

Headline	Hold subsidised or free English classes to improve standard of language		
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Letter from JOCELYN KOH

THERE are campaigns to encourage Singaporeans to speak good English, to be understood, and to discourage them from speaking Singlish.

I believe many of us will be able to "switch" and speak proper English when the need arises.

We speak Singlish for the fun of it, to

"feel" Singaporean, or because it is a bad habit, I guess.

However, there are some who do not even know how to speak proper English. So, how do you expect them to speak basic English?

Besides launching campaigns asking Singaporeans to speak basic English, the authorities should take steps to help those who cannot speak basic English, or

would like to improve the standard of their English.

Community centres could hold subsidised — or free for senior citizens — English classes, which can also be held at the schools in the evenings or on weekends or school holidays.

The classes should be conducted by part-time or retired teachers who speak good English. Those who want to study

English at private schools such as the British Council should be given a subsidy, so as to encourage more people to improve their knowledge of the language.

All teachers, including those who teach Chinese, should also attend regular English classes conducted by teachers who are native English speakers to ensure that they speak and teach to our children proper English.