



## Welcome to Your World!

From Australia Centre Medan, representing the best in Australian education for students in North Sumatra and Sumatra's only IELTS testing centre, we welcome you to the first issue of ACM World, your magazine for news on what's happening around ACM, information on study opportunities here and abroad, and tips on how to improve your English and reach your educational goals and dreams. Published four times a year, we will also feature your own work—the best in student writing, artwork and photography, plus class photos, puzzles and contests you can enter to win cool prizes. You can also participate by contacting ACM World with your feedback and ideas about how to make the magazine better and join the conversation with a "like" on our new Facebook page, ACM World. This is your world—join in the fun!

## Stars Teacher: Ashlee

Ashlee Elizabeth Speirs (no relation to Britney) is the second of four children and grew up in Colerain, Victoria, in Australia. She says her family is fantastic—"all very different but we always make each other laugh and have a good time," she says.

Before she earned her Bachelor of Education degree, Ashlee worked in the deli section of her local supermarket: "A very messy and smelly job, but I loved meeting new people." While at university, Ashlee also studied Indonesian culture and language. "I wanted to experience the country for myself," she says, "So here I am."

What Ashlee loves most about teaching at Australia Centre is those "light bulb moments where after a lot of hard work, the students finally get it and are very proud of themselves, which makes me happy."

When she's not teaching, Ash loves traveling, reading books, listening to music (especially that 1970s classic, ABBA), playing sports, and anything else that allows her to challenge and enjoy herself. She also loves musicals and is a die-hard Disney fan.

When Ashley gets hungry, she loves to tuck into her favourite Indonesian foods, ayam penyet or nasi uduk. "Enak!"

Her advice for students? "Don't take life too seriously. Take time to smell the roses and laugh."



## Australia Centre Medan

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### Star - Student: Fauzan Akbar Lubis

I have 2 brothers.

My favourite hobby is playing games.

I know how to install some applications.

I want to learn how to be a computer programmer.

My favourite food is Rendang. I have never eaten Spinach.

My favourite website is Twitter because it is fun.

My favourite song is Cayman Island because the song can make me relax.

My favourite TV movie is Mr Bean because it's very fun.

When I grow up, I want to be a Programmer.

My favourite place in the world is My home.

If I could travel anywhere in the world I would go to England because I want to watch football match.

If I could have any superpower (like Superman or Batman) it would be good because I will be strong.

My friends make me happy. But sometimes they make me sad.

I laugh when I am watching Opera Van Java

I was born in Medan on 9 June 1996.

Now I am 14 years old.

In June I will be in first year of Senior High School.

I have 2 best friends at Australia Centre Medan.

They are Ridho and Juha.

They like to help me learning English.

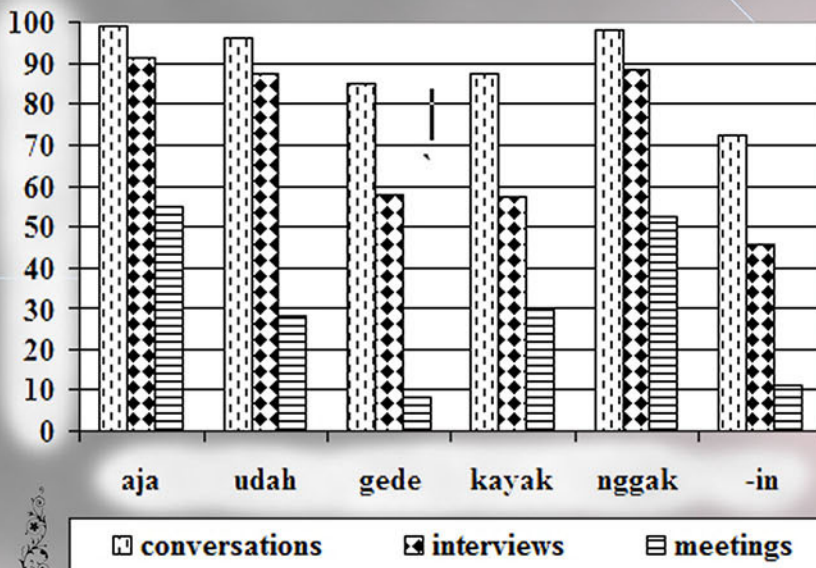
Sometimes they also like to disturb me.





### IELTS tip

In Task 1 of the writing test, you need to identify the significant feature or trend in the given pictorial information. Look at the chart below which shows the frequency of use of some informal Indonesian words in different settings by university-educated males below 40 years of age in Jakarta. What trend do you notice? (Find the answer in our next issue.)



# 3 Keys to Better Writing !

There are many different types of writing. There are argument essays for school and expository essays that explore a topic. There are news stories that explain the who, what, why and how of events, and letters we write for business, friends or family. Then there are stories we read in books, new worlds we enter to escape from our daily life. Whether you want to learn to write an essay for school, a letter to your grandmother about your holiday or even a story just to amuse yourself, there are some simple rules you can follow to make your writing better.

**1.** Think about your reader. The goal of good writing is to communicate clearly to the reader. If you're writing an essay, for example, think a little before you start. Ask yourself these questions: What am I trying to say? What words will best express it? Then after you have written it ask: Have I left anything out that leaves a question in my reader's mind? Have I forgotten any details my reader will want to know? If the answer is yes, fill in the gaps.

**2.** Don't be afraid of mistakes. It's easy to get "writer's block" when you're so afraid to make a mistake you cannot write anything. But remember, nobody ever writes a perfect essay or story the first time! Once you have decided what you want to say, just let your thoughts, ideas or imagination out on paper and don't judge it as "good" or "bad." Try not to stop and use an eraser. Just continue. When you finish writing, go back and make corrections. Edit after you write, not as you write.

**3.** Write what you know. In academic writing, students must give examples to support their ideas. Where to get these examples, besides from your text book? Be aware of the world around you and take note. For example, if you must write a paragraph for EAP+3 about advertising, open a magazine and look at a particular advertisement that attracts you. Note the details of the photo, read the text. Then use it as your example to explain how an advertisement works. If you are writing a narrative story, use details from your own life. Open your sense to the world around you. What do you see and hear? What do you smell, taste or feel? Describe it to make the reader feel they are there with you.

## Write a Story, Win a Prize!

A story starts with an idea. And an idea starts with you. We have a few prompts to get you started, then just let your imagination run free. Choose just one of the three writing prompts below, write a short story about it (100-300 words) and send it to [wendy.bone@acmedan.com](mailto:wendy.bone@acmedan.com) before September 30. The top three winners will be published and win a voucher for Gramedia. Good luck!

- 1) A hotel housekeeper finds a murder victim in one of the rooms.
- 2) A woman buys a new expensive face cream that promises incredible results. But in the morning she looks in the mirror and screams.
- 3) An awkward, nerdy teenager with no friends makes a secret plan to be the most popular kid in school.

# Onomatopoeia

## Words that go Woof, Bang, Pow!



As children, we often learn from our parents or our teachers about the sounds things make. Take animals, for example. What sound does a cat make? "Meow." What sound does a dog make? "Woof!" What sound does a rooster make? "Cockadoodledo!"

Then, when we are a little older, we may start reading comic books. We see Batman punch a bad guy: "Pow!" Or see some bad guys shooting guns: "Bang bang!" We also hear the sounds of things around us: the tick-tock of a clock or the buzz of a bee.

When we say these words we mimic the sounds they make—the sound of the word is close to the original sound. We call this "onomatopoeia," which comes from two Greek words that together mean "the sound I make."

Onomatopoeia is everywhere around us, and it comes in different languages, too. In Indonesia, cats don't say meow, but "meong." Dogs also speak a different language: "Gong, gong!" And to tell us when the sun is rising, roosters call "Kukuruyuk!" not "Cockadoodledo!" Likewise, guns don't go "bang bang," but "dor dor!" For a more realistic effect, we often say the word two or three times (quack quack), extra letters (Mooooo) or an exclamation mark (Beep!). Here are a few other English words and their Indonesian translation:

English	Indonesian	Meaning
Moo	Mboh	What a cow says
Clang	Klontang	Working loudly in a garage
Munch, crunch	Kriuk kriuk	Sound of eating Chitatos
Chirp chirp	Cicit cuit	What a bird says
Ding dong	Ting tong	Sound of a doorbell
Quack quack	Kwek kwek	What a duck says
Beep beep	Tiin tiin	Sound of a car horn
Woo Woo	Tuut tuut	Sound of a train
Roar	Mengaum	What a lion says
Sniff	Hiks	When you want to cry
Thump	Gubrak	When something falls on the floor
Ssssss	Cussssss	Letting air out of a balloon
Boom/Ka-boom	Duaaarr	Explosion
Baaaa	Mbeek	What a sheep says



## Word Wizard



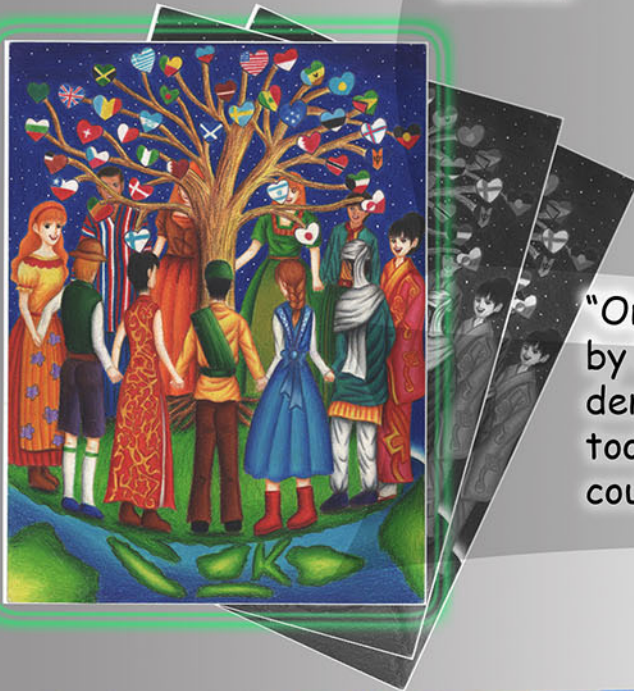
Look at the word list below. It starts with 'head' and ends with 'foot' by changing one letter over four moves. Can you do the same to get 'fang' from 'cold', 'beak' from 'nice' and 'past' from 'kind'?

HEAD	COLD	NICE	KIND
BEAD	_____	_____	_____
BEAT	_____	_____	_____
BOAT	_____	_____	_____
BOOT	_____	_____	_____
FOOT	FANG	BEAK	PAST

Find the answers (or post your own!) on ACM World's Facebook page.

Australia Centre Medan would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday. Mohon Maaf Lahir dan Bathin.

Wishing you  
Happy Eid-ul-Fitr  
and  
Happy Holiday!



## Student Art Gallery

"One Love" was created from colour pencil by Renitha, a talented artist and ACM student. Are you a good artist or cartoonist too? Send your work to ACM World and it could be in the next issue of the magazine.



International Law students from Banda Aceh took private EAP and IELTS courses with ACM.



Congratulations to EAP+4 for completing their course....now on to EAP+5!

## CLASS PIX



Nothing like a game of Jenga to help students relax after studying hard.



JENGA!!!



Did you know that Australia Centre Medan is the longest established student placement agency in Medan? We have been operating since 1994 and have helped about 2,000 students to go to Australia to study. We are the only agency in Medan which specialises solely in Australia. So if you want help, come to the Australian experts! There is no charge for our service, and we can help you with your application, visa and accommodation as well as advice.

Each issue, we will choose one aspect of studying in Australia - it might be a course, a university or college -and feature it in this magazine. But for more detailed information and help with your own personal plans, come in any time for a chat with Irene or Eri. A couple of general points:

- We always recommend students finish SMA 3 even though many courses accept you after SMA 2. The main reason is that if you leave school for Australia after SMA 2 and something goes wrong and you do not complete your Foundation or Diploma, then you are left with nothing - not even your high school diploma.
- We recommend all students study English for Academic Purposes (EAP), no matter how well you have done in IELTS. Ask yourself this question: 'Am I confident I can write a 2000 word essay without any help from anyone else, in academic English style with references and a bibliography, that will pass my course?' If the answer is 'no', you need to study EAP. You can do this here at the Australia Centre or at your university in Australia.

In this first issue, we're looking briefly at Monash University, one of Australia's largest universities, located in Melbourne.

Monash offers around 350 different undergraduate degrees, so they almost certainly have a course for you. However, working it all out is confusing, which is where Irene and Eri can help you. The information provided below is a general guide—there are sometimes variations between courses, so always check your course first with Irene or Eri.

If you are an SMA student, there are 3 ways to enter Monash.

#### Monash University Foundation Studies (MUFY)

- Intensive - 9 months SMA 2 GPA 7.0 IELTS 6.0
- Standard - 12 months SMA 2 GPA 6.5 IELTS 5.5
- Extended - 15 months SMA 2 GPA 6.0 IELTS 5.0

MUFY graduates then enter 1st year at Monash.

#### Monash College Diplomas

- Diploma Part 1 8 months SMA 2 GPA 7.0 IELTS 5.5
- Diploma Part 2 12 months SMA 3 GPA 7.0 IELTS 6.0 or MUFY

Diploma Part 2 graduates then usually enter 2nd year at Monash.

#### Direct Entry to Monash University

SMA 3 GPA 8.5 IELTS 6.5 (However, many courses have GPA requirements of 8.0 or 9.0)

STILL CONFUSED?? - That's why you need to talk to Irene or Eri!!





Share your talents with  
Australia Centre Medan



*Can you draw amazing pictures and cartoons? Do you like to write articles or stories? Do you know about something interesting happening at Australia Centre or around Medan?*

*If so, Australia Centre Medan's new monthly magazine wants to hear from you! Help contribute to ACM World and gain valuable skills.*

*If you would like to contribute illustrations, stories or ideas, contact Wendy Bone at: [wendy.bone@acmedan.com](mailto:wendy.bone@acmedan.com)*

*Drop your stories, ideas, pictures and suggestions in the Suggestion Box in Reception.*

