

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

Week 4

#119 Five Successful Teenage Businessmen— Bill Gates

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What do you *not* already know about Bill Gates?

Qt 2: Age discrimination, or, in a word, ageism—Have you ever been discriminated against because of your apparent youth and inexperience?

Qt 3: What do you think Bill Gates means when he says, “I was always worried because people who worked for me were older than me...”?

The answers to Qt 1 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (Five Successful Teenage Businessmen—Ingvar Kamrad) are as follows:

Answer to Qt 2: The acronym IKEA is made up of the initials of its founder’s name (Ingvar Kamrad) followed by the initials of two place names important to Kamrad.

Answer to Qt 3: The Nobel Prize, for example.

Vocabulary

- extravagant (adjective): more expensive than is necessary or reasonable.
- indulgence (noun): an occasion when you allow yourself to have something enjoyable, especially more than is good for you.
- modesty (noun): the quality of not talking about or not trying to make people notice your abilities and achievements.
- dropout (noun): a person who leaves school before completing a qualification.
- trait (noun): a particular characteristic that can produce a particular type of behavior.

PART 2: Article for Reading

The following article, written based on a TV interview Gates has given, reveals an often unspoken worry of just about every young successful person:

Bill Gates' biggest worry as a 31-year-old billionaire wasn't Apple or IBM

<https://qz.com/work/1213317/bill-gates-tells-ellen-degeneres-his-biggest-worry-as-a-31-year-old-billionaire/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about this topic while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

Bill Gates chats with Ellen for the first time
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5NJQiY9AuY>

While most rich people find themselves in great fear of losing their fortune, the Gateses are eager to give their money away. Meet Mr. Bill Gates and Mrs. Melinda Gates:

Bill & Melinda Gates talk taxing the wealthy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG3eNG2rO7o>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the nice description in the following sentence in the main text?

Gates embodied perhaps the most important managerial trait: open-minded attentiveness to each individual employee's needs.

This sentence is both lengthy and rather complex. You can write one similar to that, too. Notice that the sentence has the word "trait" written in it, a word highlight in Part 1. A "trait" is a particular characteristic that can produce a particular type of behavior, and here, the type of behavior is "managerial," an adjective meaning "about a manager or how to manage people."

Another example of the use of the word "trait" is as follows:

Chan embodied perhaps the most important academic trait: a genuine interest in each of the courses he is taking.

Can you write a sentence of your own using a similar structure? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.