**Daniel Cha**n, English Panel Head

***How can I improve my English?***

This is a question I have been asked a million times ever since I started teaching 25 years ago. Those who have this question in mind somewhat know the answer as they must have been told by their teachers throughout their school lives to read more, write more, listen more and speak more. This, however, is more easily said than done in Hong Kong as English is underused in the community, however cosmopolitan a city we often claim it to be. Who would care to polish their English when 99% of the people around them speak in Cantonese? I would tell my students that English learning should be part of our everyday lives, a lifestyle, rather than something that only takes place in an enclosure.

***I regret not working hard enough to improve my English when at school!***

This is what many of my past students who have graduated would say to me when they return to their alma mater. A regret should not be made to last forever. It is never too late to realize your own weakness so long as you render your determination to **make a change** in your lifestyle.

***What can I do to make English come to life in me?***

Let us form a **H A B I T**!

**H**ear Listen carefully to how native speakers speak – you can practice listening and improve your pronunciation at the same time.

**A**sk Always ask questions – if no one is there to answer your questions, ask your dictionary.

**B**e persistent Never give up your plan easily. Rome was not built in one day.

**I**ncrease Vocabulary is key to English learning – keep a vocabulary booklet as a personal dictionary and revise it regularly.

**T**alk Talk to people in English – if no one is around, talk to yourself or read aloud a news article to improve your fluency.

Research has shown that it takes **21 days** to develop a habit. So, try it!



Here at Fukien, students are encouraged to enter the Speech Festival to make English learning

COME TO LIFE!