

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

Week 3

#115 The poor minority in Hong Kong

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Do you consider yourself rich or poor?

Qt 2: Do you think the poor people form a minority or the majority in Hong Kong?

Qt 3: What is the official definition of being poor in Hong Kong?

Qt 4: How many people in Hong Kong fall under the poverty line?

Answers to Qt 4 questions will be provided in the next set of exercises.

Vocabulary

1. dandy (adjective): saying something is very good but meaning the opposite.
2. destitute (adjective): without any money or possession.
3. matrices (noun): the set of conditions that provides a system in which something grows or develops.
4. swathe (noun): a long strip of cloth .
5. penny-pinches (noun): people who are unwilling to spend any money.
6. offsetting mechanism (noun): a system to reduce the influence of a factor.
7. gullible (adjective): easily deceived or tricked, and too willing to believe everything that other people say.
8. dupe (noun): to deceive someone, usually by making that person do something that they did not intend to do.
9. grannies (noun): grandmothers.

PART 2: Article for Reading

In the following article posted in SCMP web-site, the writer tells us about the poverty situation in Hong Kong:

Hong Kong lacks commitment to poverty relief

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/hong-kong/article/2174163/hong-kong-lacks-commitment-poverty-relief>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about this interesting topic while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

Squalid Living Conditions Of Hong Kong's Poor Population

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQkvl_J8_QI

Inside Hong Kong's Cage Homes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLrFyjGZ9NU>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you realize the introduction paragraph of the main article was written with sarcasm? If you didn't, read it again below:

Another year, another jump in the number of people living below the poverty line. But we can always count on Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung Kin-chung to tell us that everything is fine and dandy.

Sarcasm is the saying of seemingly positive words to mean the opposite in order to hurt someone's feelings. Here in the paragraph, the first sentence is telling us a negative message about an increase in the number of poor people in Hong Kong. Yet, the second sentence is seemingly describing the positive work of the Chief Secretary by saying "we can count on..." and that things are "fine". These positive words are in fact further condemning the problem of poverty.

Come and discuss this writing technique with a SEE U teacher. Simply make an appointment by sending an email to: see.u@ccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.