

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

Week 5

#121 Influential Presidents in the World—Jose Mujica

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: How many political figures can you name, like Nelson Mandela, who had been sent to prison before he got elected President?

Qt 2: How much do you know about Uruguay?

Qt 3: With political power comes great fortune. Do you know of any exception to the rule?

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

Answer to Qt 3: Tencent

Vocabulary

- guerrilla (noun): a member of an unofficial military group that is trying to change the government by making sudden, unexpected attacks on the official army forces.
- regime (noun): an unpopular system of government.
- minister (noun): a high-level government official who is in charge of a particular department.
- vision (noun): the ability to imagine how a country, society, industry, etc. could develop in the future.
- inspiration (noun): someone or something that gives you ideas for doing something.
- dignity (noun): calm, serious, and controlled behavior that makes people respect you.
- eccentric (adjective): strange or unusual, sometimes in a humorous way.
- minimalistic (adjective): using the smallest range of materials and resources

PART 2: Article for Reading

President of Uruguay from 2010 - 2015, Jose Mujica--quote straight from the article below, "announced that he'll donate 90 percent of his monthly salary to charities." In addition to that, Mujica "refused to move to the presidential palace and stayed in his 2 bedroom farmhouse, where he lives with his wife. He even kept and drove his 1987 Volkswagen Beetle."

7 valuable life lessons from the President of Uruguay and why it's never too late
<https://medium.com/swlh/7-valuable-life-lessons-from-the-president-of-uruguay->

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High-level government officials elsewhere (for example, Singapore, and perhaps Hong Kong, too) should heed this. But how much will they get it?

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about the man and his beloved country while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

Montevideo Vacation Travel Guide

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXz-erPr8B8>

Uruguayan President Jose 'Pepe' Mujica

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UO3DSCE4QI>

PART 4: Writing Practice

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

Mujica's concept of life and his personal lifestyle are a rare sight in today's world.

A sight is the ability to see. It also means something that is in your view. A "rare sight" is something you do not often see, like former President Mujica. Instead of that, an over-paid, well-fed political leader or government minister is what we too often see. They are a common sight, or you may describe them as ubiquitous.

Do not confuse "sight" with "vision."

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