

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

Week 1

#153 Five most liveable cities: San Francisco

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What do immigrants to the US mean when they speak of the “green card”?

Qt 2: Why do we hear so much about the US in the Hong Kong mass media?

Qt 3: Which part of the US are you most familiar with?

The answers to Qt 1 & Qt 2 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

Vocabulary

- parameter (noun): a fixed limit that establishes how something should be done.
- lapse (verb): to end something, either intentionally or accidentally, that might be continued or that should continue.
- infrastructure (noun): the basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organization uses in order to work effectively.
- unrest (noun): disagreement or fighting between groups of people.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Dubbed “leader of the free world,” the US is still many people’s dream of a country to live in, despite its many problems. To generations of Chinese people, San Francisco will not have been an unfamiliar name. Still considered a liveable American city, San Francisco seems to be losing some of its appeal:

San Francisco less liveable now than 10 years ago, says report

<https://sf.curbed.com/2017/8/23/16193080/economist-global-liveability-rankings-sf>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Watch the following short video clips to learn more about San Francisco and people’s fascination with that city, while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

San Francisco city guide - Lonely Planet travel video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGiDy_R5mIU

If you have seen enough Hollywood movies, you have already seen much of San Francisco. Here is a small selection of movie shots on location in San Francisco:

San Francisco movies that make the city look good

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jh1kG5u0OE>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you hear it say in the first video posted above--

...anyone who has clung on to the side of the iconic cable car.

And—

Completed in 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge is the most iconic landmark in San Francisco...

“iconic” here means very famous or popular, especially being considered to represent particular opinions or a particular time.

“iconic,” an adjective, stems from the word “icon,” which most of us know when we click away on the computer screen, but to some people the word has a rather strong religious flavor: a painting, usually on wood, of Jesus Christ, or of a person considered holy by some Christians.

If the cable car and the Golden Gate Bridge are considered iconic to San Francisco, what would you call just as iconic to Hong Kong? Write your ideas to us. Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.