

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

Week 9

#91 When will you have a son or daughter?

Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, listening and writing skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: When do you expect to have children?

Qt 2: What age do you think is right for people to get married and have babies in Hong Kong?

Qt 3: Are there any factors discouraging people from having babies in Hong Kong?

Qt 4: Is it better or worse for a country to have more or fewer babies in its coming future?

Qt 5: Do you believe that your month of birth can affect your personality?

The answer to Qt 3 will be provided at the next set of Daily English Practice exercises.

Vocabulary

- parenting (noun): raising of children.
- cramped (adjective): very crowded.
- prompt (adjective): very quick.
- unaffordability (noun): the ability to pay.
- a mix of (noun): a combination of.
- a record high (noun): the highest mark that has broken all past records.

The answer to the question in the preceding set of exercises No. 90: The Qing Dynasty (1644AD – 1911AD) is as follows:

Qt.1: According to the article, a Deng is a bowl raised on a stem with a reverse bowl-like bottom. Its function was to hold thick seasoned meat soup on the tables of the Temple of Imperial Ancestors.

Qt2: The twelve symbols of authority embroidered on the Qing emperor's blue silk jifu are the sun, moon, mountains and nine dragons.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Why is the birth rate in Hong Kong dropping? Is this a worrying sign for Hong Kong's economy? Read the SCMP article posted on the following web-site to find the answers:

90 per cent surge in women aged 40 and above giving birth in Hong Kong

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/1940384/90-cent-surge-women-aged-40-and-above-giving-birth>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Here are two stories on You Tube to help train your listening ability:

- Scientists Prove: Your Birth Month Defines Your Health and Personality

Have you ever thought that your month of birth is important in affecting your personality? We are not talking about horoscope but scientific evidence. Watch the following video for more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yn416sDSnc>

- When should you have a baby? - ASAP Science

If you are not sure, you will get very useful advice from the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r68ENTBNfAE>

PART 4: Writing Practice

From time to time, we find well-expressed sentences in the articles. That is why SEE U is recommending articles for your reading every day. What do you think of the following sentence?

“People were now less keen on rushing into marriage.”

The interesting thing about the way of expression used in this sentence is the adjectival phrase “now less keen on”. This implies a change at present in contrast to what was in the past, just as few as four words telling the meaning of an otherwise much longer string of words. See another example of this usage below:

With IELTS established as an international standard for measure of English proficiency, people are now less keen on taking TOEFL.

Now create your own sentence with this expression. **Send your writing to:** see.u@ccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.