



Module E Unit 10

Training 1.1 (p.75)

Announcer : You are Vanessa Chong, the host of a radio programme. You are interviewing Walter Mak, a recovered drug addict. Listen to the conversation and complete the timeline below.

Vanessa : Hello, this is Vanessa Chong and welcome to *City Life*. With us tonight is Walter Mak, a recovered drug addict. Hi, Walter. Thanks for agreeing to be our guest tonight.

Walter : It's my pleasure. I'm happy to share my story with others.

Vanessa : That's great. So first of all, can you tell us when you were first exposed to drugs?

Walter : Well, I started when I was quite young. ^① In 1993, when I was 12 years old.

Vanessa : So, did you start taking drugs when you were 12?

Walter : ^② No, but that was the year my father lost his job. We were already very poor, and after losing his job, my father met the wrong people and helped them deliver drugs.

Vanessa : Were you involved in it?

Walter : Yes, but at first I didn't realise it. ^③ It was in 1994, I started delivering drugs for money. I didn't think it was wrong at the time. I just wanted to help my father earn money.

Vanessa : ^④ So when did you actually start taking drugs?

Walter : A year later, in 1995. One day after the delivery, the man paid me money and gave me a bag of pills. They were

ketamine. On my way home, I tried one. That's the first time I took drugs. I was only 14 years old.

Vanessa : So you were 14 the first time you took drugs. Did your father know?

Walter : I think he did, but he never said anything at that time. I continued to deliver the drugs, and the man continued to give me ketamine. At the beginning, I only took them when I felt stressed. ^⑤ But a year later, in 1996, I was addicted to them.

Vanessa : So, you became addicted to drugs in 1996. So you needed a lot of money to buy the drugs, right?

Walter : ^⑥ Yes, I started selling drugs in order to earn enough money to buy drugs. It was in 1997.

Vanessa : Did the school know about that?

Walter : No, they didn't. I sold the drugs outside the school and I was very cautious. Later, they started to suspect me of taking drugs, because my marks got worse and I failed all my subjects. Then I was expelled from school in 1998.

Vanessa : That's sad. So what did you do next?

Walter : I tried to stop taking drugs at first, but it didn't work. I was seriously addicted. ^⑦ So my parents put me in a drug recovery programme in Sai Kung. That was in 2000.

Vanessa : So in 2000, you entered a drug recovery programme. How long were you in the programme?

Walter : ^⑧ I was released from the programme in 2002.

Vanessa : What did you do after that?

Walter : ⁹ After the recovery programme, I took a computer course in the same year.

Vanessa : Did the computer course help you?

Walter : Yes, it did. The course equipped me with technical skills and helped me stay focused.

Vanessa : That's very good. Then you got a job, got married and have a daughter. Is that right?

Walter : Yes, that's right. ¹⁰ I got a job in 2004 and ¹¹ then I got married in 2007.

Vanessa : What kind of job is it?

Walter : ¹² I have a job at a local school. That's where I met my wife. ¹³ After we got married in 2007, ¹² our daughter was born in the following year.

Vanessa : That's really fantastic, Walter. I'm really happy to hear that everything has worked out for you. *

Training 2.1 (pp.78-79)

Announcer : Situation.

You are Melissa Sung. You have interviewed a social worker and you need to write an article about his life and work. You are listening to the interview. As you listen, fill in the note sheet below. Then read the Data File and complete the task on the next page.

You now have two minutes to read the note sheet and the Data File.

Melissa : Thank you for taking the time to meet with me, Dr Man.

Dr Man : It's my pleasure.

Melissa : May I start by asking you why you decided to be an addiction and recovery counsellor for drug addicts?

Dr Man : That's a long story, and I guess it begins in my childhood. ^{T6} When I was 9 or 10 years old, I had an uncle who became a drug addict. Because of his addiction, he lost his steady job and wonderful family.

Melissa : So did this experience make you want to become a counsellor?

Dr Man : I really think so. It was hard for everyone in my family. ^{T7} We could see how the drugs hurt my uncle and his family.

Melissa : I'm sure it was sad to see how the drugs hurt your uncle and his family.

Dr Man : Thankfully, my uncle has now recovered, but those few years had a great impact on me. I decided to get involved. ^{T8} So at weekends, I volunteered to help teenagers who were in drug recovery programmes. That was a great experience, and from then on, I knew I wanted to be a counsellor.

Melissa : Did you get involved in other activities?

Dr Man : ^{T9} Besides spending my weekends helping teenagers in drug recovery programmes, I also worked with a school social worker. ^{T10} I helped her with students who were at risk of taking drugs.

Melissa : I'm sure that was also a rewarding experience, working with a school social worker and helping students who were at risk of taking drugs.

Dr Man : It really was. So after I graduated from university, I returned to Hong Kong to work at the New Life Centre.

Melissa : Can you tell me about your work at the New Life Centre?

Dr Man : My work can be divided into 3 parts. ^{T11} The first step is to help drug addicts regain strength. They have to regain strength before they can move forward.

Melissa : So, first they have to regain strength?

Dr Man : That's right. ^{T⑤} Then I help the addicts rebuild trust with their families.

Melissa : That must be very difficult.

Dr Man : Yes, helping addicts rebuild trust with their families can be difficult, because it involves husbands, wives, children, parents, etc.

Melissa : So everyone in the family has to work together to rebuild trust.

Dr Man ^{T⑥} : That's right, and once that trust is rebuilt, I help addicts reintegrate into society again. This last part is very important as many addicts have low self-esteem. And reintegrating into society again helps recovering addicts build their self-esteem.

Melissa : Thank you, Dr Man, that's all very interesting. The last thing now — what advice would you give to young people or drug addicts?

Dr Man : There are 2 things. ^{T⑦} One, remember that there are no mistakes but only lessons in life. It's much easier to blame others or ourselves for our problems. ^{T⑧} And the second thing is — we all have the power to heal ourselves. Our strength comes from within ourselves.

Melissa : That's very useful advice, Dr Man. Thank you for your time today. *