Congratulations to the "Celebrate the Learning" Winners!

Elementary School 1st Place ($50)

"More Than Words" - Neriah Oladepo

Emma has always liked English.
She doesn't even like relish.
She's in her own world when she's writing,
She says she feels like she's flying.
When she has a bad day, she writes,
She writes and writes and writes.
"English is a lot, it's all around us,
Just watch".
I remember her saying.
"The words we say,
The words that come to our mouths,
The language we need to talk to others,
It's all English!"
Emma amazes me more
And more every day,
And now she has made English
Her friend, shouldn't you try to?

Middle School Honourable Mention ($50)

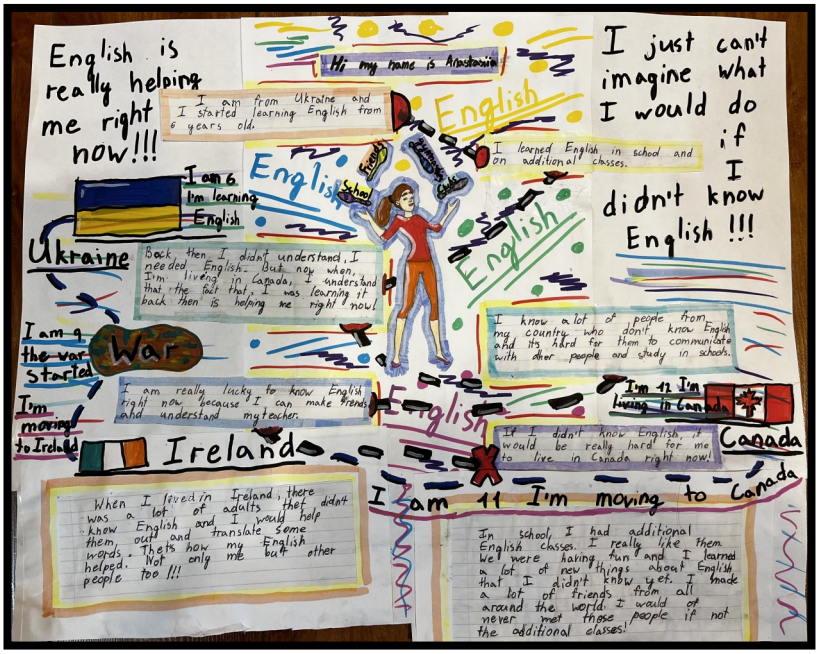
Phoebe Oladepo

My Dear English - Phoebe Oladepo

When I hear English, I think about all the great authors like me and people from different places. For some, the original language they spoke wasn't English.
But here they are, making books that impress everyone, like one of my favourite authors, Kelly Yang.
She uses the book "The Front Desk" series to talk about her life.
She moved from Hong Kong to California, United States, with her family at a young age.
She wrote how the main character of her book struggled just like her.
Mia Tang, the main character of "The Front Desk," didn't speak much English.
But with the courage to become a writer, it was accomplished.
Mia Tang and Kelly Yang both became famous writers and were very popular.

Middle School 1st Place ($100)

Anastasia Umanets



Middle School 1st Place ($100)

Haya Moustafa



Watch Haya's video entry on our website: Resources > Celebrate the Learning Contest

Breaking Barriers with English: Personal Growth and Empowering Others

Language is not just a tool for communication; it is a bridge to new opportunities, cultures, and self-discovery. My journey with the English language began in the vibrant landscapes of Sri Lanka, a nation once under British colonial rule, where English was introduced early in the education system. However, my native language, Sinhala, remained my heart's comfort zone. Over time, learning English became more than an academic pursuit—it became my key to unlocking the world.

The First Steps: A Journey of Necessity and Passion

From childhood, English was part of my daily routine—woven into textbooks, classroom conversations, and even casual chats with friends. My parents encouraged me to speak English at home, and school reinforced its importance. Yet, the complexities of grammar and pronunciation initially felt like an uphill battle. Despite these challenges, I persisted because I understood that mastering English was not just about passing exams but about securing my future.

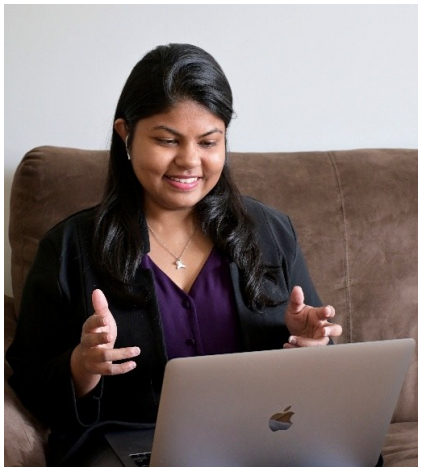
The world recognizes English as a global language, and for good reason. It is the language of diplomacy, business, science, and entertainment. Learning it opened doors to vast knowledge, from academic research to global news, ensuring that I was never left behind. Whether it was reading books, watching English movies without subtitles, or listening to inspiring TED Talks, every small effort contributed to my growth.

English proficiency has also allowed me to gain valuable international experiences. I voluntarily served as an Ambassador for Sri Lanka in the European Students Think Tank from October 2021 to June 2022, where I participated in discussions on global relations, contributed to related podcasts, and represented Sri Lanka at the Youth International Relations Summit in Russia (2019), where English served as the common language among representatives from various countries. Additionally, I attended work-related workshops in Vietnam, where English was essential for communication. I also had the opportunity to interpret between English and Sinhala at conferences, bridging linguistic and cultural gaps.

From Sri Lanka to Canada: A New Chapter Begins

When I arrived in Canada in June 2024, my ability to speak English became more crucial than ever. Suddenly, English was no longer just a subject in school—it was my daily means of survival, my gateway to community engagement, and my bridge to cross-cultural communication.

Becoming a Substitute Teacher in the Anglophone East School District was a defining moment. Teaching and interacting with students in English strengthened my confidence and refined my fluency. It was no longer just about speaking the



English: A Passport to Success and Connection

Fluency in English has given me more than just career opportunities—it has given me a voice in a multicultural society. From professional networking to making friends from different backgrounds, English has allowed me to truly integrate into my new home. Engaging with diverse communities, participating in discussions, and expressing my ideas fluently have all reinforced the power of language in shaping one's identity and confidence.

Yet, my journey is far from over. Language learning is a lifelong process, and I continue to improve by reading English books, listening to podcasts, watching news reports, and participating in English-speaking forums. The beauty of learning a language is that there is always room for growth.

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Final Thoughts: Winning the World with English

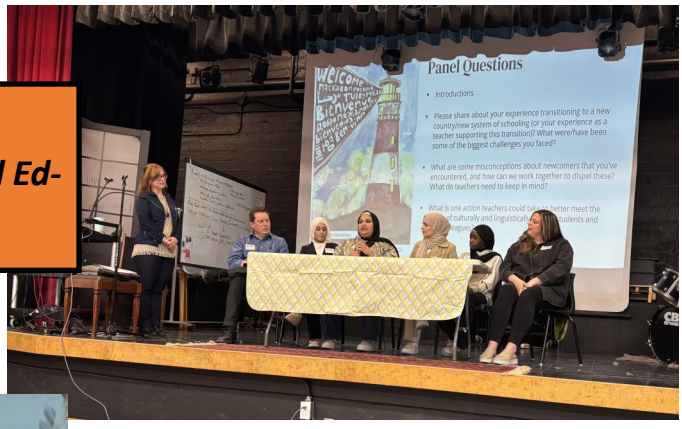
"Learning the English language broadens the path to success." This belief has guided me throughout my journey. Whether for higher education, better job opportunities, or meaningful global connections, English remains an essential tool. My story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the limitless possibilities that come with mastering a language.

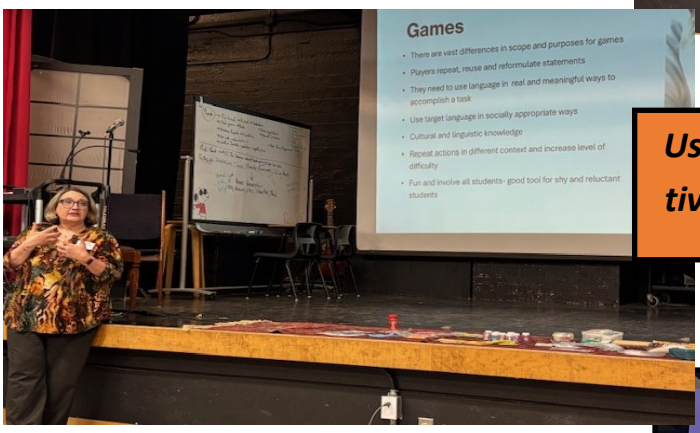
For anyone embarking on their own English-learning journey, remember practice, exposure, and persistence are keys. Join English-speaking clubs, watch educational talks, and immerse yourself in the language daily. Before you know it, English will no longer be just a subject but a part of who you are.

As I continue my journey in Canada, I carry with me the lessons of my past and the aspirations of my future. English has not just been a language—it has been my companion, and my passport to a world of endless possibilities.

Thank you to our 2025 TESL NB Professional Learning event presenters!

Breaking Barriers: Supporting Newcomer Students and Educators in Our Schools





Using games and interactive activities to engage adult learners

Watch & Learn: Establishing an Extensive Viewing Programme in the LINC Classroom

