

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

Week 5

#122 Influential Presidents in the World—George W. Bush

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Like father, like son; or, more generally, like parent, like child. How much do you see in yourself that takes after your parents?

Qt 2: What do other people see in you that reminds them of your parents?

Qt 3: Do you have any influential, powerful parents? How much of their prestige do you think they can pass down to you?

Vocabulary

- conservative (adjective): belonging to or supporting the political party that traditionally supports business and opposes high taxes and government involvement in industry.
- ideology (noun): a set of beliefs or principles.
- bipartisan (adjective): supported by or consisting of two political parties.
- agenda (noun): a list of matters to be discussed at a meeting.
- diplomacy (noun): the management of relationships between countries.
- intersection (noun): the point where two things come together and have an effect on each other.

PART 2: Article for Reading

The story begins with the father.

In a democratic society, political leaders are elected, not appointed. You cannot appoint your own son, or let him succeed you. So, for one Bush after another Bush to get elected into office, it must have taken no small collective willpower of the voting public.

Like father, like son? Not so much in Bush dynasty

<https://www.apnews.com/d401d7276e0d4a9a862bb841c50aebab>

Notice where the article says, Bush, the son, "liked to joke that when he entered presidential politics, he got half his father's friends and all of his enemies."

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

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

George H.W. Bush "gave us unconditional love," George W. Bush says
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlzEjmxnwUM>

Seen as Bush's finest moment, this speech, however, was made against the backdrop of almost unprecedented devastation—9.11:

Bush's best speech
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjarV_mN3QY

Not all Americans bought into Bush:

Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004): Official trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fn-XPs8hFGg>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice this nice description written into the article posted in Part 1?

But it was the package of Bush tax cuts, deep and across the board, that defined his agenda at home and shaped the direction of government well beyond his two terms in office.

The sentence structure goes like this:

It is something + adjectives describing that something + "that" + does something else

Another example of its use, in a somewhat simpler way, is as follows:

It is the students, engaged and responsive, that keep the lecture going so well.

And another sample sentence is this:

It was the hours of video, dull and uninspiring, that shut itself off from the students.

What do you think of your own classes? Get it off your chest. Write a sentence of your own using this structure. Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.