

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

Week 3

#62 Best English in Asia

Skills/ Objectives: Listening and speaking

PART 1: Before you watch...

Preparatory questions

1. Are you impressed with English spoken by your classmates?
2. Who among your peers speaks the best English? What kind of cultural background do they have?
3. What can you learn your peers?
4. From the vocabulary list below, can you find one appropriate word to complete the following sentence?

Intelligence alone is not enough: you have to have the _____ and ambition to succeed.

Vocabulary

1. Command (noun): a great knowledge of a subject
2. Multi-cultural (adjective): inclusive of people who have different customs and beliefs
3. Drive (noun): strong determination
4. Fluent (adjective): able to speak a language easily
5. Basics (noun): the simplest facts about something

Answer(s) to the relevant questions above will be provided in the next exercise.

Answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises:

Question 4:

The word is "obsolete."

PART 2: Video

See in this video how a Korean interviews people in the Philippines about their knowledge of the English language.

How Often Do Filipinos Speak English? (click the link below to watch the video)

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

(Source: YouTube)

PART 3: Speaking

You may describe someone with the drive to succeed or achieve great goals as "driven." The word "drive" takes the /aɪ/ sound whereas "driven" takes the short /ɪ/ sound. Learn how to pronounce these sounds here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/diphthongs3>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/shortvowel1>

PART 4: Learn further

1. Eye through the lists that rank English proficiency levels in different regions of the world. Note in particular Asia, and see where the list places the Philippines—and of course, Hong Kong.
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/11/which-countries-are-best-at-english-as-a-second-language-4d24c8c8-6cf6-4067-a753-4c82b4bc865b/>
2. The Koreans are apparently quite impressed with the Philippines and their English-language education.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrU2DSmn4Yg>

“Koreans Say Philippines Still the Best Place to Learn English” explains why, with good reason.