

Text A

Flat B, 33/F, Block A,
Versailles Ville,
Discovery Bay,
Lantau, HK
10th December, 2004

Dear Dad,

How are you? I'm writing to tell you all about Hong Kong. I'm living in Discovery Bay which is very clean and modern. There are lots of trees, flowers and playgrounds here. I work for a nice family in their big house. I have my own room. It's not very big, but it is comfortable. I have a bed, a wardrobe and some drawers in my room. I quite like working there and my employer is fair.

Some of my friends and relatives are not so lucky. Cousin Gloria lives in a small house with twelve girls. She shares a small bedroom with three girls. There is only one bed and Gloria sometimes sleeps on the floor. The house is in a village called Nim Shue Wan which is south of Discovery Bay. Three hundred Filipina domestic workers live there, but there aren't many houses in the village. Some of the houses are old and crowded. I'm glad that I don't live there. Gloria says there are not enough rubbish bins and there are rats near her house. Gloria's employer does not want her to live with his family. My salary is \$4000 a month but Gloria's is only \$3860 a month. I don't pay rent because I live in my employer's house but Gloria pays \$1500 a month! Her employer gives her \$700 a month for rent but it is not enough. I get \$500 a month for food, but Gloria only gets \$300. Food is very expensive in Discovery Bay! Poor Gloria, she's having an awful time here.

I think I'll introduce her to my friend Angela. Angela lives in Nim Shue Wan, but she's happier than Gloria. Angela doesn't want to live in her employer's house. She doesn't want to eat Chinese food or Western food. She doesn't want to speak English in her free time. She doesn't want to sit alone in the evenings in a little room. She likes living in Nim Shue Wan because she has lots of Filipina friends there. I can understand that, but I like my little room and I quite like my new job.

I'm going to go to church now so I'll say bye-bye. I can't wait to see you at Christmas in the Philippines! I will write again soon!

Love,

Connie

PS. Gloria is unhappy because she cannot go home for Christmas.

(Adapted from TeleNex, <http://www.telenex.hku.hk>)



Text B

Once upon a time, there was a pretty girl called Cinderella. Her father had died many years before and she lived with her stepmother and two ugly sisters. They were all very unkind to Cinderella. They always told her to do the housework and gave her little to eat.

One day the prince invited all the girls in the country to go to his party at the palace because he was looking for a wife. Cinderella wanted to go too but her stepmother said, "No, you can't go because you have to do the housework." Poor Cinderella was very disappointed and cried in the kitchen.

Suddenly, a fairy appeared and turned her into a beautiful princess. The fairy told Cinderella that she could go to the party but she had to be home before 12 o'clock or her pretty dress would disappear. Cinderella was very happy and thanked the fairy.

When the prince saw Cinderella, he liked her immediately. They danced and danced until it was 12. Just before the clock struck midnight, Cinderella remembered what the fairy had told her and left quickly. The prince was very upset that she had left. He did not know her name or where she lived. However, he noticed that Cinderella had dropped one of her glass shoes on her way down the stairs. The prince picked up the glass shoe and asked his soldiers to look for the girl. When they reached Cinderella's home, she showed them the other shoe. The prince recognized her as being the lovely lady at the party. They got married and lived happily ever after.

(From TeleNex, <http://www.telenex.hku.hk>)



Text C

Monday

I must improve my English and Putonghua. I've got to speak fluently when I give speeches so I've decided to improve my English by keeping a diary. It's a good way of practising my English! Every night, before I go to bed, I'm going to write a short paragraph about what I did during the day.

Tuesday

I started my Putonghua course. We did group work and pair work. I enjoyed it very much this morning because we did lots of speaking and listening. I wish I could speak languages fluently like Mr Tung and Mrs Chan. A photographer from the Daily News took a photograph of me at work today. I can't wait to see it in the newspaper tomorrow morning.

Wednesday

I got up early this morning and looked for my photograph in the newspaper. Unfortunately, it was not a good picture of me. I was not smiling and I looked very unhappy. Everyone in the office laughed at me because I looked so sad. They said that nobody would vote for such a miserable person.

Thursday

It was a busy day at the office. Many people came to see me. They asked me how I would improve Hong Kong. I said to them, "Wait until tomorrow because I am going to make a speech." I went to bed very late because I was writing my speech. I think Mr Tung will like my speech. I'm going to make Hong Kong a cleaner place and I'm going to improve the environment. I've just noticed that we use lots of tenses to write a diary, not just the past tense!

Friday

I presented my speech this morning. Everyone liked my ideas and they clapped for a long time. They smiled and said, "Well done." My speech was perfect. I think I will change my name to Peter Perfect - that's a good name for a politician! I'm so happy that it is Saturday tomorrow because I do not have to go to work.

(Adapted from TeleNex, <http://www.telenex.hku.hk>)



Text D

Q: First of all, Suguna, tell us a little bit about your school.

A: My school is in the middle of a rubber estate. It is surrounded by rubber trees, so it's very good for cross-country running. It's about 10 miles from the nearest big town, Seremban. Some of us come to school by bike, and some of us come by bus.

Q: Do you like your school?

A: Most days I like school because I get to meet my friends and most of the teachers are OK. They're rather strict, but quite fair. Actually, I don't like the syllabus. We always have to work so hard. When I was in Form 1, I used to find it very difficult to study in Malay, but I can manage now.

Q: How many children are there in your class?

A: In my class there are 42 students. Some have just 40.

Q: What's your classroom like?

A: The walls are light blue and we have wooden desks and chairs arranged in rows. There's a teacher's desk at the front and a big blackboard, which is full of holes - like the floor! The classroom is always very hot, because there aren't any fans.

Q: How long are your lessons?

A: Each lesson is 40 minutes. I hate doubles: they go on and on and sometimes I get really sleepy. We have a half-hour break in the middle of the afternoon and we can go to the canteen to buy drinks and things.

Q: What's your school uniform like?

A: We wear a blue skirt and a white shirt. The Malay girls also have to wear a headscarf. The boys wear dark green shorts, or trousers and a white shirt.

Q: Do you have tests?

A: We have a monthly test nearly every month and also mid-year and end-of-year examinations. I hate having so many tests!

Q: That's all very interesting. Thanks for talking to us!

(Adapted from TeleNex, <http://www.telenex.hku.hk>)



Text E

Ingredients

6 large eggs

A small amount of butter

A pinch of salt

Procedure

1. Crack *six eggs* and beat them in a bowl with the salt.
2. Heat a frying pan. Add a knob of butter and let it melt.
3. Pour the *egg mixture* over the *melted butter* and stir the *egg* two or three times. Then with a fork, draw the edges into the middle and allow the *uncooked egg* to run onto the exposed part of the pan.
4. Continue to cook until the omelette begins to turn golden brown. Then put on a plate and serve.

(From TeleNex, <http://www.telenex.hku.hk>)



Text F

Cocaine bust nets 72-year-old man

Dennis Ng

December 6, 2004

A 72-year-old local man was arrested at Hong Kong International Airport carrying 10.3 kilograms of cocaine in a suitcase at the weekend.

It is the largest single cocaine haul at the airport.

The suspect, surnamed Ma, was stopped on Saturday morning when Customs officers noticed his suitcase weighed 22.5 kg, far too heavy for what seemed to be just clothing.

Officers found two 5 kg bags of cocaine concealed inside a false top and bottom of the suitcase.

The officers spent an hour dismantling the suitcase.

Layers of strong-smelling glue had been painted inside the case to mask the smell of cocaine from drug dogs.

The haul has an estimated street value of HK\$10.2 million.

Ma, who is unemployed and survives on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, said he was offered HK\$50,000 to take the drugs from Lima, Peru to Hong Kong via Amsterdam. Most suspected drug traffickers caught at Kai Tak and Chek Lap Kok were aged between 20 and 40 and flew economy classes.

But Ma was dressed like a businessman and flew business class.

Police seized about 46 kg of cocaine in Hong Kong in the first 10 months of this year, almost five times last year's seizures.

Customs seized a total of 5.5 kg of cocaine in the airport in 2000. The figure jumped to 9.8 kg in 2001, and at about 7.2 kg in 2002 and 2003. Some 12.8 kg were seized at the airport this year before Ma's arrest.

Ma will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistracy today to be charged with trafficking dangerous drugs.

(From The Standard, <http://www.thestandard.com.hk/stdn/std/Metro/FL06Ak06.html>)



Text G

A: hiya

B: hi

A: done ur homework??

B: What homework?

A: today

B: Today have homework?

A: no ar

is today need to hand in ar

B: oh...MC and NewsCut....did all lu...

A: u hand in today??

B: yep

A: O no

i haven't hand in new cut ar

is sure tim. need to have blackmark lesson??

B: Maybe... but quite sure.....

A: ai.....

will u need to stay blackmark leeson tom.

two??

B: dunno ..maybe ..as I was late on Swimming

Gala...

A: me two la

B: oh...yup....ho cham...

A: maybe tom. gra

B: yup



Text H

Hi Marcus,

How r u these days? I m quite busy ar ... u know, I am now studying in the USA. I like USA very much ar! I live with my uncle & aunt. They r V gd 2 me. Last week, I have a trip to New York. waaaa...very "people mountain people sea" there. I sent u postcard wor. Have u got it? The view is super beautiful!!

How's ur life in Hong Kong? U must be very happy la. R u still in the same class with Amy? I miss her so much. She phone me b4. How's everyone? I'll come back to HK in Feb. U must come out and play with me ga hor hor hor ^__^ CU later. bb!

Wait 4 ur reply la!!

Cheers,

Chris

