

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

Week 4

#66 Professors

Skills/ Objectives: Listening and speaking

PART 1: Before you watch...

Preparatory questions

1. What were your impressions of university teachers before you came to CityU? What are your impressions now?
2. Not all professors are the same: did you know some of the university teachers are just part-timers and they do not even have their own office desks?
3. From the vocabulary list below, can you find one appropriate word to complete the following sentence?

Although he is a part-time teacher John appears to be just as _____ to his work as his full-time colleagues.

Vocabulary

1. Doctorate (noun): the highest degree from a university
2. Welfare (noun): help given by the government
3. Adjunct (adjective): temporary
4. Committed (adjective): willing to give time and energy
5. Petition (noun): a document signed by a number of people demanding action from an authority

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 3:

The answer to this question can be elusive. According to www.outback-australia-travel-secrets.com, the Outback is “not a precise location,” but rather a term that describes “the emptiness, remoteness, and the huge distances of inland Australia.”

Compare this to certain parts of Yuen Long or areas of Hong Kong bordering along Shenzhen.

Question 4:

The word is “game,” used as an uncountable noun.

PART 2: Video

This video captures the plight some university teachers in the US find themselves in: fully qualified to teach but not given full-time employment.

Professors in Poverty (click the link below to watch the video)

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

(Source: YouTube)

PART 3: Speaking

The suffix “ate” as in “doctorate” is pronounced as /ət/, not /eit/. Learn how to pronounce it here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/shortvowel5>

Watch through this 4+ minute video and learn all about what the speaker calls “the most important sound in English.”

PART 4: Learn further

1. “Adjunct teachers to Brooklyn College: Pay us more or students will suffer”
<https://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/41/50/mm-brooklyn-college-professor-protest-2018-12-14-bk.html>
2. Working long past traditional retirement age...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LGLY0yPjgE>

Apparently, in the US today, there is no lack of **tenured** (meaning, given the right to remain permanently in a job) professors still teaching in their 70s.