

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

Week 8

#138 Greatest Frauds in History— Jordan Belfort

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Have you seen the movie *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013) starring Leonardo DiCaprio?

Qt 2: "Greed is good." Where is this all-familiar line from? Which movie (other than *The Wolf of Wall Street*)?

Qt 3: Are you aware of the real man portrayed in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, one by the name of Jordan Belfort?

The answers to Qt 2 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

The answers to relevant question in the preceding set of exercises (Greatest Frauds in History-Elizabeth Holmes) are as follows:

Answer to Qt 2: Greed on the part of the deceived.

Answer to Qt 3: Smart people can be greedy—and too lazy to check facts.

Vocabulary

- brokerage (noun): an organization that buys and sells foreign money, shares in companies, etc. for other people.
- manual (adjective): done with the hands; not to be confused with "menu."
- proposition (noun): an offer or suggestion, usually in business.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Meet the man whose business motto was "Don't hang up until the client buys or dies":

Crime Museum: Jordan Belfort

<https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/white-collar-crime/jordan-belfort/>

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:

The Wolf of Wall Street *Official Trailer*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iszwuX1AK6A>

'Wolf of Wall Street' Jordan Belfort's next chapter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE889933-Ds>

The Wolf of Wall Street Jordan Belfort teaches you how to earn millions of dollars
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obr2E-dpICE>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice this sentence written in the main text?

Belfort decided that it was in his best to interest to hide his illegal profits from the government by opening a Swiss bank account.

Notice that use of the expression "in somebody's best interest to do something." Positioning yourself in your best interest seems to be the right thing to do, although you have to be aware that what is in your best interest may not be benefiting others. In fact, you may even be considered just behaving selfishly.

In this case, Belfort went into the trouble of opening a Swiss bank account—to “hide his illegal profits.”

What have we often heard about people owning a Swiss bank account? Sadly enough.

Another example of the use of the same expression is this:

Despite what everyone is saying about Jeffrey, he believes he is only acting in his best interest.

Can you write a sentence of your own using this expression “in somebody's best interest to do something”? Send your writing to: see.u@ccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.