

2012 summer English immersion camp

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English is an international language. Macao is an international city where English is extensively used in education, tourism and trading. Because of the importance I believe in the learning and usage of the language, I tried to find courses that could help me improve my learning of and communication in English. With my teacher's recommendation, I was able to participate in this English Summer Camp.

On the first day of the camp, about 60 participants from 29 different schools assembled at the auditorium of Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes. Before the main program started, we met our fellow participants for the first time. Some were outgoing whilst others were reserved. The first activity was a game to help us "break the ice". We had to interact with each other and find out some basic personal information of the other participants. Then, assembling in a 'U' shape (where every one was facing each other), we shared some of that information and briefly introduced ourselves.

After the initial warm up session, we had a reading exercise in which our English proficiency was evaluated. We were then arranged in learning groups of similar levels. We then had lunch as a group and began to make friends. When we returned in the afternoon, we started to work in groups. My group watched the movie "Kung Fu Panda 2" which had only the English audio (without Chinese subtitles). We then had a group discussion on the movie. That was the first day of the camp. It was interesting to meet new acquaintances in the camp and to expose myself to a different English learning environment. I told myself, with such a good beginning, I would surely benefit from the camp!

The rest of the camp involved a series of learning activities. One interactive activity was the learning of 'idioms'. At first, I thought idioms would be one of

the most difficult parts of the English language usage. However, after learning these idioms, I found them interesting and once I started using them in my writing, idioms were not difficult and boring anymore.

One of the most wonderful parts of the camp, for me, was the activity where we went in groups of three to the Leal Senado Square and interviewed foreign visitors. The goal of this activity was to make us more active in speaking English and to interact with foreigners through asking simple questions. At the beginning, our group (Ella, Simon and I) felt so nervous, but after a few refusals, we finally succeeded to interview a Canadian visitor. By the end of the brief interview, he even gave us a souvenir, which was a small button with the National emblem of Canada. That was very nice of him! This incident had helped us overcome the fear of speaking English. This activity was really helpful!

Another activity involved organizing pictures and telling stories. We were given five random pictures and were required to use them to make up a short story within 10 minutes. The activity was helpful in training our creativity and logical thinking. We all needed to participate, discuss and brainstorm. At the end we all enjoyed the exercise.

Finally, the most anticipated part of the camp was the Night of the Variety Show. Everyone had to show their talents. Some sang, others performed a play whilst others took up the responsibility of being the Master of Ceremonies. We all did our best and received enthusiastic applause. That was a truly memorable night!

This camp is really meaningful and if given the chance, don't miss it.

