

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

Week 9

#144 Five Powerful Women: Angela Merkel

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: For many years now she has been Number 1 on the Forbe's list of the World's Most Powerful Women: who is Angela Merkel?

Vocabulary

- stature (noun): the good reputation a person or organization has, based on their behavior and ability.
- hit (noun): an unpleasant or negative effect.
- diminished (adjective): reduced in size, importance, or value.
- top (verb): to be the most important, most successful, etc.

PART 2: Article for Reading

While South Korean President Park Geun-hye and British Prime Minister Theresa May are now history, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has the staying power unrivalled by most modern female leaders:

Angela Merkel clings to top spot in Forbes 100 most powerful women list

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/01/angela-merkel-theresa-may-forbes-100-most-powerful-women-list>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Learn all the essential facts about Angela Merkel in 8 minutes:

What Angela Merkel's exit means for Germany — and Europe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Eb4KVw4nE>

PART 4: Writing Practice

This appears in the article posted in Part 2:

Her stature may have taken a hit after the recent German elections, in which she won a fourth term as chancellor with diminished authority, but Angela Merkel remains the most powerful woman in the world, according to Forbes.

A “hit” may mean many things, but in this context, “hit” means a negative impact. So when Angela Merkel’s stature takes a hit, that means her importance or influence as a political leader has suffered a decline. Another example of its use is as follows:

Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic activity, so when consumers take a hit, so does the economy.

Can you write a sentence of your own using the expression “to take a hit”? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.