

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

Week 7

#133 Prestigious Universities in the World—Harvard University

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What is the average American Dream?

Qt 2: While in Hong Kong most people are in awe at the mere mention of “Harvard University,” why do you think some Americans are not so keen?

Qt 3: What makes Harvard... well, Harvard?

The answers to Qts 1, 2 and 3 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

The answers to relevant question in the preceding set of exercises (Prestigious Universities in the World—Tsinghua University) are as follows:

Answer to Qt. 1. President Xi’s dream was to build a moderately prosperous society for his country and realize national rejuvenation, among other things. (For an average Chinese youth, though, it might be more specific and short-term: for example, going to Tsinghua when they graduate from high school.)

Vocabulary

- Prestigious (adjective): very much respected and admired.
- Enrollment (noun): the act of putting yourself onto the official list of members of a course, college or university.
- Alma mater (noun): the school, college, or university where you studied.
- Inception (noun): the beginning of official activity.
- Tenure (noun): the right to remain permanently in a job.
- Intellectual (adjective): relating to the ability to think and understand ideas at a high level.
- Coeducation (noun): the teaching of male and female students together.

PART 2: Article for Reading

The oldest institution of higher learning in the US, coupled with a whole host of distinguished alumni... there are indeed a few unalterable facts that make Harvard the university it is today:

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Harvard-University>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

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

The Harvard Mission of Discovery

<https://college.harvard.edu/admissions/why-harvard>

While other less competitive institutions may not be so picky, Harvard does pick and choose what type of students to admit. This might balloon into problems: for example, racial discrimination:

Asian-Americans accuse Harvard of bias

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbYVcjh3maw>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the nice description in the following sentence in the main text?

The university has graduate or professional schools of medicine, law, business, divinity, education, government, dental medicine, design, and public health. The schools of law, medicine, and business are particularly prestigious.

“Particularly” means “very much,” “more than usual,” or “especially.” The use of “particularly” in the writing above helps to highlight what otherwise might sound repetitive. The schools of law, medicine, and business have been mentioned twice, and what is the point? Because these are branches from the university that have thrived “particularly” well, and deserve good mention.

Can you write a sentence of your own using “particularly”? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.