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# blogosphere

This year's Speak Good English Movement, following a recent Government move to employ more native English speakers, has sparked a debate among netizens on the use of Singlish in conversations.

**KENNY TAN** listens in

### Singlish is more personal

<http://y2kiat.spaces.msn.com/Blog/cns!AB4BEB74E7231AF11212.entry>  
 "I feel that speaking in this manner gives our conversation a personal touch such that we could relate to each other better... Some of the things that I wish to convey to my counterparts are difficult to express in words, but amazingly, these ideas can be put across relatively at ease when I incorporate Singlish."

### A sense of identity

<http://stevedal33t.blog.com/915210/>  
 "Even with all the Speak Good English Campaign going around, Singlish has established itself in Singapore as a language for the masses."

"It is not taught verbally nor with visual aids. In fact, it seems as if we were all born with knowledge of the language."

"We pick it up from the streets, and for most Singaporean men, it is inevitable that Singlish becomes the standard during our two years of national service."

"This is because EVERYONE from ALL RANKS use it."

### It's an embarrassment

<http://yddielabellavita.blogspot.com/2006/06/youre-in-berry-big-trouble.html>

"Being a Singaporean, I certainly know how to use a certain few of singlish words with 'lah' being the most



PHOTO: WONG MAY-E

common, but when i'm with friends from western countries and use or let slip when i speak such colloquial english terms on them... they stare at me... and wonder if [have] they discovered a dolphin learning how to speak and yes they do get a kick out of hearing the many singaporeans speak especially some with their 'mehs', 'hors', and 'wors'.

"One even said it sounded like they

were giving animal calls. In some cases, well in most cases, they do sound rather uncouth and sometimes hearing how singaporeans speak to people can make me blush or feel embarrassed for them."

### It scares away investors

<http://wonghz-blog.blogspot.com/2006/07/standard-singapore-english-and.html>

"If everyone in Singapore speaks SCE (Singapore Colloquial English), there may be complications too."

"[When] a well-educated billionaire from Britain arrives in Singapore to decide on whether to do a business deal, there may be a disaster."

"When he checks in his posh, first-class hotel, he may be stunned to find out that the receptionist speaks in poor SSE (Singapore Standard English)."

"He may then reconsider his decision and in the end, Singapore may lose millions of dollars in business deals. This will also deter him from visiting Singapore."