

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

Week 7

#135 Prestigious Universities in the World— Seoul National University

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Private tutoring is an important business in South Korea. Do you know why?

Qt 2: Admission to a top university in South Korea is very competitive. To go to one of the top three is as hard as trying to reach for the sky. “SKY” actually refers to three of the most prestigious universities in South Korea. Do you know what they are?

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

Answer to Qt. 3. Factors to consider might include the academic culture of the host country, reputation of the school, tuition fees charged from overseas students, etc.

Vocabulary

- Documentary (noun): a film or television or radio programme that gives facts and information about a subject.
- Acronym (noun): an abbreviation consisting of the first letters of each word in the name of something, pronounced as a word.
- Gateway (noun): a place through which you have to go to get to another place.
- Status (noun): an accepted or official position.
- Premiere (verb): If a show, film, etc. premieres or if it is premiered, the first public performance or showing takes place.

PART 2: Article for Reading

An acronym for Seoul National University, Korea University and Yonsei University, SKY refers to three of the most prestigious universities in South Korea today. Entry into one of them is seen as “a gateway to a prestigious career and high social status”:

‘Reach for the Sky’ explores pressure to get into South Korean universities

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/reach-sky-explores-pressure-get-south-korean-universities#survey-answer>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about the “Harvard of Korea,” Seoul National University, while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

Seoul National University International Admissions Procedure Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owyOdldrRt4>

Introduction to Seoul National University College of Engineering

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1NqkpHloCU>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice how the word “view” is used in the main text?

Some economists view the level of higher education in South Korea as unnecessary, and argue it has simply become an expensive sorting mechanism to assign people their place in society.

The word “view,” when used as a noun, means literally what you can see, or, an opinion, belief, or a way of thinking about something. When used as a verb, like it is used in the sentence above, to “view” means to express a particular opinion on something. When you “view something as (un)necessary,” you think it is such, and you are aware that people might disagree with you.

Can you write a sentence of your own using the expression “to view... as (un)necessary”? Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.