

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

Week 4

#70 Feng Shui

Skills/ Objectives: Listening and speaking

PART 1: Before you watch...

Preparatory questions

1. Does feng shui matter to you?
2. Off the top of your head, can you describe some feng shui principles?
3. Do you think the English expression “getting out of bed on the wrong side” (meaning “being in a bad mood all day”) has a certain feng shui principle to it?
4. From the vocabulary list below, can you find one appropriate word to complete the following sentence?

Feng shui is an art dating back to _____ China: it is essentially etched in the Chinese DNA.

Vocabulary

1. Ancient (adjective): from a long time ago
2. Superstition (noun): belief based on old ideas about magic
3. Qi (noun): the life force; the energy that flows
4. Optimal (adjective): the best or most effective possible
5. Fend off (phrasal verb): to send away something unwanted

Answer(s) to the relevant questions above will be provided in the next exercise.

Answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises:

Question 3:

The answer is “edge.”

PART 2: Video

This video explains how feng shui principles have been incorporated in the design of Hong Kong's architecture, citing examples from the HSBC tower to Disneyland.

How Feng Shui Shaped Hong Kong's Skyline (click the link below to watch the video)

<https://ed.ted.com/featured/YRz3ZM78>

(Source: TED Ed)

PART 3: Speaking

Can you say “ancient” without confusing it with “Asian”? Learn how to pronounce these words here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTeAqBFxYal>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7An24tl7J5U>

PART 4: Learn further

1. Read about Tony Chan Chun-chuen, a Hong Kong feng shui practitioner, and his dealings with the legendary Nina Wang Kung Yu-sum:

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2015/10/30/feng-shui-guru-remains-guilty-of-forging-will-of-asias-richest-woman-after-failed-appeal-application/>

2. Unlike Tony Chan, most feng shui practitioners, we are willing to believe, are honest people polished in their art.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzBYax7QChU>

“Feng Shui for Exam and Study Luck” describes to you how you should position yourself in your study environment, in a way that allows you to bring in good luck—most notably, *wen chang*.