

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

Week 3

#162 Five influential Hong Kong families: the Hotung family

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: How much do you know about the legendary Hotung family?

Qt 2: Is there a difference between Hotung and Ho? Are these essentially two separate clans?

Qt 3: What do you see that often gets reported by the mass media about the Hotung family today?

Vocabulary

- eminent (adjective): famous, respected, or important.
- Dutch (adjective): belonging to or relating to the Netherlands, its people, or its language.
- Knight(ed) (verb): to give someone the rank of knight.
- self-made (adjective): rich and successful as a result of your own work and not because of family money.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Born of European and Chinese Guangdong descent, Robert Hotung was promised an unusual life that spilled over to the generations after him:

When Sir Robert Hotung died, so did a piece of Hong Kong's history

<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/short-reads/article/2091097/when-sir-robert-hotung-died-so-did-piece-hong>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Watch the following short video clip to learn more about Robert Hotung and his successive families while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

Hong Kong Philanthropist Eric Hotung East Timor Aid & Mercy Ship
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkMHs5_XIFk

PART 4: Writing Practice

In the IELTS Writing and Speaking modules, you can expect your performance to be assessed mostly by native speakers of English. If your topic touches on influential families, Li Ka Shing and his sons might immediately spring to mind, and to you that is a good example. Your assessor, however, might think differently.

Most of Robert Hotung's descendants have adopted a typically Chinese sounding surname, which is "Ho," with Macau's casino owner Stanley Ho (Hung Sun) being a prime example.

In your IELTS test, however, try and cite names of people that are more reflective of an "international" interest. This is to cater to most of the expatriate examiners having heard enough of Chan, Chen, Wong, Wang, Ho or He. Give them, for example, Kadoorie or Hotung.

Now pick a topic involving celebrities. Begin with show business, for example. Try and cite names that are non-(Hong Kong) Chinese. Do this with in mind an intention to impress your expatriate IELTS examiner with your English-language culture. Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.