

009 FINAL ROUND
19th April 2009
0:00 am Sunday 7:11:00 am
atex Parade Concourse



Erican provides opportunities for students to use the English language in a creative way.

Learning English the creative way

ONE of the most daunting problems for English language learners is getting over the fear of conversing in English.

Nonetheless, the best way to improve one's spoken English is to speak more English.

Language development is very much like body building. Those who work their muscles the most are the ones who improve the fastest. The main challenge is to motivate learners who aren't good at the language to keep on speaking English.

Erican, first established in Ipoh, believes that there are two ways to get one to speak English fluently:

- Give them plenty of opportunities to use English in a creative and meaningful way
- Ensure that they take part in activities that provide meaningful and encouraging feedback

The Erican syllabus ensure that participants get plenty of opportunities to speak the language. Their reference books include many activities which require students to correspond and interact with one another in real-life situations. This allows them to communicate with one another without the fear of being seen as inferior or incompetent.

Erican's Holiday Intensive Programme focuses on these concepts. Every November and December, Erican holds Intensive English Classes at

their centres throughout Malaysia. During the period there are exciting events such as storytelling days, drama competitions and speech contests. All these activities require students to make full use of their English-speaking abilities but in a non-threatening environment.

Erican also organises additional events which will fuel its students with the desire to speak the language more often.

For example, the English Storytelling Competition, which was held in Muar on April 18 and 19, encourage young children to read more and to speak English confidently. The event was open to all primary school students in the area.

Participants were given six minutes to present a tale with whatever props and accessories they could come up with. It was considered a tremendous success by parents and teachers alike.

Activities such as the Storytelling Competition and Speech Competitions truly give children a place and a time to express themselves in a foreign tongue without placing undue pressure on them. Erican strongly feels that by allowing children to take part in such events they will grow up speaking English fluently and confidently.

❑ For details, look out for Erican Language's advertisement in this StarSpecial.