



Listen!

Text Type: Newspaper article  
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins

# SELFIE FIASCO: WOMAN GLUED ON ROOFTOP LEDGE FROM TERROR

Susie Lo

[1] What is the price of cheating death? It could be, at worst, a fatal injury that leaves one paralysed forever or, at best, nothing. Is there anything in between? Yesterday, a woman who went up to the rooftop of a ten-storey residential building for a selfie was stuck on the rooftop ledge after accomplishing the mission, horrified.

[2] Liu, 40, is obsessed with taking 'killfies', selfies that are taken at deadly dangerous spots. At around 3 o'clock in the afternoon yesterday, Liu made her way up to the rooftop of a ten-storey apartment building in Sham Shui Po, which has recently been a hot spot for taking risky selfies. Opposite the

popular site stood another building, whose façade was transformed into a mural named *Rainbow Thief* by Spanish artist Okuda San Miguel. Fascinated by the massive mural, Liu was there only to take a selfie, which would have the artwork as the backdrop. Having more than 25,000 followers on Instagram, Liu said, 'This building, perhaps even the entire community, now has a new lease of life thanks to Okuda's masterpiece. And I knew a selfie taken there would surely surprise and thrill my followers on Instagram.'

[3] Liu's quest for the selfie did not end well. After getting onto the ledge of the rooftop with a wooden ladder, she

captured both Okuda's work and herself at once with her smartphone. Just as she was about to climb down and leave, it struck her that she could not. 'I looked down and found that the ladder was broken. The ledge was more than a metre tall and I was too petrified to jump. All I could do was to yell for help,' she recalled. The firefighters arrived at the scene and came to her rescue fifteen minutes



## STEAM

Geometry is a branch of mathematics that looks into angles, shapes and the relationships of points and lines. Geometric shapes, such as circles and triangles, are shapes that have uniform measurements and thus rarely appear in nature. Completely opposite to geometric shapes, organic shapes are irregular and associated with things in nature, such as leaves and animals.

after a pedestrian heard Liu, who by then had remained there for about 10 minutes, as she later claimed.

[4] 'If I had been calmer, I would definitely have dialled for help at the very first myself. But I was too afraid, too afraid of losing balance and falling off the edge. It was no doubt the most traumatic experience I have ever had so far in my life,' Liu said. Mrs Ho, the witness who called for help, reported, 'At first glance, I thought she was going to jump, so I dialled 999 right away. But then, I realised that she was stuck there when I saw her waving slightly, apparently gesturing for assistance. I was overwhelmed by what I saw and my heart was literally throbbing hard out of concern and unease.'

[5] At last, Liu was brought down by the firefighters without a scratch with the help of an aerial ladder. A rescue air cushion was deployed beforehand for fear of falling accidents. The whole rescue operation lasted approximately twenty minutes.

[6] Liu's case is a relatively fortunate one. Last year in June, a couple in Manhattan went up to the top of a skyscraper in the city in pursuit of an extreme selfie, and ended up having their lives taken after failing to keep their balance. According to a study published

by the Department of Psychology at the University of Green Isle, there have been at least 256 deaths worldwide that are linked to selfie-taking accidents, and the trend seems to show no sign of abating, which is worrying to the study's researchers.

[7] Among the chief researchers of the study was Professor Lucas Leung, who expressed serious concern over the death toll as well as its implications. 'Selfies themselves cannot be, and are not supposed to be, dangerous. The danger, in truth, lies in where and how the selfie is taken. Is it taken near a volcano? Or at the top of a high-rise commercial building? Or just near the edge of a cliff? All of these locations have been where people lost their lives. But I think people still risk their lives after so many deaths because many individuals, especially youngsters, put their own vanity before safety. They think these selfies are cool and then dismiss the possibility of themselves making mistakes. And very often, that ignored possibility is the reason why injuries and deaths occur.'

~700 words

### More to Take Away

Okuda San Miguel is a Spanish painter and sculptor. He is renowned for the characteristics of his work, the most distinctive of which is the harmonious use of geometric shapes and multicoloured prints, which helps create a 3D illusion in his pieces of art. Okuda's most notable work is Kaos Temple, whose interior was painted by him in 2015.

### Looking into Grammar

The sentence pattern 'Subject + verb + object + present participle' can be used to talk about one's sensation of a continuous action from one's point of view.

- ✗ Look! I can see five dolphins swim towards us!
- ✓ Look! I can see five dolphins swimming towards us!

🔍 Underline a similarly structured sentence in paragraphs 4-7.

## Part A Multiple Choice Questions

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

1. The article is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Liu's experience of injuring herself in Sham Shui Po
  - B. the selfie craze in Hong Kong
  - C. the addiction to killfie-taking
  - D. the relation of Liu's experience to the trend of risky selfies
2. According to paragraphs 1 and 2, which of the following is NOT true?
- A. Liu managed to take the selfie she wanted.
  - B. Liu was left paralysed after the accident.
  - C. Liu thought Okuda's artwork changed Sham Shui Po positively.
  - D. Liu's sole purpose of going to the rooftop was to take a photo.
3. In paragraph 3, the words 'quest' and 'petrified' can be replaced by '\_\_\_\_\_', and '\_\_\_\_\_' respectively.
- A. pursuit...exhausted
  - B. attempt...distracted
  - C. attempt...nervous
  - D. pursuit...frightened
4. Liu remained on the rooftop ledge for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. around ten minutes
  - B. less than fifteen minutes
  - C. almost twenty-five minutes
  - D. more than thirty minutes
5. Mrs Ho was very probably to be feeling \_\_\_\_\_ when she first spotted Liu.
- A. upset and frightened
  - B. anxious and tense
  - C. hopeless and scared
  - D. composed and confident
6. Liu \_\_\_\_\_ during the rescue operation.
- A. was safely carried to the ground
  - B. was saved by the rescue air cushion
  - C. suffered a minor injury
  - D. panicked and was calmed by the firefighters
7. In paragraph 6, the study's researchers worried that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the influence of social networking sites would become too overwhelming
  - B. there would be more casualties due to the trend
  - C. the trend would develop even more quickly
  - D. more youngsters would become addicted to killfie-taking
8. Professor Lucas Leung probably hopes that people would \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. stop taking selfies
  - B. avoid taking photos outdoors
  - C. be more careful not to make mistakes
  - D. consider their safety first at all times

5 One's feelings can be expressed in a rather implicit manner.



Strategy



Strategy

4 Pay attention to the cohesive devices.



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 newspaper article. For question 2, answer in a complete sentence.

1. Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘cheating death’?

- A. managing to stay alive                       B. pretending to be dead  
 C. sustaining fatal injuries                       D. doing something extremely risky



2. Why did Liu want to take a photo of herself and the mural?

2 What did Liu think of the mural and the community?

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3. Look for words in the newspaper article that are similar in meaning to the following:

- |   |       |             |
|---|-------|-------------|
| (i) the view behind something in focus ( <i>n.</i> )          | _____ | (para. 1-2) |
| (ii) used effectively to respond to a situation ( <i>v.</i> ) | _____ | (para. 4-5) |
| (iii) in advance ( <i>adv.</i> )                              | _____ | (para. 5-6) |

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

Statement	True	False	Not Given
(i) Couples in Manhattan enjoy taking extreme selfies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) For the researchers at the University of Green Isle, the number of deaths associated with killfies was not much of a matter for consideration.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Professor Leung thinks that personal pride makes some people disregard the dangers of killfie-taking.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Put the correct letters in the boxes by matching each quote with its most likely speaker.

5 First figure out who or what the pronouns refer to.

A. Professor Lucas Leung

B. Ms Liu

C. Mrs Ho

- (i) ‘What I saw today still haunts me. I do hope she’s fine now.’
- (ii) ‘The price you pay for these shots is more than you can imagine. Think twice.’
- (iii) ‘Now I’m wide awake and I’m never risking my life once again in the future.’



6. Who is Professor Lucas Leung most likely to be worried about? Explain your answer.

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## Part C Vocabulary Bank

Match the words for describing personal qualities and behaviour in the left column with the descriptions in the right column. Write the correct letters in the boxes.

A. obsessive

B. peer-driven

C. addictive

D. attention-seeking

E. self-centred

F. narcissistic

G. arrogant

H. absurd

1.  acting with the purpose of bringing oneself into the spotlight

2.  showing too much interest in and admiration for oneself

3.  of such a kind that is difficult to resist after the first try

4.  motivated by considerations about the judgments of one's peers, such as fear of their disapproval

5.  ridiculously unreasonable and confusing, especially when presented as something reasonable and obvious

6.  behaving in an air of supposed superiority

7.  doing or thinking about doing something more often than the average person would consider normal

8.  concerned solely with one's own desires, needs, or interests

### Word Craft

#### Claimed (Refer to P.59.)

As short words save space, they are common in news writing. Some short words are chosen in news writing not only for their being short, but also for their sounding dramatic.

- e.g.** act (v.) (=take action)  
lash (v.) (=criticise harshly)  
ban (n.) (=prohibition)  
link (n.) (=connection)

### Let's Discuss!

1. Have you ever tried to take a so-called perfect selfie at all costs? Why or why not?
2. In your opinion, what drives people to risk their own lives for taking 'killfies'? Share your thoughts.

## Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the comments with the appropriate adjectives introduced on the previous page.



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook news post. The post is from 'WYC NEWS' and is titled 'Teen failed to take a 'killfie' and fell to death'. The post has 1,121 reactions (represented by two sad face emojis), 222 comments, and 320 shares. The background of the post is a black and white photograph of a city skyline at night. To the left of the post is the Facebook navigation menu, which includes options like News Feed, Messenger, Marketplace, Events, Pages, Groups, Friend Lists, On This Day, Pages Feed, Find Friends, Photos, and Games. Below the navigation menu are options to 'Create Ad Page Group Event'. The comments section shows three comments from Marcia Hales, Lucas Martin, and Charlotte Sin, each with a circular profile picture and a timestamp.

WYC NEWS  
@wycnews  
News Feed

Messenger  
Marketplace  
Events  
Pages  
Groups  
Friend Lists  
On This Day  
Pages Feed  
Find Friends  
Photos  
Games

Create  
Ad Page Group Event

Teen failed to take a 'killfie' and fell to death  
😞😞 1,121 222 comments 320 shares

Marcia Hales  
I think taking selfies is largely a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ act. People take selfies because their friends do so. They do that to get the most 'likes' and comments from their friends. They are being (2) \_\_\_\_\_, wanting absolutely anybody to take notice of them. They build their happiness and self-esteem on how many 'likes' they receive. It's quite miserable.  
1hr

Lucas Martin  
Taking selfies is fine, but the problem is that sometimes people have become way too (3) \_\_\_\_\_ about it. Very often it's the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ones, those who can't get enough of their own good looks, who find it so (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that they have millions of selfies, all taken from the same angle, in their phones. But, at least, it's understandable. What isn't is that some would bet their lives for a 'perfect' selfie. Seriously? That's really (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to me.  
54m

Charlotte Sin  
Trust me, it's vain to persuade those addicts to stop risking themselves for 'likes' on social networking sites. A (7) \_\_\_\_\_ person is sort of like a stubborn person, forever living in their own world where no one else exists. That's why, having garnered a sea of 'likes', they may grow into (8) \_\_\_\_\_ individuals, thinking the others are inferior creatures whose words don't matter.  
32m