

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

Week 8

#137 Greatest Frauds in History— Elizabeth Holmes

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: It takes both good looks and plenty of smooth talking to pull off a deception: does Bernie Madoff impress you as such?

Qt 2: At the end of the day, what do you think really drives a successful deception?

Qt 3: How do smart people get deceived?

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

The answers to relevant question in the preceding set of exercises (Greatest Frauds in History- Bernie Madoff) are as follows:

Answer to Qt 3: Examples include Internet scams, dating scams, fake charities, and scams involving employment, investment, threat and extortion.

Vocabulary

- conspiracy (noun): the activity of secretly planning with other people to do something illegal.
- (wire) fraud (noun): fraud is the crime of getting money by deceiving people; wire fraud is the use of electronic communications to deceive people.
- indictment (noun): a formal statement of accusing someone.
- allegation (noun): a statement, made without giving proof, that someone has done something illegal.
- defendant (noun): a person in a law case who is being accused
- misrepresentation (noun): the act of giving false information about something or someone, often in order to get an advantage.
- violation (noun): an action that breaks a law, agreement, rule, etc.
- custody (noun): the state of being kept in prison, especially while waiting to go to court for trial.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read the following article posted by the United States Department of Justice:

U.S. v. Elizabeth Holmes, et al.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndca/us-v-elizabeth-holmes-et-al>

While Bernie Madoff has been sentenced to 150 years of imprisonment, there is no telling where Elizabeth Holmes is heading--but not for long. Holmes will stand trial in August 2020, about a year from now. So, stay tuned.

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

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

Youngest self-made female billionaire takes high-tech approach to blood testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiNFXcl9Rb8>

The rise and fall of Holmes. Now comes the fall. When in doubt, say... "I don't know."

Ex-Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes says 'I don't know' 600+ times in depo tapes

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

PART 4: Writing Practice

Re-read these sentences taken straight from the article posted in Part 1:

According to the indictment, the charges stem from allegations that Holmes and Balwani engaged in a multi-million-dollar scheme to defraud investors, and a separate scheme to defraud doctors and patients

Theranos was a private health care and life sciences company with the stated mission to revolutionize medical laboratory testing through allegedly innovative methods for drawing blood, testing blood, and interpreting the resulting patient data.

It is further alleged that the tests performed on Theranos technology were likely to contain inaccurate and unreliable results.

See for yourself how the word "alleg(ation)" is used over and over again.

An allegation is a statement, made without giving proof, that someone has done something illegal. The key here is "made without giving proof," despite all appearances of a crime. So in legal procedure, an allegation is staged at an early phase. It is, in other words, for a start.

Another example of its use is this:

Jeffrey is demanding a full apology from the newspapers for making untrue allegations about his personal life.

He thinks these allegations have seriously hurt his reputation.

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