

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 9

#43 Singlish Is A Language For Our Future, Lah!

Skills/ Objectives: Listening & Speaking

PART 1: Before you watch...

Preparatory questions

1. Do you know what Singlish is? Who speaks Singlish?

Vocabulary

1. Syntax (noun): grammatical structures of words and phrases in a sentence
2. Pursuit (noun): an act of trying to achieve something
3. Stigma (noun): a disapproving feeling that most people in a society have about something
4. Evolve (verb): change
5. Self-deprecating (adjective): showing that one is not very good or important

PART 2: Video

In the video, the presenter, Gwee Li Sui, expresses his opinions towards Singlish, a colloquial language in Singapore.

Singlish Is A Language For Our Future, Lah! (*click the watch the video*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UT64ilwg9u8> (10:22 minutes)

(Source: TEDx talks)

PART 3: Let's discuss!

1. What did you learn from the video about Singlish? Have you changed your attitudes towards Singlish?
2. What are some of the features of Hong Kong English? Do you think Hong Kong English is an enemy of "standard" English? Why? Why not?

PART 4: Speaking

/s/ and /z/ are similar in pronunciation. Watch the videos and notice the difference between the consonants:

/s/: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/vlessconst7>

/z/: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/voicedconst7>

PART 5: Learn further

1. The rise of Singlish

This article introduces the history of Singlish and provides some examples as well as readers' comments of the vernacular.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33809914>

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