

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

Week 8

#190 Winner of the Nobel Prize for mathematician in 2020 Furstensberg

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt1: Do you know who is the winner of the new Nobel Prize of mathematics?

Qt2: Do you know what Professor Hillel Furstenberg is famous for?

The answers Qt1 to Qt 2 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (The great mathematician Al-Khwarizmi) are as follows:

Qt1: Have you heard of the famous Moslem mathematician, Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi who lived in the 9th century?

Ans: Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi (died ca. 850) was a Moslem mathematician, astronomer, and geographer and one of the most seminal scientific minds of early Islamic culture.

Qt2: Do you know where the word "algebra" came from?

Ans: To al-Khwarizmi we owe the word "algebra," from the title of his greatest mathematical work, *Hisab al-Jabr wa-al-Muqabala* (Calculation for Integration and Equation)

Vocabulary

- Promising (adj): showing signs of success and potential for success
- Pseudonym (n): a name used by a person in written work instead of his real name
- Mensch (n): a good honest person
- Laureate (n): a person given high honour for his ability

PART 2: Article for Reading

With the help of the above vocabulary explanations, read the following article on Furstensberg posted on You Tube.

Hebrew University professor awarded 'math Nobel'
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hebrew-university-professor-awarded-math-nobel/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following video script posted on YouTube to learn more about Furstensberg while practicing your listening skills:

2020 Abel Prize Winner - Hebrew University's Hillel Furstenberg
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIImQjU1txZE>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the following very nice comparison in the article:

Furstensberg opened up a wealth of new results

Wealth itself refers to a large amount of money. In comparing something, new results here, to wealth here, the writer is telling us of its large quantity. Using this vivid comparison, you can say the following and not actually talking about real money:

e.g., The teacher possesses a wealth of teaching experience.

e.g., The law library provides a wealth of cases for the study of law.

Now, try to think of a few other occasions on which you can apply this comparison. Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.