difficulties in learning English when you were young?
Mr. Yang: Many, even learning the alphabet was quite difficult. For a young child of 5 or 6, we have got so many alphabets to remember and they were difficult to write. Once I learned the alphabet, and started having simple lessons that wasn’t too bad. Grammar was difficult, as I still didn’t know many grammar rules. I always forgot them. I also found reading classics difficult.
Books by Charles Dickens, for example, which we used as part of our lessons, I found quite difficult. There were many new words and also the sentence structures were rather old-fashioned, unlike the English that we normally use. So I found learning English quite difficult to start with.

Bee: How did you overcome these difficulties?
Mr. Yang: Well, there is no short cut. There is no easy way out. You have to put in a lot of hard work and determination. You just have to keep going in spite of the difficulties. If you pick up the Dickens books or whatever, the first time you read the book, you may understand only half of the book but it doesn’t matter; if you keep on at it, in time you will understand it all. They understand part of it and those parts you did understand have beautiful language. But there are other parts which you might not understand at all, but that doesn’t matter. You appreciate the part you understand.

Bee: Mr. Yang, your English is so good, have you ever studied overseas?
Mr. Yang: Yes, but I did not study English. I studied Law in England. And if you study Law, your English has to be good because you rely on language to express yourself. You have to write essays and so on, so your English has to be good. Studying and living in England also helped. If you only have contact with Chinese people, particularly those from Hong Kong all the time, and do not interact much with English people, then, your spoken English will not improve. I know people who went to England to study and got a degree, but when they came back 4 years later their spoken English was still very poor because they didn’t have much contact with English people. (Continued on page 2)

Our New Star of Art

Earlier this year, one of our students, Elaine Elizabeth Au of I C class won the second position in the peace poster design competition organized by the Lions Club. Congratulations to her! We interviewed Elaine to find out more about her experience of the competition.

Bee: Congratulations, Elaine. Would you mind telling me how you found out about this competition?
Elaine: My private art teacher who teaches me outside school told me about it.
Bee: Why did you want to participate in this competition?
Elaine: It sounded very interesting and I love peace so I took part in it.
Bee: Can you explain the idea expressed in your poster?
Elaine: Sure. It’s a penguin made up of a lot of stars to represent world peace.
Bee: Why do you think you won this competition?
Elaine: I think its because of the idea. It’s quite new and interesting.
Bee: Can you tell us your feelings after winning this competition?
Elaine: I felt very happy and I couldn’t believe that I could win because I didn’t think that my artwork was that good. And I thought the work of the others were much better than mine.
Bee: Here’s our final question. Could you tell us what you learnt from this competition?
Elaine: Yes. I learnt the skills of organizing my ideas in the poster and other skills for making posters.
Bee: Thank you for sharing all this with us.
Phoebe Lau 6B

Editor’s words

How time flies. We’ve come to the final edition of the school newspaper this year already. The Bee is put together by the joint efforts of many people. I would like to thank you Joey, Fanny, Mandy, Phoebe, Cathy, Betty, Karen and especially Ms Kim Wong. Thank you for giving me the strength to persevere and for respecting my ideas all along.
Without you, we couldn’t have made these pages possible. I am sure that this successful experience will be forever present in our memories.

Editorial Board
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Secretary: Shirley Lee 6B
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Denmark

Do you know where the princess of Denmark, Man Ar Lai, comes from? She is a girl with Austrian and Asian blood who was born and brought up in Hong Kong and married the prince of Denmark eight years ago. She now has two sons. At first, she went to Denmark with the prince after marriage. She could speak Danish fluently. Although she was born in Hong Kong, she can’t speak Cantonese. In order to let her children learn their mother tongue effectively, she only speaks Danish to her sons. Although she is a princess, she has a very low profile. And she never forgets Hong Kong, she comes back to Hong Kong every year. Therefore, if anyone asks you where she comes from, you can answer “She comes from Hong Kong.”

England

Nowadays, there are still royal families in Japan, Britain, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Morocco... Children of the royals are called “princess” or “prince.” However, many of them live like normal people. They can study in local schools, surf the Internet and go shopping.

For instance, Prince William, the elder son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana; the second person in line of inheritance to the British throne, is now studying at St. Andrews University in Scotland. William is athletic, willing and able to shoot, hunt, ski, ride, and play sports. He is kind and polite, often seen shaking hands and accepting flowers with good manners.

Although he is a blue blood, he went to be a volunteer in Chile to help the poor in 2000 during his gap year between school and university. William has no black marks on his record, and almost everyone has positive things to say about him. Because of his good appearance and good personalities, he is now the star of the UK.

Winnie 6B

(Continued from page 1)

Interview with Mr.Yang

Bee: What do you think are the major differences between studying in Hong Kong and studying overseas?

Mr. Yang: I don’t see a big difference. However, if you study overseas, you will have a lot of freedom. You can choose not to touch the textbooks. You can choose to waste your time. Of course when the exams come, the result will be very different. There is nobody to force you to do anything.

But on the other hand, if you are keen, if you are very diligent, you go to the professor. They are very willing to help; they are very helpful. They are prepared to say “come after dinner” and they will help till the late of the evening. That’s the difference.

Bee: As we know, you are interested in learning and teaching English. Why are you so interested in it?

Mr. Yang: Well, I have chosen to teach English not just because I like English so much. After my retirement, I started to look for something to do. And I thought teaching English to young people would be rather fun for me. Now, I am in contact with young people and it isn’t difficult for me. I don’t have to work very hard at all. It is easy enough for me and I have a great time.

Bee: If students lose their confidence in learning or using English, could you please suggest some ways to motivate them?

Mr. Yang: Well, motivation? We all know that if your English is bad or if you don’t speak English, you are at a great disadvantage. The result will not show itself immediately but you’ll find out later on in life. When you go out to look for jobs or even when you are in a job, if your English is not good, then you will lose many opportunities. So improving your English is very important. And this we call added value. You are adding value to yourself particularly you are now facing competition with China and there are so many people who have returned from studying abroad. Many of them have acquired good English and you are also competing with them so it’s doubly hard if your English is not up to standard.

Bee: That’s all of the questions. Mr. Yang, thank you for your time.

Joey Kwok, Fanny Mok & Winnie Li

6B

Shirley Lee 6B

Do you want to improve your English Language skills through an easy and interesting way? Let’s try listening to the radio drama called “Songbirds” which is broadcast on RTHK radio 4 every Thursday evening at 9:30 pm.

“Songbirds” is a good source for independent learning of English. Some of you may have started listening to it after the promotion presentation given by 6B girls. Here are some tips to help you get the best out of Songbirds.

- Get yourself a nice little portable radio with earphones so you can listen in your own room or on the bus.
- Get to know the Songbirds web site at WWW.RTHK.ORG.HK. Click on RADIO 4, then SONGBIRDS.
- Using the web site you can listen to Songbirds while reading the script.
- Act out Songbirds scripts with a friend (you can take several roles)
- You don’t need to understand every word, just try to follow the main story line
- Think about where the action is place and who is talking to whom. Are they a classroom, at home, in the street, friends, enemies, is one talking about something past or present?

Thursday or at 5:30 p.m. every Saturday or just access the site and download the Songbirds English language skills will definitely improve.
Have you ever felt the stress of preparing for exams? Why not take a few minutes’ break and relieve your pressure by listening to some Jazz music?

Jazz originated in Africa and was spread to the USA by African slaves. As most of them were illiterate and poor, they played Jazz to entertain themselves. In 1865, the slavery system was abolished and Africans in the USA were set free. Actually, Jazz comprises of Blues, Ragtime and Call & Response. Jazz became known as the unique and supereXcellent music as it was combined with the African and the North American cultures. Nowadays, many music composers and singers are fascinated by Jazz Music.

Noarah Jones is one of the most popular Jazz players. Come Away With Me, recorded by Craig Street and legendary producer Arif Mardin, was released in early 2002 and garnered much public attention. Come Away With Me, eventually went multi-platinum, selling 18 million copies worldwide and winning Jones eight Grammy awards.

In 2004, Jones released her highly anticipated follow-up album, Feels Like Home. Pairing once again with producer Arif Mardin, Jones pursued a similar approach to Come Away With Me, mixing ‘70s singer/songwriter-style tracks with blues, country, and her own mellow take on piano jazz. Here’s a song of Norah Jones.

The prettiest thing I ever did see
Was lightning from the top of a cloud
Moving through the dark a million miles an hour
With somewhere to be

So why does it seem
Like a picture
Hanging up on someone else’s wall
Lately I just haven’t been myself at all
It’s heavy on my mind
I’m dreaming again
Like I’ve always been
And way down low
I know

Shirley Lee & Joey Kwok 6B

Round 1:
2. Red - Purple: You think highly of discipline and abide by rules. You are good at giving orders and organizing activities.
3. Red - Orange: You are very independent and think a lot. You never hesitate to express your own opinions and give your ideas actively.
4. Yellow - Green: You know how to take care of others. You like to help people. If your friends have trouble, you are always the first person whom they can ask for help.
5. Yellow - Purple: You are always energetic. You like to find something that is new and exciting. Every experience makes you more optimistic and more confident.
6. Yellow - Orange: You are good at doing imaginary things. You like creation and reform. You always challenge and upgrade yourself. You won’t let yourself lag behind others, so you always make improvement.
7. Blue - Green: You are curious about everything and you are so sensitive that you have excellent observation skills. You can guess others’ dreams and encourage them to make their dreams come true.
8. Blue - Purple: You are always the focus of other people. Everybody wants to be close to you. You can make dreams come true and attract praise from others.
9. Blue - Orange: You are sometimes innovative but sometimes you like to have rational thinking. These two personalities make you a causal person and everyone can make friends with you.

Round 2:
1. If you choose Red: You are an ardent person, just like a burning fireball. You have good social skills and willing to join the activities at school. You are brave and have the spirit of innovation. However, in your deep heart, there is discontent. In order to solve this hidden discontent, you may hurt others. And in order to succeed, you may even build your happiness on others’ sadness. You always want to be the focus of everyone.
2. If you choose Black: You give others a mysterious feeling. You are interested in occult and recondite things. You appreciate the people who are not attractive but with mysterious temperament. If their temperament change, you get very disappointed. Your happiness and sadness are all shown on your face. So, other people can always detect your feelings but they don’t always understand your feelings. You need to control your temper. You are not clear about your actual thinking and so you don’t know what to do. Therefore, you often feel suspicious and uneasy about others.
3. If you choose Blue: You are a calm person. You won’t use your sentiments to deal with problems. Like Pablo Picasso, you are also filled with the temperament of blueness. When you are under an emergency situation, you can always stay calm and deal with the things without problem. You are quite conservative that a stream of enthusiasm can’t melt your heart.

Round 3:
If a witch gives you a gem ring, it is not the same as the common ring. When the witch holds your hand, the ring shines in all directions. Which color does it give out?

Analysis:
1. If you use Red: Your mood suddenly shows on your face and you always smile. Your friends rely on you because you are prudent.
2. If you use Black: Purple means you are restless at heart. You feel like a “ghost fire”, your mood is not so steady that always goes up and down. Do you have any secret vexation? You are very sensitive; your friends’ words are always engraved on your memory. But remember that most of your restlessness is just your imagination. You easily put yourself into your own world; in addition, you find it difficult to express your ideas, so it is easy to cause others to misunderstand you.
3. If you use Blue: You are broad-minded and inquiritive. You are enthusiastic and full of energy. Everybody around you is affected by your happiness. Your surrounding is filled with sounds of laughter. But, do you really feel happy? Although everyone sees smile on your face, your heart feels tired about that. The bigger smile you put on your face, the more I see how you feel.

Fanny Mok 6B

The Bee

Surfing the Internet has become the trend among teenagers now. But which website do you like surfing? Do you play on-line games or spend time on the ICQ? Here is a very interesting website for those who love cooking. It’s http://www.jamieoliver.net/

Here you can listen to music, chat, learn something about cooking and also learn some English. It’s the website of Jamie Oliver, a famous cook who compiles the show “The Naked Chef”. In his website, we can learn many cooking skills. He provides different recipes on the website for different seasons, together with attractive photos. This website will also help those people who don’t know where to buy the special ingredients.

It is very useful and convenient.

Another interesting thing is that as Jamie is a member of the band called Scarlet Division, we can listen to many of their songs. There are so many interesting things to see. So what are you waiting for? Let’s click into http://www.jamieoliver.net/

Phoebe Lau 6B

Pirate Stink

June 2004 P.3

Fun site
留學生活，是在外國的學習和生活经历。留学生需要适应新环境，学习新文化，同时也会遇到各种挑战。本文将介绍留学生的生活，包括学习、生活、文化适应等方面的内容。

学习篇
留学生在外国的学习不同于国内，需要适应新的教育方式和学术环境。留学生需要提高自身的语言能力和学术素养，以便更好地融入新环境。同时，留学生还需要了解外国的教育体制和学术规范，以便更好地完成学业。

生活篇
留学生在外国的生活也需要适应，包括住处、饮食、社交等方面。留学生需要了解外国的生活习惯和生活方式，以便更好地适应新环境。同时，留学生还需要加强自我管理，以便更好地处理生活中的各种问题。

文化适应篇
留学生在外国的文化适应也是重要的。留学生需要了解外国的文化习俗和价值观，以便更好地融入新环境。同时，留学生还需要加强自我文化意识，以便更好地理解和尊重外国的文化。

总的来说，留学生的生活是一个全新的体验，需要留学生自己去适应和学习。留学生需要有勇气和决心，以便更好地完成学业，实现自己的梦想。

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声明：本文内容为作者的个人观点，不代表任何机构或组织的观点。
德雅大頭條新聞

長達3年的「學校改造工程」正式展開。雖然這個工程令我們暫時失去許多活動空間及帶來一些不便，但企圖利
比以及實質影響，此乃必然之作，亦期待學校領導層對此工程的期待及信心。我們會密切留意工程進度及
影響，盡力配合，確保工程順利進行。

少女的祝福

在伸び方，學校增添了一項新活動，就是逢星期一每位
各班一位代表，為自己的同學送祝福。統籌及推廣者
為老師及學生。

神秘的貨櫃

原來放置大教室旁邊的貨櫃現已被移除，以騰出
更多空間讓學生活動。現時正在供師生休息室，希望
為校園工程人員的新座談。

花墟的「體育世界」

因工程關係，花墟没了，同學便到別處上體育課。這個地方就是花墟，我們的活動空間大了，
可以更盡情地享受上體育課的樂趣。

家長投稿——如毘利炮

當我們每天都忙於應付生活中的繁瑣事時，你
知道，我們已忽略了這些最簡單而最重要的感
情？以下的一段話，可能會讓我們更明白愛的重要性。
我對我的孩子，特別是女兒，充滿無盡的愛意。

李家輝於1962年創作的作品
——《風車》
老師也要旅行去

一、二、三、四月的旅行，同學們放開懷大笑，和同學一起散步、野餐和玩耍。原來，學生也會為老師的幸福而開心呢。

如果老師在旅行的過程中，看到什麼有趣的事情，可以記下來，帶給同學分享。