

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

Week 8

#87 The Sung Dynasty (960AD – 1279AD)

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

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Can you name the two dynasties immediately preceding and following the Sung?

Qt 2: Do you know why the North Sung Dynasty collapsed? You can find two reasons in reading the main article named below.

Vocabulary

1. epoch (noun): a period of time when innovations were made.
2. usurp (verb): to take control of something by force .
3. sinecure (noun): a redundant position.
4. pragmatic (adjective): rational and concerned only with the needs of reality rather than theories or idealistic beliefs.
5. menacing (adjective): threatening.
6. emulator (noun): a person or machine designed.
7. assault (noun): violent attack.
8. waterway (noun): a narrow passage for boats, e.g., a canal or river.
9. eave (noun): the edge of the outside roof of a house.
10. celadon (noun): a kind of green pottery which look like jade.

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

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises No. 86: Tang Dynasty (618AD – 960AD) are as follows:

Qt 1: Women at the Tang Dynasty enjoyed a higher status at court and a greater degree of freedom in society.

Qt 2: The literal meaning of Chang'an is "ever-lasting peace".

Writing Practice question:

Invention of the computer has enabled the drawing of design models which might otherwise remain only vaguely imaginable into clear visible forms.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read the following article on the webpage of Encyclopaedia Britannica for a concise account of the Sung Dynasty and its achievements in Chinese history:

Encyclopaedia Britannica : Song Dynasty
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Song-dynasty>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following story about the Sung Dynasty on You Tube:

A brief history of the Sung Dynasty by historians
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nze5ZTldZB8>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Write a short response to the following question:

In reading the main article of Encyclopaedia Britannica, did you realize the following well-expressed sentence at the end of the article?

“For the diversity and richness of its cultural achievements, the Sung dynasty is remembered as one of China’s greatest.”

The expressive words we can learn from this sentence are “For (the feature of a thing), it is remembered as (having a high status)”. An example of a sentence written along this pattern is:

“For her beautiful voice, Whitney Houston was remembered as a superb singer in recent times.”

Can you write a sentence of your own following this pattern and send it to see.u@cccu.edu.hk?

Remember! Practice makes perfect. Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.