

K-DRAMA

Night

Text Type: Interview
Suggested finishing time: 15 mins



Listen!

Let's Think!

1. What TV programmes do you watch?
2. Why do you like to watch them?

Larry: Welcome to *Larry's Nightly Show*! I'm Larry! Tonight, we're going to discuss the hottest current Korean TV Drama, *A Beautiful Family*. We're very honoured to have several friends here with us: Professor Joseph Lee, a psychologist from the University of Hong Kong; Park Seon-hye, Peter, the screenwriter; and Macy Kim and Steve Song, the leading actor and actress in the drama, who have been widely touted for their remarkable acting. Welcome you all!

Steve & Mary: Annyeonghaseyo from 'A Beautiful Family'!

Larry: Annyeonghaseyo. Before we move on, let me briefly introduce the drama to those who are falling behind: this is about the stories of a family in which the eldest daughter is an actress. So, what makes your drama worth binge-watching?

Peter: Well, I would say 'everything'—the tears and laughter surrounding an ordinary family with a good-looking yet deaf daughter, who coincidentally happens to fall in love with a tycoon in the film industry; and the heartwarming stories between them! The plot is certainly appealing!

Steve: It is! Especially since the arrogant tycoon loses his heart to the tough, gorgeous lady. Macy played the role of a delicate-looking lady so well.

Macy: My dear...thanks for your compliment, and literally 'everything' in this drama is so enticing. I did enjoy working with such a professional team, and I especially missed dressing in various splendid, fashionable clothes throughout the shooting! I know some of the viewers are looking for the accessories and cosmetics I have used in the drama too!

Larry: This drama is definitely the latest trend in town. Professor, what's your opinion?

Joseph: I think peer influence contributes a lot to its success. When everybody is talking about a drama in vogue, you may become so curious that you will irresistibly consider watching it to make sure that you are up to date with the craze as well.

Larry: Agreed! It's unbelievable how much attention its first episode has received online. Pete, as an experienced screenwriter, you know very well what the audience loves watching, don't you?

Peter: Well, we all fantasise about fame, love and money; such elements make enthralling stories.

Macy: That's why we actors and actresses are always snooped on! I've come across fans who are very curious about my everyday life, though we're only ordinary people behind the scene.

Peter: Perhaps the fanatics have not detached themselves from the story? By the way, if the first episode manages to engage the audience, the drama's rating will usually hit an all-time high. More importantly, Macy's fluent command of sign language and exemplary portrayal of a deaf girl were so unexpected. This has helped draw a lot of attention from the media...

~420 words

Looking into Grammar

Gerund > verb + *-ing*

✓ I enjoy **listening** (✗ to listen) to music.

Bare infinitive > verb in its base form

✓ She makes me **smile** (✗ to smile).

? Circle TWO verbs, one followed by a gerund and the other by a bare infinitive in the interview.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the interview. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. In line 5, 'widely touted' means _____.

- A. gossiped about by others
- B. praised by many people
- C. viewed from different angles
- D. ignored by other actors

1 Consider why *A Beautiful Family* has become the hottest Korean TV Drama.

2. What is NOT true about Peter?

- A. He knows what the audience likes to watch.
- B. He wrote the screenplay for the drama.
- C. He has over 10 years of experience in screenwriting.
- D. He thinks Macy's acting in the drama was terrific.



6. What makes the drama successful?

- I. the appealing storyline
- II. Steve's and Macy's performances
- III. peer influence
- IV. the new fashion trend

- A. I and II
- B. II and III
- C. I, II and III
- D. I, II, III and IV

6 The drama's success may not be attributed solely to the screenwriter.

3. In line 15, the word 'compliment' means a remark that _____.

- A. expresses thanks
- B. shows admiration
- C. shows agreement
- D. is not sincere



4. Read line 31. The word 'This' refers to _____.

- A. the drama
- B. the sign language
- C. Macy's professional acting
- D. the audience reacting positively to the first episode of the drama

More to Take Away

TV dramas are also called 'soap operas', as they used to be sponsored or produced by soap manufacturers.

Moral

We may all feel vulnerable to the ups and downs in life. Some people find unrealistic TV dramas soothing because indulging in fantasies that are beyond their reach may help them de-stress.

 **Self-evaluation Checklist**

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the interview. For question 1, answer in a complete sentence.

1 Focus only on what Peter says and pay attention to any cohesive device.

1. According to Peter, which TWO factors make *A Beautiful Family* popular?

2. Look at the following pronouns and answer who/what they refer to in the interview.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
them	line 12	(i)
its	line 20	(ii)
we	line 26	(iii)

3. Determine whether each of the following statements is true, false, or undecidable because not enough information is given.

Statement	True	False	Not Given
(i) Some people watch a drama because their friends are watching it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Some people want to know about actors' and actresses' private lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) The drama's rating hit an all-time high.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Some viewers couldn't resist watching the spoilers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Which of the following items are mentioned in the interview? Mark each picture with a tick (✓) in the box if it is mentioned and a cross (✗) if it is not.

4 Read the passage to see if any keywords associated with the pictures can be located.



Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the pictures below with the types of TV programmes from the word box.

reality show

sitcom (situation comedy)

soap opera

talent show

documentary

animation

talk show

→ : Yes

→ : No

BEGIN HERE!

The TV show aims not to educate, but entertain.

The airtime is spent on voicing personal opinions, not on reporting facts.

It purports to be based on real events.

Competitions are held on stage.



1.



2.



3.



4.

It is made using graphic art.

It dramatises the comical moments of a fixed group of people (e.g. a family) in a fixed set of situations (e.g. family dinner).

It is targeted mainly at children and teenagers.



5.



6.



7.

Let's Discuss!

1. Do you binge-watch?
2. Do you watch any non-local TV channels? Why or why not?