

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

Week 5

#72 Peppa Pig... and Her Discontents

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking

Answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises:

Question 1: New York, the USA

Question 2: If we say “liberty” means the “freedom” to live as one wishes, you can see the word “freedom” is much more general expression than “liberty.” Compare also “to free (somebody/ something)” and “to liberate.”

Question 3: “Statue” is an object whereas “status” is a sort of social recognition.

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

1. What is your idea of fun learning?
2. Do you agree with people who say that useful learning requires so much hard work that it can never be fun?

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

Vocabulary

1. Metropolis (noun): a very large city
2. Barrier (noun): anything that keeps people from coming together or understanding each other
3. Decade (noun): a period of 10 years
4. Reverence (noun): a feeling of respect
5. Gaokao (noun): the university entrance exam taken by students in mainland China

PART 2: Article for Reading

This article describes how Chinese parents use Harry Potter and, perhaps surprisingly, Peppa Pig, to teach their children authentic English:

Chinese Parents are Using Peppa Pig to Prepare their Toddlers for the Ivy League *(Click the link to read the article)*

<https://qz.com/957596/chinese-parents-are-using-peppa-pig-to-prepare-their-toddlers-for-the-ivy-league/>

PART 3: Speaking Skills

Watch out for the way you pronounce lengthy words like “metropolis” and “reverence.” Note where the stress falls:

With “me – tro – po – lis,” “**tro**” is the stressed syllable.

With “re – ve – rence,” “**re**” is the stressed syllable.

PART 4: Listening Skills

1. Learning English with Peppa Pig Cartoon with Subtitles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap9rdiORT8A> (4:28 minutes)

This is one of those many typical, heart-warming little stories from the Peppa Pig series.

2. 10 Reasons—Why Peppa Pig is Hated by Parents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XSFgwjmwVo> (4:30 minutes)

Nothing is perfect. While Chinese parents find learning English through Peppa Pig a great idea, there are other people complaining about the cartoon—for 10 reasons. Do not say you have not been warned: remember: never call your father “fat or screeching silly daddy” and make too much fun of his tummy!

PART 5: Further Discussion

Write a short response to the following question:

What are your impressions of Peppa Pig?

Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk.

Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give feedback.