

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

Week 6

#177 Five prestigious awards: The Pulitzer Prize

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: When you buy a book with “Winner of the Pulitzer Prize” featured on its cover, would that add to your confidence in the quality of the writing?

Qt 2: The Pulitzer Prize is an important recognition for many aspiring writers. What is the Pulitzer Prize?

Qt 3: Can you pronounce the word “Pulitzer” in the Pulitzer Prize? Do you say /'pʊlɪtsə/? Or /'pju:lɪtsə/? Or /'pʌlɪtsə/?

The answer to Qt 3 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

Vocabulary

- exceptional (adjective): much greater than usual, especially in skill or intelligence.
- inception (noun): the beginning of an organization or official activity.
- intriguing (adjective): interesting to someone, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious.
- acumen (noun): skill in making correct decisions and judgments in a particular subject, such as business or politics.
- exposé (noun): a public report of the facts about a situation, especially one that is shocking or has been kept secret.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Since 1917 prizes have been awarded to some of the best minds working in journalism, literature and musical composition. To this day the Pulitzer Prize has stood the test of time and has become an award many serious writers aspire to:

The History and Importance of the Pulitzer Prize

<https://blog.bookstellyouwhy.com/bid/230097/the-pulitzer-prize-95-years-of-recognizing-excellence>

Now, eye through these lengthy lists of awardees over the years, and see who you can recognize:

Pulitzer Prize: American Award

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pulitzer-Prize>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Watch the following short video to learn more about an American writer who has won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for a total of four times:

Robert Frost - American Poet & Four-time Pulitzer Prize Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2stTH-rtq8>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Like the Nobel Prize, the awarding of the prizes sometimes sparks controversy, and the Pulitzer Prize has met with the same:

In 1974, the three-person jury for Fiction actually nominated Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow for the award, but in an incredibly controversial decision, the committee overturned the nomination and chose to give no award instead.

Now imagine yourself having just been nominated for a prestigious award. Then, in a curious turn of events you are told that you are being written off from the nomination. Write a brief letter of appeal to the selection committee. Begin your letter with—

Dear honourable members of the Selection Committee, [...]

Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.