

Summer Holiday
Essay Writing
Competition
Winners

My Holiday at Home



another
learning
space

(BE) by
Bonanza Educare



Our thoughts are constantly with our students and while wondering what you were doing at home during the summer holidays and the current lockdown, an idea sprang to mind. Why not have our students tell us what they've been up to? And that is how our Summer Holiday Essay Writing Competition with the theme "My Holiday at Home" came about.

From cooking, playing, gardening to exercising, it was lovely to hear about what our students have been busying themselves with!

In the Pre-Starters & Starters category, entries had to be 20 to 30 words long whereas in Movers & Flyers, 50 to 60 words were required. Essays in the KET category had a requirement of 60 to 80 words and 100 to 120 words in the PET category. As for the FCE category, students were required to write essays of 140 to 190 words. The minimum word requirement for the CAE and CPE categories were 220 to 260 words and 240 to 280 words, respectively.

Picking the winners for the essay writing competition was no easy task with so many outstanding entries received. Ultimately, the winners were picked from a total of 120 entries based on the Cambridge English Assessment Writing criteria. Entries were judged on their content, communicative achievement, organisation and use of language.

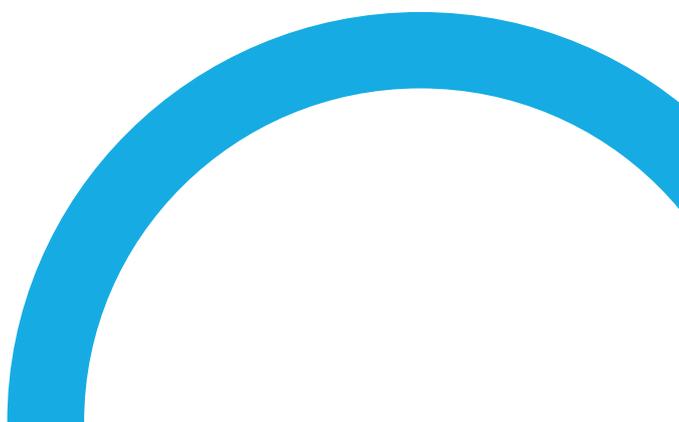
The first place winner of each category will be receiving a RM100 cash prize.

The response towards this essay writing competition has been really upbeat, and we are encouraged to hold similar competitions in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for ever being so supportive of your children's learning journey with ILTI. Let's continue to work together to motivate them to further excel in the English language.

Take care and stay safe everyone.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evelyn Chen".

Evelyn Chen
Director of Education,
Bonanza Educare



Categories and Winners



Pre-Starters & Starters

Winner: Heysseeghan Danishwaran
Second Place: Ho Hong Yu
Third Place: Eilmie Amnie Binti Saiful Bahri

Movers & Flyers

Winner: Lee Xiao Tong
Second Place: Samia Qureshi
Third Place: Nur Nadhira Shahirah binti Salim

KET

Winner: Poh Keng Heng
Second Place: Teh Huey Syuen
Third Place: Liew Xin

PET

Winner: Jacklyn Ng
Second Place: Kartikeyan Ehkalaivan
Third Place: Sophie Eng

FCE

Winner: Hee Wen Kai
Second Place: Poh Qing Kang
Third Place (Tie): Charlotte Chong Joanna, Chow Jie Shen

CAE

Winner: Oee Eugene
Second Place: Goh Jun Thean
Third Place: Teoh Cheng

CPE

Winner: Ting Cheng Yi
Second Place: Winston Chai
Third Place: Thayaanethee Selva Kumar

Winning Essays

Pre-Starters & Starters



First:

Heysseeghan Danishwaran, Starters

I have spent my holiday with my brother. I played bicycle with my little brother. I also watched television with him. Playing with my little brother is always fun.



Second:

Ho Hong Yu, Starters

I had a fun holiday. I played with my sister's clay and I made many things. And also I played with our tablet. Next time it's holiday I want to buy a Beyblade.



Third:

Eilmie Annie Binti Saiful Bahri, Pre-Starters

Every morning, I will read storybooks with my siblings. All the books my mother bought from the bookstores. I love my school holiday at home so much.

Movers & Flyers



First:

Lee Xiao Tong, Movers

During the pandemic, I was forced to stay at home during the holiday. During this holiday, I had learnt cooking from my mother. I've learnt how to bake a cake, fry an egg and how to cook rice. I also spend my free time on reading and help my parents to do the chores. Besides, I also played video games with my siblings.



Second:

Samia Qureshi, Flyers

Who doesn't like holidays? I love holidays too! My daily routine during the holidays is the same everyday. In the morning, I get up and do my bed. Then I have my shower before I enjoy my breakfast prepared by my mom. My favourite is peanut butter jelly. Homework is next on my list which is the least favourite part till lunch. In the evening, is the part I enjoy most, playing badminton, cycling and watching television. After dinner, normally we have board games or watch television before I go to bed.



Third:

Nur Nadhira Shahirah binti Salim, Flyers

COVID-19 changes people norms. Government strictly asked people to stay at home. During movement control order (MCO) I asked my mother to buy sewing machines at shopee. I search on youtube how to make eco friendly tote bag from reusable stuff such as shirt and jeans.

I try to use sewing machines. It is very fun and easy to use. I feel very happy because I can make myself one tote bag. I also can use tote bag to go to the tuition. I also try to decorate my tote bag with my own fashion sense.

I feel very happy when I can fill my leisure time with doing good things. I also can practice the value of reduce reuse and recycle (3R) to save our environment. That's all my experience holidays at home. I like to try something difference and also I can add my new skills.



**First:**

Poh Keng Heng, Upper KET

Nowadays, with the fearful and unmerciful Covid wreaking havoc all around the world, everything has altered. Under the shadow of Covid, even a holiday is different. We have to stay at home.

My holiday at home is lovely in its own way. It gives me a chance to rejuvenate after bursting school life. It also enables me to spend some quality time with my family. From jogging to cooking together and playing badminton to watching movies, I genuinely have a whale of time!

I enjoy my holiday at home, do you?

**Second:**

Teh Huey Syuen, Upper KET

We can't go out during the whole MCO. I am really feeling blue because we can't meet friends. I'd rather go to school than staying at home for online classes. It is very boring at home.

But my parents still need to go to work. So they send me and my sister to our grandparents house and we will usually reach our house after dinner before 8p.m.

I sometimes have to attend online classes for school and tuition, and teachers gave many homework for us. I will try to finish as fast as possible.

I miss my friends. I usually video call my friends. We play online games and do homework together. I always chat online with my friends. I miss my relatives too! Especially my cousins. We didn't meet for a whole month. But I'll still keep in touch with them.

I sometimes help with the housework, such as washing dishes and washing the clothes. I learned how to make burnt cheese cake, carrot cake and also ice creams. It is very delicious. My mother bought some story books for me to read because I'm too free after finished my school and tuition homework.

And I will also play with my pet in the evening. Normally, I will feed them with some dog food. I will also help my father to wash his car and water the flowers in the garden of my house. I will sweep the withered leaves too!

I hope the pandemic will come to end as fast as possible, so that all of us are able to return to our normal life and meet our friends and family.

**Third:**

Liew Xin, Lower KET

Covid-19 is a dangerous virus. To avoid the virus, I can only stay at home for the holidays.

I thought it will be boring, but I had a very happy holiday. I learned to cook. I also practised ballet. I believe if I often practice, my ballet will improve. I played with my sister and helped my mother with chores.

PET

Although I can't go out this holiday, but I had more time to spend with my family. It was a happy holiday.



First:
Jacklyn Ng, Upper PET

There's Covid-19 everywhere now. During the condition currently, the world is currently under pandemic. Everyone's forced to stay at home everyday. My routine hasn't changed quite much.

In the morning time, I wake up around half past seven. The same, I brush my teeth in the morning before having breakfast. After having breakfast, I would get ready for my online classes if I have them after the school break. If I don't have online classes, I'll read some books or watch some movies. In the afternoon, I'll do my homework or help my mother with chores. I'll play my piano after having my dinner.

It's kind of great staying at home. I can get to stay away from the virus.



Second:
Kartikeyan Ehkalaivan, Lower PET

It was the start of the summer holiday. Usually, my family and I head out to the beach to have a fantastic time together. But this year was unique as we spent our break at home. It was because of the global pandemic that was going on around us. But that didn't bother us as everyone had so much fun together. We came up with plenty of ideas to do during the break. My parents signed me up for an online summer camp which was held by the ILTI tuition center. It was so much fun. It will be the best summer holiday ever.



Third:
Sophie Eng, PET

My summer holiday comes with Malaysian Movement Control Order (MCO) which set by government to practically tightened and control the spread of Covid-19. So, no vacations in my list, no gathering as well.

I workout 2 hours everyday at 9am, cause I know I'm enjoying sweating (building a better body shape) rather than laying (just lay).

I start my novel reading in English version after lunch, checking dictionary, translating into Chinese version and vice-versa. Knowledge invest to own can't steal by anyone.

I helped my mom to prepare dinner too. I know one day I will leave home and I need this technique to survive.

When there's a will, there's a way. I seized my holiday!



**First:**

Hee Wen Kai, Upper FCE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government decided to enforce a full lockdown, hence restricting our movements.

In order to relieve my boredom, I decided to self learn playing the guitar. As I already have a guitar at home, all I had to do was to search for guitar tutorials online.

Via these tutorials, I had managed to learn many chords and strumming patterns. However, I still could not master the technique of playing barre chords, which are chords that require my finger to cover all 6 strings.

Over the days, I finally learnt how to play barre chords and even able to strum my favourite song, "Heather"! Now, I just need to polish my singing skills!

My father also bought me many gizmos and accessories like the capo, which allows me to play a note on a higher key.

With the help of these new items, I hope that I can learn more songs and riffs. I also hope to toy around with different new techniques and learn new styles.

The guitar has helped me pass my time during this boring school holiday period.

**Second:**

Poh Qing Kang, Upper FCE

Holiday has never failed its magic on me. Just thinking on it allows all the perturbations resulted from adversity and setbacks to melt into the sapphire sky. Holiday makes my spirits soar, with happiness blossom in emotional warmth and excitement ablaze. Holiday at home? Not much different.

When the first light of dawn seeps into my room, I have already awoken. Holiday time is precious and I want to make the most of it. Then, you'll find me with my family in tow jogging around the neighbourhood. The rising sun casts a rosy hue across the morning sky; another day has dawned, bringing with it hopes and aspirations. I love the peace and tranquillity!

After having breakfast, I'll either help to prepare lunch or immerse myself in storybooks. See, this is another good thing about a holiday – you'll never be coerced into studying or doing revisions. By the way, I have a great fondness for reading. When I come across a charismatic story, I invariably lose myself in the Atlantis of words.

The evening is badminton time! To me, badminton is part and parcel of my daily basis. While I'm playing, merriment invades me and keeps me thrilled throughout the whole game.

A relaxing yet full day ends with a riveting movie. I genuinely enjoy my holiday at home!

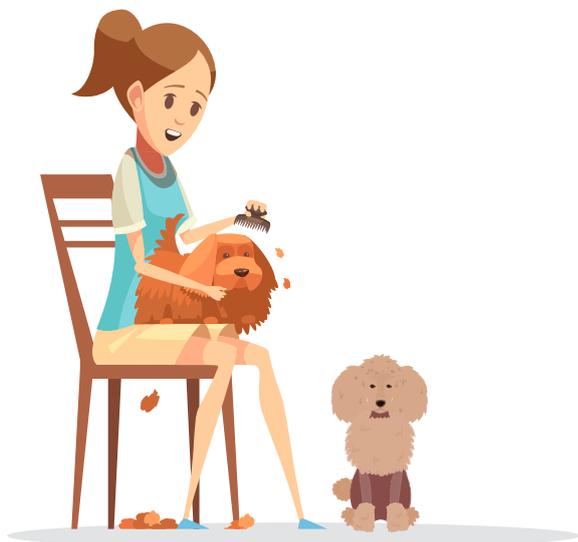


Third (TIE):
Charlotte Chong Joanna, Lower FCE

Hi there ! Fancy to see you in the pink of health even during the irritating period of the EMCO and FMCO. Today, I would like to share my fanciable and fabulous summer holiday at home.

Every morning, I will wake up from my wonderful dreams and start my daily life under the rad, radiant day. After enjoying my superb breakfast, I will let my puppies out to relish about the bracing fresh air. Just yesterday which is a Saturday, I bathed my favourite poodle, namely Lucky. He is just magnificently cute with bright brownish-black eyes and tremendously fluffy fur. I've got to wet him several times with water because his fur is quite waterproof and he kept running away from me whenever I bathed him. I suppose Lucky is panic-stricken if he get in contact with water. Well, after battling with an agitated bathing Lucky, finally, I, almost got scratch , was carrying him out with a towel to dry his fur. Out of relief, it was my aunt who would be in charge of drying him. Watching the scene of a frustrating aunt and a terror-stricken Lucky, I smirked slightly and fortunately not being spotted by my aunt.

In a nutshell, I enjoy this loving holiday even if I can't go out to play. See you next time if I've got to (or not) .



Third (TIE):
Chow Jie Shen, Upper FCE

Since the start of this pandemic, I've been confined to home, which turns out to be a blessing in disguise, an exhilarating and fun filled "holiday at home"

During this holiday at home, I've picked up baking as a hobby. I chose baking as I'm intrigued by the process of simple ingredients becoming something so memorable and delectable. With baking skills, I successfully made a variety of bakery products, ranging from cakes and breads to desserts and pastries, which I would share with my family and neighbours. Every time I see them enjoying my food, a smile of satisfaction would lit up my face.

Besides baking, I am also able to read my favourite novels during this holiday at home. Normally, I am so occupied with co-curricular activities, tuition and homework that I don't have time to even open a book. But now, having a great deal of time on hand, I could go through every word, every line of the book slowly, understanding every detail on the way. I would even end up sitting in the same spot, reading for hours and hours, which I enjoy with great pleasure.

Lastly, I am interested in gardening and would help my mom plant vegetables in our garden. It is really nice to see a garden full of ripe and green vegetables. The best part of gardening is surely the harvesting as you can see all the hard work and effort pay off.

From this "holiday at home", I realised that happiness is simplicity. Happiness doesn't need to be glamorous, happiness is passion, doing what you love, wherever you are. I really enjoyed this holiday at home and hope the next holiday is just as fun.

**First:**

Oee Eugene, Lower CAE

During these times, we have unfortunately been forced to spend our holidays stuck at home. I shall now describe my slightly bland and boring stay at home during the holidays.

The holidays was a bit of a bore. Not to say it wasn't interesting, but it was just that nothing particularly interesting happened. Surprisingly, they were two incidents that was, by the least, partially interesting. I shall now explain the two more interesting incidents that might piqued my interest.

The first interesting incident that happened during my holiday was my younger and more reckless brother, Euan taking up drawing as a hobby and potentially future career. While I dare say he lacks the artistic skills to earn a living as an artist, I shall not interfere him with his hobby.

The second, and more tragic incident, is the tragic loss of my beloved uncle. He died peacefully due to a heart attack at the age of 72. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, we could not attend our uncle's funeral, which was depressing.

I feel that this pandemic has affected everyone, emotionally and physically. However, the holidays grants us shelter from all the chaos happening around the world, and allows us to simply experience life as it was. Therefore, we should not worry about the problems, and instead enjoy ourselves.

**Second:**

Goh Jun Thean, Lower CAE

As the nippy breeze chilled my nerves, I peered out of the window blurred by water

droplets after a morning downpour, and the sight was irresistible. My carefully cared garden and basketball court was shrouded under bright-red sun half-covered behind hovering clouds tinted in modest pink.

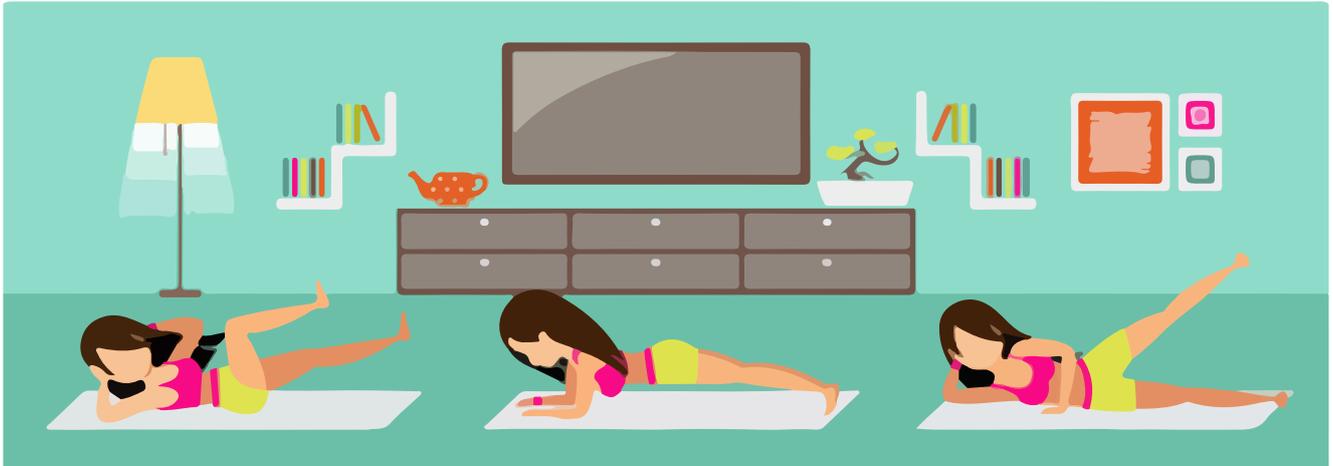
Tracing down the stairs, I stepped into the vigorous garden. The flowers were glistening in transparency under the flourish of sunlight. Walking along the stone pathway carved with patterns, reddish hibiscuses, pinkish roses and carnations, purplish bougainvilleas, whitish lilies, yellowish chrysanthemums and more were all blooming in happiness. With butterflies and bees fluttering around, the garden was amazingly beautiful.

Then, I enjoyed my breakfast well-prepared by my mother. I lay down on a sofa with my eyes fixated on the thrilling scenarios hidden beneath the lines of words, hiding myself behind the pages of books inhaling the scent of it for the entire afternoon. Beside me, a pile of books settled quietly on the table, waiting to decode its mystery.

After satisfying my reading pleasure, I walked along the stone path in my house yard that led to a small basketball court settling under the shadows of crowns of a tree. A torn-out net hung swiftly on the basket, supported by a pillar standing upright from the cement ground. This place was gifted with cool breeze and shelter from evening sunlight. I picked up the basketball kept in a dilapidated hut and began my joy with the game.

When glittering stars accompanied the bright moon in the dark night sky, the scent of delicious servings opened up our appetite, and the dishes filled up our empty stomachs. It was great then to have a movie together before ending a day.

That's my holiday during this pandemic, repeated routine yet satisfying.



Third:
Teoh Cheng, Lower CAE

Recently, issues about Covid-19 pandemic have ignited a great controversy among people from all walks of life as it is getting worse day by day. So, everyone would prefer to stay at home during this holiday. As for me, I decided to rest and learn some skills during this period as the proverb says, "All work but no play makes Jack a dull boy".

I used computer most of the time. This is due to the reason that it provided me with myriads of entertainment. For example, I watched different kinds of dramas and listened to soothing music to take my mind off schoolwork temporarily so that I can relax myself.

Moreover, I also did some simple indoor workout to prevent me from becoming a couch potato. To further illustrate on this point, I did yoga every day to practice my flexibility. By doing these, my mental health and mood can be improved and at the same time my learning and judgement skills can be sharpened.

Lastly, I learned some baking skills too! I baked almost every evening with my mum because we felt joyful when baking. I also found that I enjoyed doing research for cake recipes as it has boosted up my happiness and reduced my stress.

By and large, I appreciated and enjoyed my holiday. Although I am unable to travel with my family, but I had gained a lot of fun and happiness throughout the whole holiday.

**First:**

Ting Cheng Yi, Lower CPE

In June every year, the long-awaited school holidays roll around and most students can take some time off to relax. This year's holidays, however, had a bit of a twist, being that everyone had to spend it at home, due to the coronavirus outbreak. Although I was stuck at home for the whole duration of the holidays, I still got some things done in the two weeks of time.

First and foremost, I finished up my school assignments. I made sure to tick them off my list in the first few days of the holidays to have more time to do other things, such as reading and playing computer games.

Next, I did some binge watching. Although I had quite a lot to do during the holidays, I felt that I deserved a marathon of re-watching my favourite movies and television shows. A holiday is a holiday and nothing could change that for me.

What's more, I also did a bout of essay writing. During the mid-year holidays, I felt that I needed to improve my English proficiency and take it to the next level. Therefore, I registered in some competitions and did my research to acquire a fighting chance in them.

Furthermore, I also partook in chess matches against my friend, James. I have always felt that chess could train up my brain and my thinking skills, but I always have lacked the free time to do so. That's why during the holidays, I grabbed hold of this chance and engaged in a battle of the minds with my friend and overall, I had a really fun time.

This was all I had done during the school holidays.





Second:
Winston Chai, Lower CPE

I glanced out onto the seas of blue, filled with flocks of wings wading and paddling without a care of the world, whilst being chatty about their everyday lives and maybe ours. My eyes, now filled with wistful sparkles, begged when I could drift along the snow peaks and lush valleys with glee along with them, and not be bound in the scent of homey air.

Yet, not all is lost. Every afternoon, mother would nimbly tread up and down the yellow brick road, with empty baskets that would be filled to the brim with goodies. Without haste, knives would fly, strange spices of a jumble of colours would be sprinkled, and pans and skillets would hiss and crackle under the sweltering heat. Soon, a time of hearty feast and cheery toast to life follows, where every tidbit of goodies would melt into our mouths, followed by our enthusiastic nodding of heads.

When I am not savouring the tangy taste of salt and spice, poetry became a newfound form of entertainment. Time had not left a place for art to flourish, yet now I am free to do whatever I please. Soon, scribbles and dribbles magically flew out of my desk, every blot of ink a path through a field of wildflowers, bearing tales of far-flung caravans, tales of kingdoms and dragons, tales of a little prince far, far away.

No delight lasts forever, as reality started to sink in. Soon, I am back, where flocks of wings danced in the seas of blue. My little eyes, now filled with little wistful sparkles, stared at a shooting star far above, and wished that I could have a little holiday again.



Third:
Thayaanethee Selva Kumar, Lower CPE

In the midst of this Covid-19 pandemic, everyone struggled to see another day or at least it used to be. Nowadays, we have adapted to live in this situation. The life-threatening virus is now seen as a pesky cousin who annoyed everyone. Sure it has been hard to sit still in our asylum-like house for months, but we all have our coping system to keep us satiated.

Being at the peak of my youth, I've been under house arrest for more than a year now. It seems like I forgot how to react to the outside world, like a pet released into the wild. As now it's time for the holidays, I'm so close to breaking. Nevertheless, to keep me from going insane, I have a bizarre hobby, researching. By researching, I don't mean that I conduct experiments like a scientist. Instead, I put my overthinking abilities to good use in gathering scattered materials to create a knowledgeable infographic. For instance, I've formed an education pathway after SPM for each specific course and country. This hobby makes me exercise my brain ten times more. I also attain beneficial information every second (which feeds my bottomless pit for knowledge). What other way to spend your holidays than doing something useful?

In a nutshell, I'd spent all my holiday researching. My hobby is quite eccentric compared to others, but that doesn't mean that it's lethargic nor nerve-wracking. Not to mention that I do physical exercises indoors to compensate for sitting for long periods. Even though odd, I love to recommend my hobby to people who have the same curiosity as mine.

Why it pays to aim high with your English language learning

The job application process can be a harrowing one. Rejection after rejection, it is almost brutal. The current job market is such, good positions that pay well are scarce and the competition is fierce. Very often, scores if not hundreds are vying for the same position and the ones who fall behind are mostly fresh graduates with no prior working experience to show for.



So, what can fresh graduates rely on to impress their prospective bosses? Their chances are mostly narrowed down to having a winning resume and acing that job interview, which if you are to think about it, are easier said than done.

Writing a resume and passing an interview can be monumental tasks for one who is not so proficient in English. He or she may have been a good student but come the time to express themselves, they are rendered speechless. Most often, the thing that stops a good candidate from getting the job is his or her command of English.

What are fresh graduates to do then? Isn't it too late to learn English after school? Well, no. You're never too old to learn. There are ample opportunities to improve your English. At Ipoh Learning & Training Institute (ILTI), you have the option of a regular course where you study alongside your peers, or lessons specially tailored to your needs, allowing you to learn in privacy and at your own pace.

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