

Headline	PM Lee: Use of proper English when hosting foreigners		
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李总理：招待外国客人 应以正确英语沟通

张嘉玲◎报道

讲正确英语不单是能更有自信地与世界各地的人沟通，也能让来自外地的客人留下深刻印象。

我国今年7月举办国际货币基金、明年9月举办国际货币基金(IMF)和世界银行(World Bank)理事会青年大会，李显龙总理吁请国人以正确英语和客人交流，让他们对新加坡留下美好印象。

李总理昨天在大巴窑建屋局总部举行的“讲正确英语运动”推介仪式上发表讲话。

这两项会议将带来数以千计的访客，而本地人与这些访客的主要沟通语言是英语。

总理说，尤其是从事接待行业的人，如酒店接待员、销售员、德士司机等，更应该以正确英语与客人交流。

除新加坡以外，中国、韩国、泰国、台湾和马来西亚也在积极提升人民的英语水平。

总理说，为准备2008年奥林匹克夏季运动会，中国希望培训500万名北京居民学好英语，甚至根据人们的职业制订他们必须学会的英文句子。

中国官方规定，不到40岁的公务员须掌握300句英语句子，巴士司机和车长须懂得100句，而40岁以下销售员必须通过零售业英语会话考试。

李总理说，与其学习不正确英语后才来纠正，

不如一开始就学习正确英语，否则这就好像是学习两种不同语言。

他说：“当人们说不正确英语时，就会学习错误的文法和语言习惯，结果当遇到必须说正确英语的情况时，就会不自觉地犯错。”

纠正英语

观察面对挣扎

从小学习不正确英语的人，长大后才来纠正也面对困难。总理说，国防部派环境及水源部副部长兼次长彭慧敏就是一个例子，他在纠正自己的英语时就面对挣扎。

总理也吁请家长、教师和家长协助灌输讲正确英语的价值。以教师来说，许多英语教师花心思通过生动手法教导母语，总理认为，英文教师也应设法让英语的学习活起来。

至于“新加坡式英语”(Singlish)，总理说，作为多元种族社会，一些本土词汇难免会渗入我们的语言，随着手机资讯普及化，英文拼写也受影响。

不过，在正式场合上，讲正确英语是重要的。他说：“如果我们说的是只有新加坡人听得懂的语言，那我们就切断了与外界的联系，这对自己是不利的。”

“讲正确英语运动”主席许毓安教授说，在提倡正确英语时，他们并不是要消灭“新加坡式英语”，而是希望正确的英语能成为主流。

尤其是从事接待行业的人，如酒店接待员、销售员、德士司机等，更应该以正确英语与客人交流。——李总理



他说：“长远来说，我们希望能够扭转‘新加坡式英语’影响正确英语的现象，让正确的英语取代‘新加坡式英语’。”

李学瑜文(Dick Lee) - 电台广播员还丽贞和亚许玛莉等。

其中一名模范沈碧芳(47岁，德士司机)说，虽然她来自说华语的家庭，但她的母亲让她到英校受教育，在英文教师熏陶下，她体会到了学习英语的乐趣。

她说：“旅客到新加

坡时，第一个接触的往往就是德士司机，如果我们可以说正确的英语，就能更好和世界各地的人交流。”

李显龙总理昨天在“讲正确英语运动”推介仪式上，与13名“讲正确英语”的模范合照。前排左三为德士司机沈碧芳。

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“讲正确英语运动”



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今明两天在大巴窑建屋局总部举行展览，接下来一个月也将举办多项活动，公众可上网www.goodenglish.org.sg了解详情。

TRANSLATION

Headline

SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH AT ALL PLACES

Body Text

Singaporeans should endeavour to speak good English at home, workplace and at social functions, says Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the 5th "Speak Good English" Movement yesterday, Mr Lee noted that speaking good English has become important as it is the language of international trade and commerce.

He emphasized that although our ability to speak English in addition to our mother tongue has given us a competitive edge over other Asian countries, it is important that we improve the standard of our English.

Speaking good English does not mean using bombastic words but speaking normally and yet correctly and clearly, said Mr Lee.

Mr Lee also pointed out that instead of alternating between good English and Singlish, it would be simpler if we spoke in good English all the time.

Teachers and parents play an important role in speaking good English.

Teachers can help students learn the language well by making English lessons fun and lively.

English speaking parents can make their children understand pronunciation and grammar by speaking more often with them.

Employers, especially those in the service industries, can play an important role by encouraging their employees to speak good English.

Singapore is not the only country that aims to speak good English. Many other countries, including China, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and Malaysia are also implementing plans to raise their standard.

Mr Lee highlighted that two important events are scheduled to be held in Singapore, next year. As thousands of VIPs and dignitaries are expected in Singapore for these events, he emphasized that it is important that we are able to communicate with these visitors in good English. Staff at hotels, taxi drivers, sales staff and those in the service industry must speak good English, he urged.

Mr Lee also mentioned that around 5000 delegates are expected in Singapore next year in conjunction with the International Olympic Council. In September next year, we can expect a further 16000 visitors, including leading financial experts, bankers and Industry leaders in conjunction with the World Bank and IMF conferences here,, he added.

PM Lee also praised Mr David Wong, the outgoing chairman of the "Speak Good English" movement for his leadership and contributions over the last 5 years.