

背景：港英最大遺產——英文，香港水平原來遠比國內低！實情是英國早於七十年代中期已廢除香港功，以 Informal English 取代 Formal English。即學生不用學習文法，只須像鸚鵡學舌般，讀得信口開河即可。此情形只有香港一地是如此，結果中國收回一個英語文盲的香港。

宗旨：希望通過是次比賽，讀者應能了解香港英文水準低，低到甚麼程度，低落到甚麼程度，原因在那裡。學好英文的困難在那裏，如何去克服，了解何謂 Formal English，如何能學到？

Essay Title for Open Group
How do you raise the standard of formal English (down to the floor of illiteracy) in Hong Kong?
 Essay Title for Students Group

What are the best ways for students to learn formal English in Hong Kong?
截稿日期：1999年6月12日，以郵遞或傳真(FAX)日期為準。
投稿方法：來稿請寄九龍中央郵局郵政信箱70395。傳真(FAX)至23876294或電郵至 mcm-mail@mcm.hkcampus.net

放榜日期：1999年8月初，於本報刊登得獎名單並專函通知得獎者。
 歡迎世界各地人士參加。來稿請附通訊地址、電話及傳真號碼(FAX)，以便聯絡。

公開組 (最少800字) **學生組** (最少450字，從小學到大學均可)
冠軍：獎金 HK\$30,000 **冠軍：獎金 HK\$20,000**
亞軍：獎金 HK\$10,000 **亞軍：獎金 HK\$10,000**
季軍 10名：各得獎金 HK\$3,000 **季軍 20名：各得獎金 HK\$2,000**

1. Each person can send in one entry only.
 2. The English Society reserves the right to publish all winning and non-winning entries. The decision of the English Society is final.
 3. All entries should be original pieces of work. Plagiarism is not allowed.
 4. Participants should use Contemporary Standard English (Formal English). Standard English is the language of business, industry, government, education, and the professions. It is characterized by exacting standards of punctuation and capitalization, by accurate spelling, by exact diction, by an expressive vocabulary, and by knowledgeable usage choices.
 5. All nonstandard English (informal English), literary English, spoken English, deadwood English, Chinese English and immature English will be thought out of place in this writing contest.
 6. Sponsors: The English Society, Maria College.

To the participants the following information will be helpful.
過早學雙語 終身會抱怨

嶺南學院校長陳耀輝嘆息香港大學生英語水平低落嚴重，連醫生亦無法以英語跟外籍病人溝通。在嶺南學院研習期間，七十多名來自海外、內地及香港的大學生，陳博士不敢認那些學生是我們的，最後在兩分鐘的自我介紹，拿滿分是來自廣州暨南大學的學生，把加拿大及美國學生都比下去。(信報98.12.19日)

國內與台灣均在初中才學習ABC，一直到大學畢業共10年。香港的小孩進入幼兒園時已學習英文，到大學畢業時已學習了20年，但仍是英語文盲。原因是：中、英兩語之思維是完全相反者。"Leave me alone"，是英文思維，以我為主。"你地走開"，是中文思維，以你們為主。如此小孩子的腦袋分不出那些是英文，那些是中文。結果，表達的說話，中不中英，半中半英，最後是中文，英均不通。有人說小孩學的主要是口語，但口語並不等於懂英文。否則，英國文盲數目就不會多過全港人口數目。

回顧我們的童話，他坦承十七歲到英國讀書才開始講YES, NO，但現在他說得一口中文的標準英語。再說台灣省的要滋補權威何大一博士，他中學時才移民美國學ABC，現在他也能說得一口流利合文法的英語。

不應糾纏於母語教學問題上

我們應該將一部份學校後新加坡以英文為第一語言，稍後才學習中文。又或一部份學校像國內或台灣以中文為第一語言，稍後才學習英文。如此，最後兩語均好，如繼續現時方式延遲學習雙語，結果兩語都不通。

英國的情況 - 造成英國英文水準低落之重要原因

The current problems now England faces:
 Michael Dumraut, Wykeham Professor of Logic Emeritus, Oxford University, points out:

- (1) Errors I have met with in television news broadcasts; others again in communications from the General Board of Oxford University.
- (2) Newspaper editors and journalists bear a heavy responsibility for the prevalence of faulty spelling and grammar.
- (3) We cannot do without grammar: we can only exchange existing grammatical rules for new ones. But, before we promote new rules, we shall do well to make sure we know what the existing ones are.

Harry Blamires, writer of "The Queen's English" states:
 (1) Over 3,000 specimens of bad English exemplify current misusage in respect of grammar, syntax, orthography, vocabulary, and so on from about 120 publications. The leading writers among the offenders for many of the specimens of bad writing from The Times and The Independent, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian, the so called quality presses.

- (2) Readers may be shocked to discover the sheer quantity of errors in current journalism.
- (3) An education system may not be expected to lift standards of literacy when professional writers and editors are so careless of good usage.

香港的情況 - 英文水準已到低無可再低的程度

本地一間大學的教務長(Registrar)所為之信，錯到連小學生都看得出，而某報只能用中文對英文之古德明君，竟讚嘆此信英文無錯。現重刊讀者們會修改之大學英文函。以下是香港某大學給律師的信件X, Y, Z為真實人名和大學名稱的代號

Dear Sir,
 I refer to your letter of 11 February 1998 from which I understand that you act for Mr. X. It appears from your letter that Mr. X has asked you to make a complaint against a tutor by the name of Ms. Y.(a)

I was surprised to receive a solicitors' letter (b) in relation to this matter because it is clear from our Student Handbook that procedures already exist for students to raise complaints about (c) their tutors and (1) also if they are dissatisfied in relation to assessments. Your client's complaint appears to arise from a dissatisfaction (d) with an assessment. I have therefore enclosed the appropriate extract from the Student Handbook from which you will see that your client could have brought up his complaint through this channel at the appropriate time rather than (e) by way of involving you as his solicitors.

(j) I believe it appropriate that I record my preliminary view and (2) that your client should indeed have raised his dissatisfaction both with his tutor and with the assessment (f) through the normal channels and then he should have proceeded to sit the relevant examination papers (g), which (3) he did not do and which (h) naturally resulted in your client failing (4) the two courses for which he enrolled (i). Had your client utilized the appropriate channels at the appropriate time when he was aware of the course work assessment then (k) there would have been an opportunity for the problem to have been considered (l) and then for your client to have sat (m) the appropriate examination papers.

In closing (n), I (o) wish you to note that I deny liability on behalf of The Z University in relation to the matters referred to in your letter and, in particular, in the (p) last paragraph thereof (q). Having consulted the University's solicitors, (5) it is not considered that your client has (r) any legal cause of action (s) against the University and (t) clearly what he should have done to have followed (u) the appropriate appeal procedures as set out in the Student Handbook. Any legal proceedings brought (v) against the University will naturally be strenuously resisted (w).

以下是讀者指出文中的錯誤，因要省略篇幅，已簡化出錯之原因

- Too wordy. It appears from your letter that has no meaning. It contradicts with the factual reference that the solicitor is Mr. X's proxy. Omit the whole clause.
- "I was surprised to receive a solicitors' letter..." Used as an attributive, the word 'solicitors' should be spelt 'solicitor.' 'Solicitor letter' refers to legal letter, but 'solicitors' letter' means a different thing.
- Raise complaints about their tutors. Complaint about something, complaint against somebody.
- Dissatisfaction (without the indefinite article)
- 'Rather than' is used when you have said what is the case and you want to compare it with what is not the case. The writer compares what is not the case with what is the case in the letter, with both his tutors and the assessment
- 'sit ... examination, not sit ... examination papers.'
- There is no antecedent for the relative pronoun 'which'.
- The correct preposition for 'enrol' is 'on' or 'in'.
- Violation of writing sentences in unity. The sentence should be broken up in two.
- Wrong sentence structure. To use conditional clauses, the second clause should be separated by a comma instead of 'then.'
- The correct expression should be 'to be considered.'
- The correct expression should be 'to sit.'
- 末段第一句，"In closing"不知所云。遍查三本字典均不見。(Collins, Oxford, Longman之前所引述的)，寫信者有自編片語之嫌。
- Should avoid beginning each sentence with "I" in a reply letter which bears legal consequences.
- There are too many 'in's in one line.
- 'Thereof' - Jargon cross out. (line 21)
- The correct expression should be 'shall have.'

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- Legal cause of action → cause for legal action
- Incorrect Use of COORDINATOR, "...and" is a COORDINATOR. It is used with a comma (before it) to combine two short sentences into one. The correct expression should be 'to follow.'
- We usually 'take/start legal proceedings (against sb.)'. 'Institute' suggested by English Society.
- Wrong use of verb. One cannot resist a legal proceeding. One can only defend it.
- Three 'which's in a sentence. (line 14,15)
- Seven 'appropriate's in a 340-word letter. (line 8,10,11,16,18,23)
- 'I believe it ... he enrolled.' (line 11-15, tape-worm English. An idea snarled into a mass of crisscross phrases and clauses. Better English Made Easy, Henry Thomas, Ph.D., Warner Books, 1987, p.250)

- 另有五點犯了極明顯的錯誤
- Wrong use of co-ordinate conjunction 'and.' There is no co-ordinate adverb clause preceding it.
 - The clause 'that is' has no function to perform. Cross out 'and' as well as 'is' to turn the clause 'that client ...' into a noun clause in apposition to the noun 'view.'
 - There is no antecedent for the relative pronoun 'which.'
 - 'Resulted in your client's failing...' Failing is the gerund, object of 'in' and not 'client.'
 - Un-related present participle phrase, not in agreement with the subject 'it.'

結論
 This grossly illiterate letter of 340 words has more than 34 errors. Because it gains a Reading Ease Score of only 35, well below the standard passing mark of 50, it is classified as difficult to read.

當眾人一致認為此信之英文錯到離西天時，某報英文版一位只能用中文寫英文欄之古德明君卻認為「這家大學的公函英文沒有錯」。(1998.10.31)，反責那位指出此信錯誤的讀者觀點不正確，還進一步抹黑那位讀者，說這位讀者付錢給他去抄襲這封信(1998.11.2日)。

古德明君之謬誤：

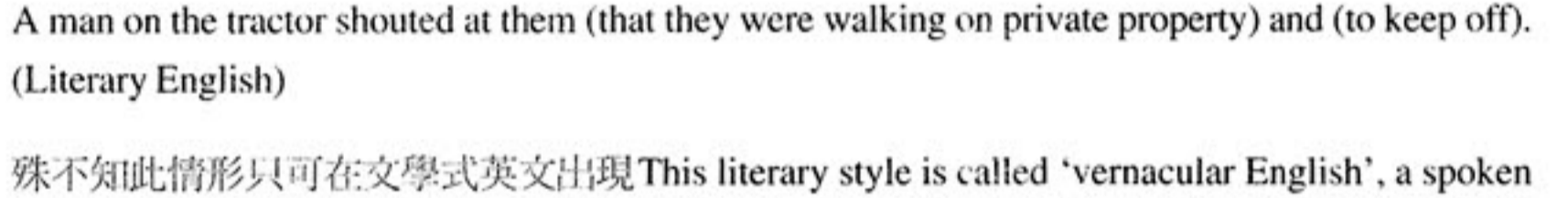
謬誤一：篡改原文 (line 4 - 7)
 I was surprised to receive a solicitors' letter in relation to this matter because it is clear from our Student Handbook that procedures already exist for students to raise complaints (about their tutors) and also (if they are dissatisfied in relation to assessments).(Mr. Koo cut out the underlined clause.)

謬誤二：不明篡改後句子的結構，硬說 'and' 是把 'about their tutors' (adjective phrase) 與 'if they are ... to assessments' (adverb clause) 相連。
 實情是在 Business English 裏 Phrase 與 Clause 切勿用 'and' 連接。A clause cannot be connected to a phrase with 'and' in standard English; otherwise the fault is called 'unbalanced'. (Merriam Webster, 1995, p.222)

謬誤三：完全不懂 Business English 與 Literary English 之分別，二者絕不能混用。
 此位古君竟引述 'The Penguin English Grammar Book' 之 Literary English，試圖證明 phrase 與 clause 可用和相連。(1998.10.21日)
 A man on the tractor shouted at them (that they were walking on private property) and (to keep off). (Literary English)

殊不知此情形只可在文學式英文出現 This literary style is called 'vernacular English', a spoken form of nonstandard English, permissible in informal English of fiction writing. (Business Writer's Handbook, 1987, p.220)

謬誤四：不懂何謂 ellipsis，此位古君引述 The Penguin English Grammar 之句子本身是有 ellipsis。(98.10.12日)
 (a) A man on the tractor shouted at them that they were walking on private property.
 (1st Main Clause) (Noun clause, object of 'shouted')



在這種結構裏，clause 與 phrase 可用和相連，理由是：
 1. This is literary English.
 2. Noun clause and noun phrase are members of the noun family.
 3. 'A man on the tractor shouted at them' is a main clause, and both the noun clause and the noun phrase are subordinate to it.
 4. Both are objects of 'shouted', so they have the same function.
 * 但古君所指這位大學教務長之句子則完全沒有 ellipsis。'And' 絕對不能把 adjective phrase 與 adverb clause 相連。

(b) Because procedures already exist for students to raise complaints about their tutors and also if they are dissatisfied in relation to assessments. (Adverb clause, modifying 'raise' in the phrase)

理由：
 1. This is business English. A phrase cannot be linked to a clause with 'and'.
 2. The adjective phrase and the adverb clause are different categories.
 3. They function separately: one qualifies the noun 'complaints' and the other modifies the verb 'raise.'
 4. 'Because procedures already ... complaints' is not a main clause.
 5. The clause and the phrase have no point in common, so there is no ellipsis.
 6. 'And' has no function here as there is no similar elements for it to link.

* 此位古君根本不懂，去了解英文句子是靠分析句子結構，絕非憑直覺或靠估者。(Clause analysis is the key to understanding a sentence.)

謬誤五：古君讀下面之句子寫得老練 ('老練' 只是中文之思維及表達方式，英文寫得好，絕非叫 '老練')
 I was surprised to receive a solicitors' letter (a) in relation to (b) this matter because (c) it is clear from our Student Handbook that (d) procedures already exist (d) for students to raise (e) complaints about (f) their tutors and also (g) if they are dissatisfied in relation to (h) assessments. (43 words, 8 places need corrections or improvements)(line 4-7)

- Should be 'a solicitors letter' — a legal letter.
- Deadwood English — contemporary standard English should use 'about'.
- The whole clause was deleted by 古德明君.
- At university English level 'specify' or 'have been laid down' or 'provide instructions' should be used instead of 'exist'.
- 'Lodge' should be used.
- 'Complaints against a person.' 'Complaints' here is a noun.
- 'and also' — redundant, cross out.
- Reason same as 'b', 'with' should be used instead.

This is a garbled sentence which is so tangled with structural and grammatical problems that it cannot be repaired by simply replacing words or rewriting phrases. (The Business Writer's Handbook, St.Martin's Press, 1987, p.268.)

這句子結構及文法無可改，連古君都要刪掉一部份 (括號內)，但無補於事，而他本人還掩飾良心說寫得老練，這不但自掌嘴巴，更顯出臉皮厚。

謬誤六：偷加 colon 在 that 是後面 (line 11) 而全不懂 colon 之用法。結果使原句錯上加錯。他還拉孔夫子來遮羞。說了一大堆中文，目的使無知者同情他的謬誤。還自作聰明，添加兩短句，而兩句簡單英文都寫錯。無怪古君絕少寫英文。(98.10.23日)

謬誤七：錯完再錯。'Which' (line 14) 之錯是因為沒 antecedent。這早已引述預科 textbooks 為証。但此君竟舉莎士比亞及 Practical English Grammar 去反証。情形一如某弱智小孩檢獲一爛橙當是黃金般狂叫別人看稱(1998.10.22日)。殊不知莎士比亞之作品是：第一，只有他本人可以如此寫，別人不能跟風。第二，莎翁寫的是380年前的古文，與現時所講之 Business English，兩者風馬牛不相及。The use of 'which' to refer to whole statements is dangerous at best, though literature abounds with such indefinite references. (Harper's English Grammar, John Opdycke, Ph. D. Warner Books, 1987, p.239, AmE)

而 Practical English Grammar 一書更是給 lower form level 者用。它著重的是 informal English (non-standard English)。現今美國及英國大學，和英、美專業作家等均指出這種寫法錯誤，並提出多種方法修正。現先說出這種句子錯的理由。

一個不能歸類的句子
 A HOMELESS SENTENCE (Not Acceptable in Formal English)
 He admires Mrs. Brown, which surprises me.

- * This is not a simple sentence: there are two verbs, 'admires' and 'surprises'.
- * This is not a compound sentence: there is no coordinate conjunction.
- * This is not a complex sentence:

- (1) 'Which surprises me' is not an adverb clause which is not introduced with 'which'.
- (2) 'Which surprises me' is not an adjective clause because there is no antecedent for it to qualify.
- (3) 'Which surprises me' is not a noun clause because it is not subject of a verb, object of a transitive verb, object of a preposition, complement of a verb, or in apposition to another noun.

權威性文法書指出這種句子只適合會話用，並陳述理由：

The sentence is perfectly natural in conversation English. 'Which surprises me' is somewhat anomalous. Despite its fixed position at the end of the clause, its status is more like that of a disjunct than anything else. Disjuncts are not integrated within the clause, nor do they have a connective function as conjuncts. (A Grammar of Contemporary English, Longman, Post-graduate level, 1997, BrE, p.872, 765, 269.)

現列出各種課本提出修改方法：

Now we may build a home back for the sentence to turn it into formal English.
 (1) His foot slipped, and this caused him to fall heavily.
 (A compound sentence. 'And' is a coordinate conjunction, and 'this' is a pronoun. High School English Composition, F.6 & 7 level, 1965, BrE, p.155)

(2) The orthodontist charged twenty dollars a month until the work was complete, an arrangement which the dentist profession considers unethical.
 (A complex sentence. An antecedent 'an arrangement' as an appositive, is added to state explicitly. Essentials of English, 1990, AmE, 12th Grade & Freshman level, p.75)

(3) Nancy just found out that she won the lottery, an event which explains her sudden resignation.
 (The Everyday Writer, University level, 1994, AmE, p.142)

(4) The hotel is expensive. Which is a pity.
 (Two simple sentences. 'Which' is a pronoun only. Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar, Post-graduate level, 1994, BrE, p.342.)

(5) 'Which' is in vulgar use, without any antecedent. (The New Fowler's Modern English Usage, Revised 3rd Edition, R.W. Burchfield, Oxford, 1998, p.844)

(6) If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.
 (Two sentences. 'This' is a pronoun. The Bedford Handbook for Writers, University level, AmE, 1994, p.264.)

謬誤八：不擅區分 Present Participle 與 Gerund，亦即不知何謂 Formal English 與 Informal English。
 一個毫無作用的名詞 A NOUN hanging in the air (Not Acceptable in Formal English)
 較早前已引述預科用課本指出下面句子是錯者：
 This resulted in your client failing. (Wrong, line 14)

但此古德明君乃冥頑不靈，竟用三本只適用於 lower forms 之 informal English 去反對 senior form 之 Formal English (98.10.20日)。現再用英美兩國大學用書及專業作家參考書一致指出上面句子錯之原因，提出改正方法。
 This resulted in your client's failing. (Correct)

The gerund 'failing' (line 14) should be the object of the preposition 'in'; and this leaves the noun 'client' jobless. In formal English any word without a job (function) causes a grammatical error. Here, 'client' should be turned into a possessive adjective 'client's' to qualify the gerund 'failing'.

以下各種書籍均指出 Gerund 之前用 Possessive Adjective
 * There is a tendency to say "The accident resulted in the driver losing a leg", where "losing" is a geriple. The correct version would be "The accident resulted in the driver's losing a leg", where "losing" is a proper gerund. But a more sensible version would be "The accident caused the driver to lose a leg." (The Queen's English, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc., 1995, p.72, Harry Blamires, Post-graduate level, BrE)

* The possessive of nouns might be written without a qualm.
 Hurried reading results in the learner's forgetting half of what he reads, or in his forming vague conception. (The King's English, OUP, 1906, reprinted 1996, p.129, H.W.Fowler and F.G.Fowler, Post-graduate level.)

* Only the possessive form of a pronoun should ever be used with a gerund.
 The boss objected to my arriving late every morning. (The Business Writer's Handbook, St.Martin's Press, 1987, Brusaw, Alfred, Oliu, Post-graduate level, p.518, AmE)

* The possessive form of a pronoun is needed for the gerund.
 The undergraduates object to the College's imposing a higher rent. (Grammar & Style, Gerald Duckworth, 1993, p.32, Michael Dummett, Wykeham Professor of Logic, University of Oxford, Post-graduate level)

* Genitive case in formal style:
 I'm surprised at his/John's making that mistake. (A University Grammar of English, Longman, 1997, Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, p.321, BrE)

* Pronoun before a gerund should be in the possessive case.
 I remember his saying. (The Everyday Writer, Andrea Lunsford, Robert Connors, St.Martin's Press, N.Y., 1998, p.136, University level, AmE)

* Use the possessive case to modify a gerund.
 We had to pay a fifty-dollar fine for Brenda's driving without a permit. (The Bedford handbook for Writers, St.Martin's Press, 1994, Dianna Hacker, p. 273, AmE)

* Possessive function in gerund phrases.
 He slipped away without anybody's noticing him. (Essentials of English, 12th Grade & Freshman level, Barron's Educational Series, Inc. 1990, p.12, AmE)

謬誤九：亂舉人引經據典，殊不知，當引述某書時，第一，須先了解該書用途。第二，該書須有權威性及受讚賞之使用。現時普通受歡迎之字典，如：Oxford, Collins, Longman, Chambers 等均注重 Formal English。這些字典並不支持 failing the course 之說法。相反，BBC 是一本新字典，1992 年才出版，本身明言 "It places a unique emphasis on the current spoken English" 即是注重口語，所以才 failing the course。但這種表達法，以 Standard English 而言，是含意不清，聚有學術地位人士均一致認為要 failing to complete the course 或 failing the test of the course 才合乎 formal English 寫法。古君引一條 failing chemistry/geography 此乃 immature English，因絕大部份流行性字典並不支持此說法，學生們尤其勿模仿，很多 immature English 中途會胎死腹中，永不超生。(1998.10.19日)

謬誤十：古文一出，英文受辱。此君擅於將正確英文改為錯誤英文。
 He is expert at turning (a) idiomatic English into Chinese English. (b) good English into bad English.

(a) { He is too truthful to be a successful courtier. (High School English Composition, p.171)
 He is so excessively truthful that he cannot be a successful courtier.
 { Dr. Chow humbly says that it is too good to be a model.
 Dr. Chow humbly says that it is so excessively good that it cannot be a model.

The first sentence of the two pairs is more idiomatic. (The set ways of the language "Too" conveys contrasting notions, or negative force. It has the sense of "more than enough".) (A Grammar of Contemporary English, p. 286 & 774)
 古君竟把原句之 idiomatic English 改為一流 word-for-word Chinese English:

Dr. Chow very modestly says it is still not good enough to be a model.
 周博士十分謙虛地說 它仍不是好到足以成為模範。
 (古君唯恐中國味不夠，特加 'very' 並改用較長而深之字 'modestly') (98.10.30日)

(b) 這位古君連 'and' 都不懂使用，把讀者閱讀的標準句子裏的 'has' 用 'experienced' 取代，即是用石頭換換寶刀，看後使人毛骨悚然。(98.10.26日)
 周博士原句：
 We certainly understand the frustration Mr. X has when he felt he had received unfair grades.

'Has' is the jewel of the crown in this construction. Its present tense form vivifies the current fact or situation Mr. X faces. Besides, simple words that are short, familiar, clear, and direct produce the most powerful result. (Better English Made Easy, Henry Thomas, Ph.D. Warner Books, 1983, p.249 AmE)
 The sentence already has three-syllable words: certainly, understand, and frustration. If a four-syllable word 'experienced' replaces the mono-syllable 'has', the whole sentence is stuffed with polysyllabic words and will look turgid, pretentious or heavy-going to the readers. (Correct English, Hodder & Stoughton, 1998, p.138 BrE)

古君真是教而不善，因另一位讀者 I . Chin 早前已清楚講過 "be short, be simple, and be human"。There are still many more grave errors committed by Mr. 古德明。But limited space disallow them to come to light

古君還有更多嚴重錯誤，篇幅有限，不再指正，如古君不服，請寫英文。

THE ENGLISH SOCIETY (MARIA COLLEGE)	古德明君
TALKS ABOUT	RESPONDS WITH
1. A grossly illiterate univers / letter. (34 errors in 340 words)	1. 此信沒有錯，寫得老練。
2. English Language	2. English Literature (Shakespeare)
3. Business English	3. Literary English
4. Written English	4. Spoken English
5. University English Level	5. Lower forms English level
6. Idiomatic English	6. Chinese English
7. Grammatical, formal English	7. Ungrammatical, informal English
8. Mature English	8. Immature English
9. Standard English	9. Nonstandard English

香港學生的困難
 1. Questionable Objective (欠缺目標) For more than a generation Hong Kong has been deprived of the privilege to study standard English, the cause that reduces Hong Kong to illiteracy through a false notion that modern English means informal English and spoken English. In fact, what she learns is parrot English.

2. Teacher problem (欠缺師資). Hitherto good English teacher is an endangered species all over the world. Now Hong Kong has even a harder time than before to look for one that can teach standard English. Maybe, she can pray for luck or miracle.
3. Problem textbooks (欠缺課本). Grammar books for lower level confuse and mislead both teachers and students by mixing formal English and informal English together. Grammar books for high level in England are overloaded with terminology that baffles a learner to write correct English.
4. No quality publications available. England is an example, let alone Hong Kong.
5. Poor English environment. Some travellers to China said Shanghai even had a better English environment.
6. A confused mind. The mind is already trapped by the early study of bilingual-programmes at childhood stage.
7. British English vs American English. Secondary schools take up British English, but in universities American English dominates the scene.

香港學生的兩不懂
 1. Don't know how to understand written English through analysis of phrases and clause in a sentence. This is nearly a lost technique, yet it is the foundation of learning standard English.
 2. Don't know how to do thinking in English. Often, a Chinese statement is first shaped in mind, and is then translated into English. To keep everything Chinese at a distance is a prerequisite for writing idiomatic English-the set ways of a language.

Should readers have any opinion, please feel free to contact the English Society of Maria College at the above address