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It's time to drop the "lahs" and the "hors". The Speak Good English Movement is aimed towards raising our level of English. Sheryl Boey finds out what the students at Ang Mo Kio Secondary School felt were the most overused words in Singlish, and how they felt they could improve the standard of English in their class.

Say What?

@Ang Mo Kio Secondary School

REPORT CARD



Jason Seng, 15
"Lah" and "durh" are the most overused words in class. I think for students to be able to speak good English, our teachers must continue to set good examples. We are quite lucky, the teachers here are pretty good.



Denise Tan, 13 (Left)
I always use dots (...) when I'm talking. I say "dots", too. It helps me express what I'm feeling. To practice our English, we should mix people of different races into groups. It would force us all to use English, as it's the only way we can converse.

Chloe Ng, 13 (Right)
If the students were allowed to try teaching for a day, it would allow them to practice their "proper" English. We'd stop using words like "ya lor" because we'd be more motivated to speak good English like our teachers do.



Felicia Ng, 13
It's important that Singaporeans speak good English, or we won't be able to converse with foreigners! When I lived in Texas, I felt really out of place at first because of my Singlish. To improve the standard of English here, we can play games and have spelling bees. It's both useful and fun!



Wong Jia Rong, 15
To improve the level of spoken English in schools, we should all try to speak better English with our friends in social situations. For example, not saying "I'm very the happy" like my friends and I always do, but saying "I'm very happy" instead.



Wu Qiyong, 15
"sian!!" is the word I use the most. I do agree though, that speaking good English is important. If we could have days in class when we could pretend to be Channel News Asia anchors, English class wouldn't be so boring and we might actually learn something!



Lee Weizheng, 14
I think our schools are doing a good job of promoting proper English.



Thomman Tharakam, 14
The most overused phrase in my class is "wah lau" - we say it way too often. But other than that, I actually don't find anything wrong with the English we use in Singapore!



Justine Koh, 14
We should all stop saying "wah lau". Instead, we should play Boggle during English class! It'll make class so interesting, and we'll learn new words and vocabulary!



Cybil Tan, 14
In my class, we have inter-class debates and weekly open forums where we can share ideas and improve our spoken English - it's really fun and I think it's a good way for everyone to contribute.