

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

Week 7

**#83 HSBC**

**Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, speaking, listening and writing skills**

**PART 1: Before you read...**

**Preparatory questions**

1. Which bank are you using? What made you choose that one, given a whole host of banks doing business in Hong Kong?
2. Did you know that to many Hong Kong people of an older generation, HSBC is known as "the Hong Kong Bank," the bank most representative of Hong Kong?
3. Can you say HSBC in its full name?

**Vocabulary**

1. Founding member (adjective + noun): someone who establishes an important organization
2. Inspiration (noun): a sudden good idea
3. Foremost (adjective): leading, the most important or the best
4. Shareholder (noun): a person who owns shares in a company and therefore gets part of the company's profits
5. Holdings (noun): something valuable that is owned, especially investments in a company

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 2:** A selection committee consisting of about 8,000 members—to the exclusion of billions of actual movie-goers.

**Question 3:** For example, BAFTA (Britain), the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival and Awards (Taiwan), and the Hong Kong Film Awards (Hong Kong).

**PART 2: Article for Reading**

HSBC, or the one and only Hong Kong Bank to many, is in fact very much a Scottish bank.

**Company history** (*Click the link to read the article*)

<https://www.about.hsbc.com.hk/our-company/company-history>

### **PART 3: Speaking Skills**

Off the top of your head, think of words like “shareholder” and say them out loud....

Did you say these?

“Stakeholder”

“Cardholder”

“Penholder”

And a bit poetically, “beholder”?

With “**stake**holder” (a much often used word these days), can you say sufficiently differently from “**stick** holder”?

“Stakeholder”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEpMrQv88pw>

### **PART 4: Listening Skills**

#### **1. Top 10 Richest Banks in the World**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOXWd48ng44> (7:25 minutes)

“Give a man a gun, and he can rob a bank; give a man a bank, and he can rob the world.”

On this Top 10 list HSBC stands at a staggering Number 2.

#### **2. HSBC Global Graduate & Intern Programmes**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUCyCvxNT18> (2:09 minutes)

Listen to all the nice things these interns have to say about their work for the bank.

### **PART 5: Writing Practice**

**Write a short response to the following question:**

*You do not have to be studying finance or accounting to work at a bank. Do you find a career in banking an attractive one?*

**Send your writing to: [see.u@cccu.edu.hk](mailto:see.u@cccu.edu.hk).**

**Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give feedback.**