

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

Week 1

#151 Five most liveable cities: Vancouver

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What qualities do you think a liveable city should have?

Qt 2: What is the Global Liveability Index?

Qt 3: If you could trade with someone for a place to call home, where would it be?

The answers to Qt 1 & Qt 2 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

Vocabulary

- garner (verb): to collect something, usually with difficulty.
- vantage point (noun): a place, especially a high place, that provides a good, clear view of an area.
- picturesque (adjective): attractive in appearance, especially in an old-fashioned way.
- sustainable (adjective): able to continue over time.
- resort (noun): a place where people go for rest or sport.
- province (noun): the part(s) of a country outside its capital.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Look at it from a typical Hong Kong perspective:

Vienna may be classy, artistic enough, but you fear that you may never fit in; Osaka is close at hand, but you do not speak their language; New York is cosmopolitan, but you probably will not call it liveable....

Vancouver, on the other hand, seems almost ideal.

5 Reasons Why Vancouver is North America's Most Liveable City

<https://rennie.com/rennie-post/5-reasons-why-vancouver-is-north-americas-most-liveable-city/>

The answers to relevant question in the preceding set PART 2 of exercises (English and Chinese – a comparison) are as follows:

Qt1: How does the main difference in the stress patterns of Chinese and English make it hard for English people to learn the Chinese language?

Ans: It is because Chinese is a syllable-timed language but English is a stress-timed language. This makes it hard for Chinese to adapt to the change.

Qt2: What are two common ways in which many Chinese speakers of English handle stress in the English language if they are not aware of the differences in the rhythmic patterns between English and Chinese.

Ans: They assign the stress randomly in a word or put equal emphasis for each syllable in a word.

Qt3: Why do native English speakers find Chinese speakers unnatural in their pronunciation of English?

Ans: It is because Chinese speakers tend to stress every syllable in their words but native English speakers speak with an alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables.

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Watch the following short video clips to learn more about what “liveability” means and how Vancouver is seen by most as a liveable city, while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

What does Liveability mean?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2n0DUAr_6eI

Introduction to Vancouver

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7DNo6uhtf0>

Even if you are not planning live in Vancouver, it might still be worth a visit:

Vancouver - Top best places to see and things to do

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1bTlsWv8sU>

PART 4: Writing Practice

What is “a long time coming”? Read on to the following sentence taken from the article posted in Part 2:

Vancouver has garnered international attention in recent years, but it's been a long time coming.

“A long time coming” here is used to talk about something that arrives or happens after a long time has passed. Perhaps it is something that should have arrived or happened earlier, so that you did not have to wait so long. Another example of its use is this:

Jeffrey is a talented, hard-working athlete, and this award today has been a long time coming.

To you what has been “a long time coming”? Can you write a sentence of your own using the expression? Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.