

# **CAT 4 - RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Group 4-088**

## **Project English Assistance**

### **GROUP MEMBERS:**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Project English Assistance, we hope to address problems that currently cripple the quality of Secondary One life for a Hwa Chong student. The problem we would like to tackle in this English Comprehension Package that we developed is the challenge to adapt to the new syllabus. After conducting a needs analysis, we have found out that many of our peers needed assistance in comprehension and summary writing. We have come up with lessons for the various aspects of comprehension and summary. Our aim for this project is to improve students' grasp on the techniques of comprehension and summary writing.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Rationale**

The huge jump in the curriculum will result in students like ourselves feeling a great amount of stress. Moving from Primary School to Secondary School is definitely a challenge for all. Not only must we adjust to the new way of life, but we must also get accustomed to the new syllabus, in which most of the answering techniques are different. Therefore, through coming up with this resource, we want to close that gap between the syllabus. Furthermore, there are new aspects of English comprehension like irony questions and summary questions.

### **1.2 Objectives**

Through this project, we want to

1. Help our peers to fully understand some of the concepts of the syllabus.
2. Provide our peers with exercises for them to understand what they are weaker at.
3. Relieve stress by looking at motivational quotes in our resources.
4. Make independently learning English fun.

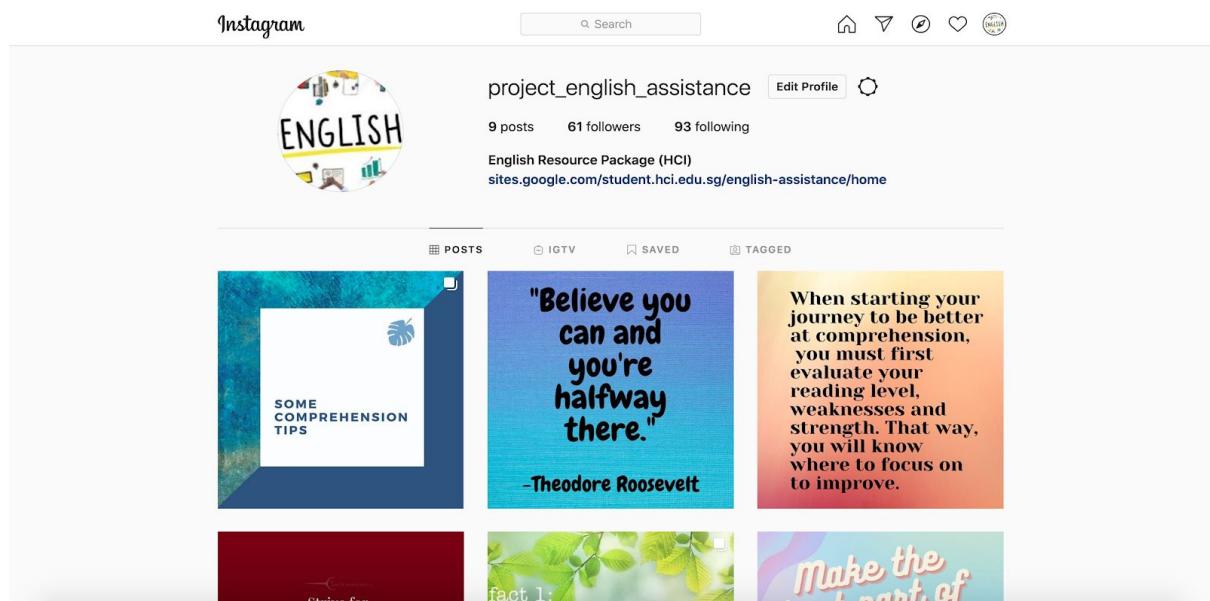
## 1.3 Target Audience

Our target audience for this project are our peers, Secondary One students from Hwa Chong Institution.

## 1.4 Resources

We have created 3 different resources, an Instagram account, a website and an app.

We post some facts about English and motivational quotes on our Instagram page. This Instagram page is not just for Secondary One students for students of all ages. However, Secondary One students are still our main target audience.



*Our Instagram account*

We have also developed a website with lessons and tips for different aspects of comprehension and summary writing. Motivational quotes are also displayed on the bottom of different pages of the website. This website is designed on Google Sites.

*The main page of our website*

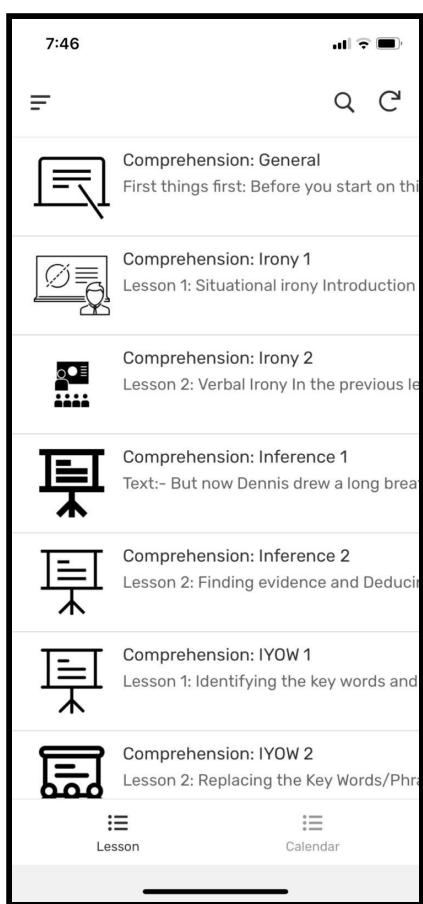
The screenshot shows a website with a dark header bar. On the left, there's a sidebar with a logo, the word "Resources", and a navigation menu with "Home" and "Lessons". The main content area features a large title "English Resource Package" in bold, centered text. Below the title, there's a warning message: "WARNING: This website is best viewed in desktop format." Underneath that is a section titled "Abstract:" followed by a paragraph of text. The background of the main content area has a faint watermark or background image of a map and some German words.

WARNING: This website is best viewed in desktop format.

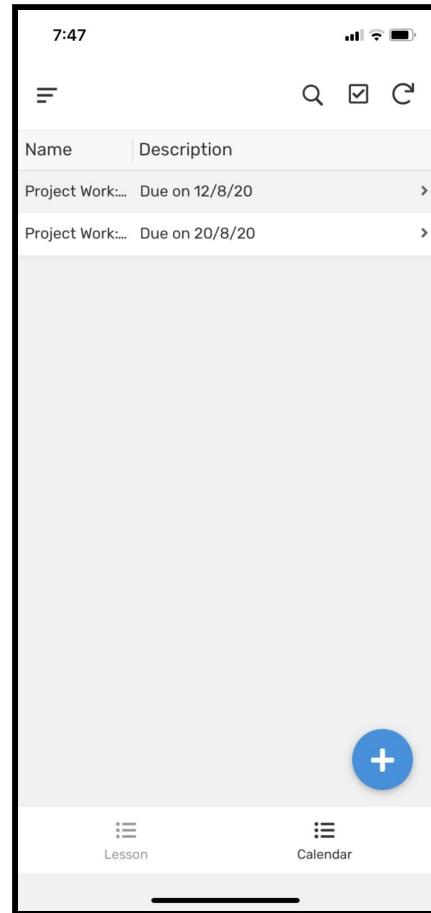
**Abstract:**

Hello! We are a group of Secondary One students from Hwa Chong Institution, and via Project English Assistance, we hope to address problems that currently cripple the quality of Secondary One life. The problem we would like to tackle in this English Comprehension package is the challenge to adapt to the new syllabus. The huge jump in curriculum will result in students like ourselves feeling a great amount of stress. Moving from Primary School to Secondary School is definitely a challenge for all. Not only must we adjust to the new way of life, we must get accustomed to the new syllabus, in which most of the answering techniques are different. After conducting a survey, we

The last resource would be an app. The application and the website is similar in the fact that they both cover lessons regarding Comprehension and Summary. We made the application even though we had an app as it can be found on the home screen of your mobile phones, and is ultimately much more user-friendly than the website, which is recommended to be accessed on the computer. The application also has several perks, aimed to boost the productivity of the user like a calendar to set important dates.



Home screen of the application



Calendar page

## 2 REVIEW

We have looked at a few resources like Superstar Teacher. However, resources like Superstar Teacher are not targeted to the needs of Hwa Chong Secondary One students and hence may not be as effective. Furthermore, it is pricey and harder to access for some students than our website. The survey we conducted showed the weaknesses of our peers and hence we know which aspects of comprehension and summary writing to focus on. Moreover, our resources include motivational quotes as well to encourage and motivate the students.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

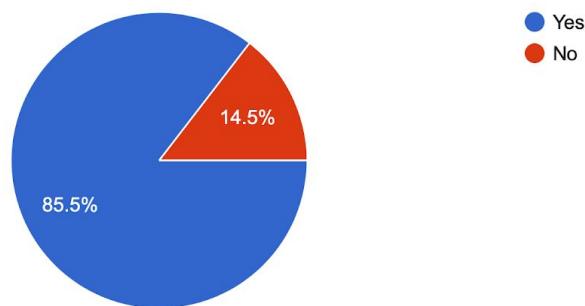
#### **3.1 Needs Analysis**

A needs analysis was conducted to ascertain the relevance of this project. A survey was first conducted to check whether our peers in Hwa Chong Institution faced difficulties in answering English Comprehension questions (inclusive of summary questions). We have ensured the credibility of the responses by only allowing one response and asking for names and email to check that they are from Secondary One. Out of our 55 respondents, the majority of them are facing problems in various areas of English Comprehension.

#### **3.2 Survey Results**

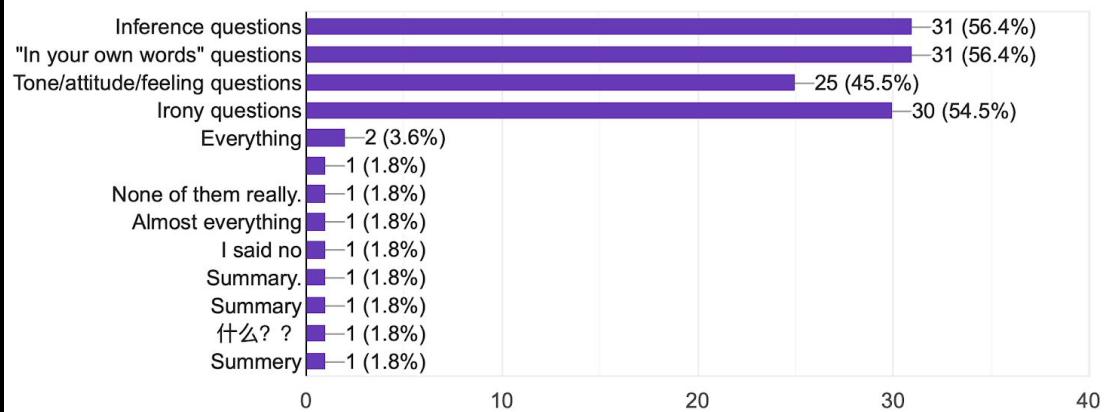
Q1) Do you face difficulties answering the English Comprehension questions?

55 responses



Q2) Tick the types of comprehension questions that you have difficulty answering.

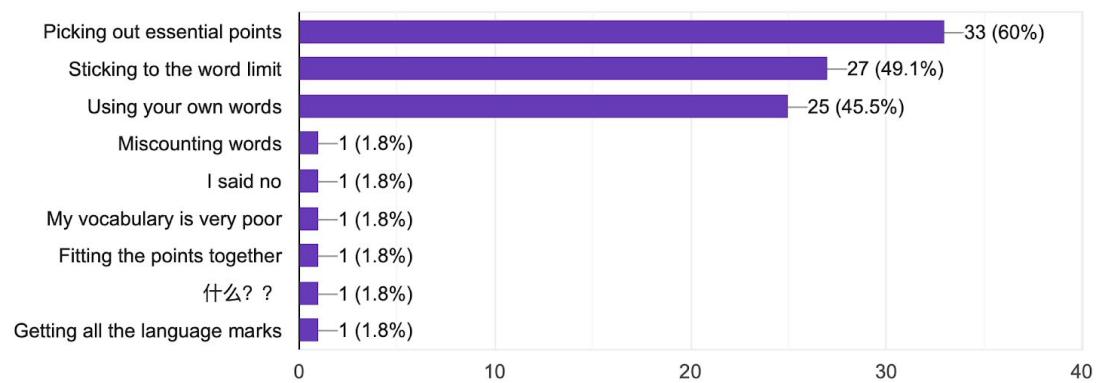
55 responses



The survey results show that most peers face difficulties in inference questions, and "In your own words" questions the most. Hence, we made these aspects of comprehension our main target. However, the survey also shows that a significant number of students struggle with irony questions and tone/attitude/feeling questions.

Q3) Tick the difficulties that you face when doing the summary questions.

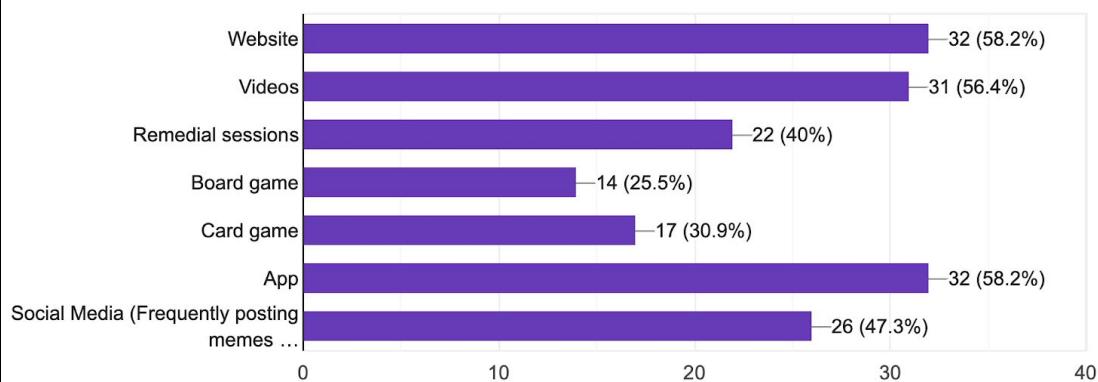
55 responses



As for summary writing, our peers felt that picking out essential points is the hardest. However, a significant number also felt that sticking to the word limit and using your own words are difficult to achieve.

**Q4) Which resource will help you to improve your comprehension skills?**

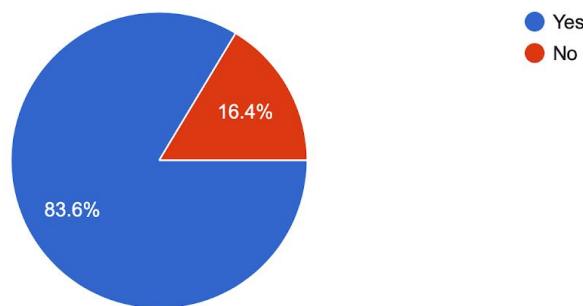
55 responses



Since our peers felt that a website, an app, videos and social media page were the best resources that we should develop, we originally decided to develop all four of them. However, due to Covid-19, we were unable to meet up to create the videos and hence had to cancel the original plans.

**Q5) Do you think an English Resource Package found online that is targeted towards HCI students will engage you to learn English Comprehension techniques?**

55 responses



Lastly, we had to ensure that an online resource package would engage our peers, and make learning English independently more fun.

### **3.3 Development of Resources**

With the results of the survey above, we knew which aspects of comprehension and summary writing to focus on. Hence, we targeted these aspects and worked on it.

After much research online, we started to develop the website. For the Instagram account, we looked online for different fun facts and designed posts. We try our best to post daily. We started developing the app when we realised that having an app which can be used offline is very beneficial. We inserted sections from the website into the app and also some additional lessons.

### **3.4 Pilot Test**

Due to the coronavirus, we were not able to get many people to test this resource. However, we have asked some people to help review the resource and below are their responses. However, one regret was that we could not test it in an English classroom to confirm its effectiveness.

There are many intriguing lessons. The lessons were fun and meaningful. Furthermore, the website is well organised. The website could be more fun. The app is quite good as it is very convenient.

Isaac Ng (1i4)

I enjoyed the inference section the most as it taught me how to infer the message that the author was trying to convey in a specific manner. The Instagram account was enjoyable as I got to learn new facts.

Song Haoran (1i4)

The website is very organised and fun. The Instagram page is quite interesting but you can post more memes on it. The app is very interesting as we could access it offline and the calendar function can be helpful.

Kyan Seng (1A1)

The section on irony questions is my favourite. I enjoyed how informative and neat the section was. Overall, the website is organised and I enjoyed it a ton. The Instagram page is also quite interesting.

Jaden Tee (1i4)

#### 4 OUTCOME & DISCUSSION

According to our pilot test, our project is considered to be a rather successful one. With interactive, engaging and educational lessons, our users were able to learn independently. The app, which was mainly to allow the students to access the lessons offline, made the entire resource better. However, the project had its limitations, we could not use it in a practical situation in a classroom to see how effective the project is. Regardless of these limitations, the project is still a fulfilling one that fulfils its objectives. After some feedback, we tried to make the resource more fun by posting more memes on the Instagram page and making it more attractive by changing the background of each page in the website.



*The different backgrounds for each page in the website.*

## 5 CONCLUSION

This project was definitely a challenging one, especially with the pandemic going on. We are Secondary one when we started this project and we were unfamiliar with many things, however, through these challenges we learnt 自强不息 and emerged stronger, we learnt how to make quizzes, like setting questions and answers, assessing their difficulty level, and minor things like numbering the quiz questions. Furthermore, we used different methods to acquire data, like research and surveys. We also learnt how to use other technological tools like Zoom to communicate more effectively when there were inter-class mingling restrictions. In the future, we could work on this project and refine it. We could also make more language resources, like resources that encourage reading in different languages. After this project, we could learn from our mistakes and make another resource that is better, like including a more classroom friendly resource, and do a better promotion of our resource to reach out to more people.

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## **Images**

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