

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

Week 5

#125 Influential Presidents in the World—Aung San Suu Kyi

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What is a glass ceiling?

Qt 2: In many parts of the world in the past, women's social status has been suppressed. In this day and age, however, do you still see resistance to the rise of women?

Qt 3: What do you think explains the ostensibly low participation rates of women in modern-day politics and government?

The answers to Qts 1 and 3 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (Influential Presidents in the World—Ninoy Aquino) are as follows:

Answer to Qt 2: President Rodrigo Duterte

Answer to Qt 3: Quoted from the article posted last week:

"Ferdinand Marcos was elected Philippine president in 1965 but imposed martial law in 1972 and ruled as a brutal dictator for fourteen more years. The United States backed Marcos almost to the very end. U.S. corporations had major investments in the Philippines, and the Pentagon maintained two important military bases there as well. As always, U.S. military and corporate interests were more important than democracy or human rights."

There is fact mixed with opinion in this quote. Please use discretion.

Vocabulary

- admiration (noun): respect and approval.
- compassion (noun): a strong feeling of sympathy and sadness for the suffering of others and a wish to help them.
- empathy (noun): the ability to share someone else's feelings by imagining what it would be like in that person's situation.
- ingrained (adjective): so firmly held that they are not likely to change.

- house arrest (noun phrase): the legal act of forcing someone to stay at home instead of a prison.
- ethnocentric (adjective): preferring a particular race or culture to all others.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read an excerpt from the book written by Aung San Suu Kyi about his father: “I don't really remember my father at all. I was two years and one month old when he died” —“died,” that is, at only 32, in one of the many political assassinations characteristic of the times.

My Hero: Aung San

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/apr/30/my-hero-aung-san-suu-kyi>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about Aung San (Prime Minister of British Burma) and the iconic Aung San Suu Kyi (State Counsellor of Myanmar) while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

The rise and fall of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi explained
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7pmHD8rqOA>

Aung San Suu Kyi: Nobel Peace Prize Lecture
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NihXxEDFIBM>

Why Aung San Suu Kyi isn't doing more to help Myanmar's Rohingya
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXJ40JNvcSE>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice anything remarkable when Aung San Suu Kyi says “I've never made easy promises”? This is great coming from a politician, although it is a pledge not easy to live up to.

I think all the ethnic nationalities agree that my father was honest with them, and I think they feel the same about me because I've never made easy promises.

Can you write a sentence describing a situation where you could say somebody has “never made easy promises”? Or, can you write about somebody who has made promises they cannot keep? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.