

Headline	Reality Check		
Date	01 Oct 2009		
Media Title	The Straits Times	Section	<i>Prime</i>
Page No.	Pg A29	Size	N.A.
Description	The writer comments that the English language here has to battle against Singlish and 'the widespread use of SMS lingo'.		

Reality check

“The English language is fighting a battle on two formidable fronts here just to survive – against Singlish and the widespread use of SMS lingo.”

MR DOUGLAS CHUA: “When it is thought fashionable to speak Singlish and condone its ugly side effects, we are actually undermining the promotion of good English without realising it. The English language is fighting a battle on two formidable fronts here just to survive – against Singlish and the widespread use of SMS lingo. There is one more reality

check. Most if not all small and medium-sized enterprises do not use English as the language of communication. The first choice is Mandarin and the second, dialect. Plus a smattering of English. In the company where I work, which has about 500 employees, only about 6 per cent speak or understand English.”