

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR SEMESTER 1 STUDENTS WITH ACCOUNTING KNOWLEDGE

ANIS ABUL HASAN ASHARI

“Alhamdulillah, Congratulations you have made it! Welcome to UiTM Cawangan Kelantan!”

What is the next step? What should I do? What is expected of me? How do I go about my studies? How am I going to adapt to college life?

These are among the questions that will come to mind when you first step into UiTMCK campus. Fear not, these questions will be answered, one by one. Do not rush things. Take every step in your stride. Just make sure that you remain positive, be open to guidance and criticism along the way.

In this first bulletin I intend to provide a simple, practical guide for those students who have already learnt accounting in school. For those students who already have accounting knowledge the challenge would be to learn accounting in the English language. Some of you may think, “Well... that would be quite easy. I already know English”, and maybe for some, they already have a good command of the English language. Please be reminded though, learning accounting in the English language is, to a certain extent, quite different because accounting in English has its own jargon. The sentence structure could also be challenging to comprehend for those who are not used to accounting in English. Students may easily misinterpret the sentences in accounting English. I always advise my students who already have accounting knowledge that they should practice accounting questions in English. The common mistake that I come across for those students who have learnt accounting in school is that they tend to translate the sentences in their textbooks or the questions that they attempt. This may cause students to misinterpret the information read and at the same time slow down the process of knowledge extraction and the process of attempting the questions. Students may eventually become frustrated because they are not able to understand exactly what is written in their textbooks or notes shared by their lecturer and are not quick enough to solve the accounting questions within the stipulated time.

What is the solution? Is there a shortcut to resolve this situation?

In shaa Allah, there is a way out so as to say...

The remedy I propose to my students is to try their best to read accounting in English (do not cut and paste the words and google translate), write in English (even your short notes) and practice talking in English. Now the latter would be most challenging, but this remedy has been proven to work.

Let me tell you a story.

Once upon a time there were two good friends. They were from different backgrounds. Miss A was born and raised in the village, she conversed in Bahasa Melayu and Banjar at home while Miss B was a town girl who conversed in both Bahasa Melayu and English at home. Miss A was and is very much a bold person but was hindered by her lack of proficiency in the English language. Miss B, on the other hand was a shy person, had opinions and ideas but was too shy to express herself. Hmm, getting a little bit sidetracked here, haha...but perhaps this background information is necessary to show that the above remedy works.

Well, to make a long story short. Miss A helped Miss B become someone less shy, brave enough to see lecturers for consultation and Miss B helped Miss A with her English. When Miss A and Miss B met up (they stayed on different floors at their college), they would converse in English. As I mentioned, Miss A is a bold person, therefore, she could not care less if her grammar was topsy-turvy while trying to get her message across or when trying to express herself. Miss B on the other hand had a fun time laughing at Miss A's antics but this would not dampen Miss A's spirits, she would go on and on even if her grammar did somersaults in the air. Her main goal was to have a good command of the English language so that she could learn accounting well. So, in a way Miss A and Miss B helped each other with each other's shortfalls (what seemed at that time). I am very happy and proud to say that Miss A now owns her very own accounting firm which provides accounting, auditing, taxation and secretarial services to both Malay speaking and English speaking clients.

What happened to Miss B?

Miss B, Alhamdulillah, has come out from her shell. She teaches accounting at UiTMCK and has 20 years plus of teaching experience. On certain occasions, she is bold enough to stand in front of a big audience as master of ceremony.

You would not want a life that has only two or three colours, that would be rather dull. Life should be colourful with the occasional fireworks display!

Moral of the story, well, there are a few actually. Find a friend, a true friend if possible at university. The one who is willing to come up with a strategy with you, on how to better yourselves. The journey will not be smooth, it very seldom is, but that is what colours your life. You would not want a life that has only two or three colours, that would be rather dull. Life should be colourful with the occasional fireworks display, when you are nervous before a group presentation, being summoned to the lecturer's office or experiencing cold sweat during a presentation of your research findings. Be positive, challenge yourself but keep in check your obligations to Allah, always keep in touch with your family and be thankful for all your blessings.

That is all from me for this first bulletin. In shaa Allah I shall share some other simple anecdotes in upcoming editions. Till then, thank you for reading!