

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

Week 9

#142 Five Powerful Women: Empress Masako

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What do fairy tales tell us about how a princess looks and the kind of life she lives?

Qt 2: If you could marry a prince, would you jump at the opportunity?

Qt 3: What kind of life do you think a real-life princess lives?

Vocabulary

- daunting (adjective): making you feel slightly worried about your ability to achieve something.
- impeccable (adjective): without mistakes or faults; perfect.
- intelligence (noun): the ability to learn and understand things quickly and easily.
- gargantuan (adjective): very large.

PART 2: Article for Reading

This article compares Princess Diana and Empress Masako, from around the time they each decided to marry a prince:

***Masako Owada: The Woman Who Just Became Japan's New Empress
Weathering the Storm to Emerge as Empress***

<https://savvytokyo.com/masako-japans-new-empress/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Life for Princess Masako has been no bed of roses: "In 2004 it was announced that she had been diagnosed with an adjustment disorder and was undergoing medical treatment." Watch the following short video clips to learn more about Princess, and later, Empress Masako:

Japan Crown Princess Masako Lifestyle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRF5ivCJCa4>

Inside The Lives of Japan's Royal Family

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apela6uHLoU>

PART 4: Writing Practice

In the article posted in Part 2, Emperor Naruhito is quoted as saying:

"[My wife] has worked hard to adapt to the environment of the Imperial Household for the past 10 years, but from what I can see, I think she has completely exhausted herself in trying to do so."

"To exhaust oneself in doing something" means to tire oneself out in the process of doing something. Another example of its use is as follows:

Having been criticized for his performance at school, Billy has since worked so hard now he seems to have exhausted himself in doing so.

Can you write a sentence of your own using the expression "to exhaust oneself in doing something"? Send your writing to: **see.u@ccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.