

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

Week 4

#116 Five Successful Teenage Businessmen—Warren Buffet

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What are you most passionate about in life?

Qt 2: Can you name anybody whose passion about making money sprang at the tender age of 14?

Qt 3: Before the age of 16, Warren Buffet managed to make US\$53,000—apparently a great fortune current in the 1940s. What advice will you give to a teenager who desires to amass just as much today?

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (The poor minority in Hong Kong) are as follows:

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

About 1.37 million people are living below poverty line in Hong Kong.

Vocabulary

- hustle (noun): a way of making money, especially a dishonest one
- manipulate (verb): to control something or someone to your advantage
- manual (adjective): involving physical work rather than mental work
- proposition (noun): an offer or suggestion, usually in business

PART 2: Article for Reading

The following article gives an account of the unusual stamina in a young man in his quest for wealth:

6 hustles Warren Buffett used to make \$53,000 by age 16

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-a-young-warren-buffett-made-money-2014-11>

On the year 2018 Forbes 400, Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, ranks number 3 with net worth US\$88.3 billion.

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

If you are interested enough, read Alice Schroeder's *The Snowball: Warren Buffet and the Business of Life* (2008), a 900+ page biography of the man referred to in the article above. Now listen to how Schroeder describes the writing of the book, backed up by full collaboration with the man she was writing about:

Alice Schroeder discusses Warren Buffett and The Snowball
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFhgDdvLFWE>

Listen to a young Warren Buffet talk about expertise and life-long passion: stock investment. To capture every single gem in what he is saying, turn on the auto-generated English subtitles that go with the clip:

Warren Buffett's first television interview - Discussing timeless investment principles
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6HHwOoq9M4>

Warren Buffet today, at age 88:

Warren Buffett advice to young people
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1np5_t24okE

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the arresting remark written into the article posted in Part 1?

Buffett has always had a gift for manipulating money — and people.

A gift is anything to be given away, like a birthday gift. A gift also means a special ability to do something. This is how the word is used in the sentence highlighted above. Another example of its use is as follows:

Billy has a rare gift for singing.

Can you write a sentence of your own using this expression "a gift for doing something"? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.