

Headline	Expecting a taxi? Wait here		
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Expecting a taxi? Wait here

VENTURE anywhere and you are bound to find mistakes on billboards, shop signboards and banners at road junctions. Turn on the television and, more often than not, you will find errors on news bulletins, subtitles and text pages.

The above photograph was taken at a very busy taxi stop along Shenton Way, the commercial hub of Singapore and the home of many foreign banks. It is also very close to the Singapore Exchange.

The place is trodden daily by a multitude of people from the English-speaking world. I wonder how many similar pictures have been taken by the thousands of camera-toting tourists. Hopefully, such pictures would not find their way into some foreign publications.

There are people who readily dye their hair blonde, give themselves

foreign-sounding names and who would go all out to imitate the way foreigners speak. I wonder what visitors and expatriates think of Singaporeans.

We emulated the Japanese and introduced quality control circles and work-improvement teams to improve productivity. Grammatical errors such as that above suggest that there is no one to ensure that correct English is used.

Swift remedial action is called for. Form a committee and invite the right people to sit on it. It is about time we heed our leaders, who have always been emphasising that to be connected globally we have to be information technology-savvy and competent in the English language.

**SUKHDEV SINGH
GILL**