

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

Week 4

#120 Five Successful Teenage Businessmen— Ma Huateng

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Are you sick and tired of hearing how people say if you can squeeze only one *yuan* from every Chinese you can become a billionaire?

Qt 2: Can you think of a business model that would allow you to do just that? What would you sell? How can you make just one *yuan* off every Chinese citizen? Or, perhaps a mere ten cents?

Qt 3: What is the single most popular stock that is currently being sold and bought everyday on the Hong Kong Exchange?

The answers to Qt 3 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

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

Answer to Qt 1: For example, the fact that Bill Gates has turned himself into a respected philanthropist.

A philanthropist is a person who helps the poor, especially by giving them money, with “phil” meaning love, “anthro” meaning people, and “pist” meaning a person who does the act of loving people. Put it all together and you have the word phil – anthro – pist.

Compare the word to “misanthropist.”

Vocabulary

- ubiquitous (adjective): seeming to be everywhere.
- franchise (noun): a right to sell a company's products in a particular area using the company's name.
- indispensable (adjective): too important not to have; necessary.
- elusive (adjective): difficult to describe, find, or remember.
- skeptical (adjective): doubting that something is true or useful.
- Goliath (noun): a very large and powerful person or organization.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Unlike the much-talked-about Jack Ma, Ma Huateng, or, Pony Ma, keeps a low public profile. Undoubtedly, though, he is the man who has showcased a brilliant answer to Qt 2 above:

Ma Huateng: a scorpion who stays in the shadows

<https://moneyweek.com/481346/ma-huateng-a-scorpion-who-stays-in-the-shadows/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about the man and the company he started at age 27, Tencent, while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

The rise of China's Tencent billionaire

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Te_RgED13e4

You probably already know enough about Wechat, what the video below calls a “super-app,” a “Swiss army knife”:

How China is changing your Internet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAesMQ6VtK8>

PART 4: Writing Practice

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

Some people describe him as a scorpion: he will wait and then strike.

Would you describe somebody as an animal? Be very careful when you do this. Most people do not like to be compared to an animal. Now if you were to describe yourself as such, which animal would you compare yourself to? An example is as follows:

I think I am like a bug. In fact, I would describe myself as an ant: I will stay quiet and labor away.

Can you write a sentence of your own comparing yourself to a nice animal? Send your writing to: **see.u@ccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.