

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 2

#56 The World's English Mania

Skills/ Objectives: Listening and speaking

PART 1: Before you watch...

Preparatory questions

1. How many languages do you speak?
2. What do you call a person who can speak several languages?
3. Why do you think so many people are trying to learn English?
4. From the list of vocabulary items below, can you find one appropriate word and make a sentence with the following meaning:

In the modern world, human beings have well controlled the use of nuclear power to produce electricity.

Answers for the relevant questions above will be provided in the next exercise.

Vocabulary

1. Mania (noun): a mental state marked by over-excitement
2. Determine (verb): to control what something will be
3. Intensity (noun): strength; magnitude
4. Universal (adjective): general; applicable to all cases
5. Harness (verb): to make use of

PART 2: Video

This video explains the popularity of learning English, using one single word: that is, “opportunity.”

The World's English Mania (click the link below to watch the video)

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-world-s-english-mania-jay-walker#watch>

(Source: TED Ed)

PART 3: Speaking

The letter “a” (or the /ei/ or /æ/ sound, as in *mania* or *man*) may be tricky to many Hong Kong speakers. Learn how to pronounce it here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/diphthongs8>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/shortvowel7>

PART 4: Learn further

1. Why do some people learn new languages easily and some don't?

This article offers a few tips on how to learn new languages.

<https://people.howstuffworks.com/learn-new-languages-easily.htm>

2. What if learning Chinese became popular?

“Learn to Read Chinese... with Ease!” allows you to see how people may learn Chinese if they do not already know it.

<https://ed.ted.com/featured/wJgVq9sO>