

## **Mid-Term Interview Preparation**

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During mid-term week, you will have a short interview with me in my office in order to evaluate your English ability. This interview is worth 10 points of your final grade.

The interviews are only between 5 and 10 minutes long and will be held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (It is important to be on time). Students only need to attend class on the day of their interview for their scheduled time and do not need to come the other day.

While you will not know any of the questions for the interview in advance (even if you ask other students, because I will change questions from student to student), there are some things that you can do to prepare for the interview:

- Look over readings 1-11. Most of the questions for the interviews have something to do with your personal opinion about the article. They may not be the same questions as on the supplements, but they might be very similar.
- Practice expressing your opinion fully. A one or two sentence reply is not good enough. I expect you to talk for as long as is necessary to completely answer the question. I will not ask follow-up questions or help you in any way. It is your responsibility to answer fully.

You will be asked two to three questions depending on the difficulty of the question and how long it takes for you to answer.

When evaluating your responses, I will consider the following:

- How well your points are expressed (Can I understand your ideas? Can I follow what you mean?)
- Attention paid to the question (Do you answer the question asked of you, or do you talk about many other ideas?)
- Confidence
- Correctness with special attention to vocabulary, and pronunciation discussed in class (this is not the focus of the interview, however. It is better to make your ideas understood than to make sure your grammar is perfect).

The best way to practice for this assignment is to just choose questions from the readings and try to answer them fully. We will be practicing this in small groups until the end of class.

### Reading 1: Education Reform

1. Do you think that English should be used more often in schools? Do you think it should be the language used in classes other than English classes? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever taken a class in English besides an English class? How was it? If you had a choice to take a class in Korean or in English, which would you choose? Why?
3. If your major began conducting all classes in English, how would you feel about it?
4. Do you think that learning English is important for the future of Korea? Why or why not? What other things are as important or more important?
5. Do you think too much or too little emphasis is put on Koreans to learn English? Why do you think so?
6. Do you think teaching in English would lead to more or less private education for students?
7. Do you think that students must attend too many private lessons now? Why or why not?
8. What problems do you see in the Korean education system? If you were president, how would you change the education system?
9. If you were the president of PNU, what would you change about this university?
10. As an elementary, high school, and college student, what were your most serious problems? What things were the things you disliked the most? Do you think that schools should change those things? How?
11. Have you ever studied in a different country or learned about a different education system? How are education systems in other countries different than Korea? How are they the same?

### Reading 2: Rumors/Privacy

1. What do you think of the rumors that were spread about Na Hoon-A? Did you believe them when you first heard them? Do you think that the rumors hurt him or his career? Why or why not?
2. In the article, Na says that the media helped the problem to become worse by not checking the facts. Do you think reporters have a responsibility of checking facts before reporting news? Why or why not?
3. Should the media report on rumors? Why or why not?
4. Do you think that reporters who report false information should apologize? Do you think that they should be punished in any way? If so, how?
5. Do you often read internet rumors? Do you believe them? How can internet rumors be stopped?
6. If you were famous and people were spreading false rumors about you, what would you do about it?
7. Do you think that personal privacy is important? Why or why not? What about for famous people?
8. Do you think that you should have privacy at places where information may need to be known about you, such as at your job, at a doctor's office, or at the police station?
9. Are you interested in the private lives of famous people? Why or why not?
10. In this article, do you think that the nurse did anything wrong? Why or why not? Do you think that the girl should have gone to the police like she did?
11. If you were in the same situation as the girl in the article, what would you do?
12. Have you ever been embarrassed by someone telling personal information to other people? What did you do about the situation?
13. Should the Korean government make laws to protect privacy? What laws would you suggest?
14. According to the article, personal privacy is not as important in Korea as it is in other countries. Do you agree or disagree? Why do you think so?

### Reading 3: Piracy

1. Do you think that internet piracy is widespread in Korea? Do you know many people who do it?
2. Do you think illegal downloads are a serious problem in Korea? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever downloaded music, movies, or computer programs illegally? Where did you find them?
4. Do you think that internet piracy is the same as stealing? Is downloading a CD online the same as stealing a CD from a store? Why or why not?
5. Do you think that people who download files illegally should be punished? If so, how should they be punished?
6. Do you think that downloading illegal is immoral? Unethical?
7. How can companies or the government stop internet piracy?
8. Is there legal ways to download material that people download legally? What are some legal alternatives to illegal downloading?
9. Do you think it is bad to download material that is not available in Korea (such as some music, TV shows, or movies from other countries)?
10. What are the benefits of downloading material from the internet instead of buying it in a store? What are the detriments of downloading?
11. In this article, it suggests holding Internet providers responsible for illegal downloads. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?
12. In the US, some people want to hold universities responsible for students who illegally download. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

### Reading 4: Settling

1. According to Lori Gottlieb, people should settle and marry someone even if that person is not perfect. According to Meghan Daum, this shouldn't be done. Who do you agree with and why?

2. This article says that eventually most people want to have children. Do you agree? Do you want to have children someday? Why or why not?
3. Do you think that having children is an important part of culture? Why or why not?
4. This article says that marriage and children are related to most people, but they shouldn't be related: a happy marriage doesn't need children and happy children don't need married parents. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. This article says 30 is the age when women begin to worry about getting married. Do you agree with that? Why do you think so?
6. Gottlieb had a baby without a husband using artificial insemination (which is making a baby without sex with the help of a doctor). What do you think of this?
7. Do you think that getting married is an important part of culture in Korea? Why or why not?
8. Would you ever consider adopting children? Why or why not?

#### Reading 5: Abortion

1. Do you think that abortion should be legal or illegal? Why do you think so?
2. In what situations do you personally believe that abortion is acceptable? For example, in the cases of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is in danger, do you think it's okay? What about in the cases of families that don't have enough money or girls that get pregnant very young?
3. At what time in the pregnancy do you think that abortion is acceptable? Is it different if it's at one month than at 8 months?
4. Currently, abortion is illegal in Korea in most cases, but doctors still perform abortions without punishment. What do you think should be done about the situation? Should doctors, patients, or both be punished? Should abortion be made legal?
5. What are some ways to reduce abortions? Do you think they would be effective?
6. If you do not think that abortion is acceptable, what do you think of the medicine RU-486? If you take this pill after having sex, it will stop a pregnancy if it started. There is no surgery and it only works very early in the pregnancy, but it does end the pregnancy. Is this the same or different than abortion?
7. If a young girl gets an abortion, do you think she should have to tell her parents? Why or why not?
8. If a woman gets an abortion, do you think she should have to tell her husband or boyfriend? Why or why not?

#### Reading 6: North Korea

1. Do you think that North and South Korea should reunify? Why or why not?
2. If you think the Koreas should reunify, how long should it take? Should reunification be soon or far in the future?
3. If Korea reunified today, how do you think that life would change? What things would be different? What problems would Korea have?
4. Lee Myung-Bak says that he is going to be harder on North Korea. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?
5. North Korea says it won't get rid of its nuclear weapons until the American president changes (which is in January of 2009). What do you think about that situation?
6. The article says that most people don't talk about North Korea these days. Do you think that's true? If so, why do you think people don't talk about them much?
7. American has not mentioned North Korea during their presidential debates. Why do you think that is?
8. If you were president, how would you handle the North Korean situation?

#### Reading 7: Church and State

1. Are you religious? If so, what religion are you? Are you devout?
2. Do you think that religion should have any influence on government or should the church and state be totally separate? Why do you think so?
3. Do you think that religious groups have influence on the government in Korea now? Do you think they have more influence under Lee Myung-Bak than in the past?
4. Have you ever heard about these "mega-churches" that have lots of money like in the article? Have you ever gone to one? What do you think of these churches?
5. Have you ever heard of clergy who were very rich? What do you think of that situation?
6. In your opinion, what helpful things does religion do for people? What harmful things does religion do for people?
7. Do you think that there is religious discrimination in Korea? If so, what kind?
8. How do you feel about evangelical religions?

#### Reading 8: Plagiarism

1. Do you think that plagiarism is a problem in Korea? Why or why not?
2. Have you or your friends ever copied homework from each other? Why did you do it? Have you ever copied or plagiarized a major assignment for class?
3. Do you think that many students in Korean universities cheat in some way? How do students usually cheat?
4. Have you ever heard of your professors copying from other professors or from students? What do you think about that?
5. In Korea, if a professor catches a student who has plagiarized, what does the professor usually do? Do you think this is too strict or too lenient?
6. If a student plagiarizes a paper, what punishment do you think he or she should receive? In America, a student that plagiarizes a paper fails the class and is kicked out of the university. Do you think that is too strict? Why or why not?
7. What do you think should happen to a professor that plagiarizes a paper that he or she publishes? In America, he or she would be fired. Do you think that is too strict? Why or why not?

8. What do you think of authors who publish work that is plagiarized? If you found out that your favorite author plagiarized a book, what would you think?

#### Reading 9: Sex Education

1. Do you think that sex education is important? Why or why not?
2. Whose responsibility is it to teach children about sex: the school, the parents, or someone else? Why do you think so?
3. Do you think it is important to teach about abstinence in sex education? Why or why not?
4. Do you think it's important to teach about contraception in sex education? Why or why not?
5. When do you think is a good time for children to first learn about sex? When is too early? When is too late? Why do you think so?
6. When did you first learn about sex? How did you learn? Do you think this was a good way? Why or why not?
7. How do you think most people in Korea first learn about sex?
8. What benefits do you think there are for early sex education? What drawbacks do you think there are?
9. When you have children of your own, how do you want them to learn about sex? Why?

#### Reading 10: Terrorism

1. Do you think that governments should try to talk to terrorist groups as it says in the article? Why or why not?
2. Do you think there is a difference between terrorist groups? For example, do you think there's a difference between "rational" groups (according to the article) such as Hamas and "incorrigible" groups (according to the article) such as al-Qaida?
3. Do you think it is possible to reach agreements with terrorist groups? Why or why not?
4. Last year Korean missionaries were captured in Afghanistan. In that kind of situation, do you think terrorist groups should be negotiated with? Why or why not?
5. If a person kidnapped a member of your family and said that he or she would kill your family member if his friend was not released from jail, how would you want to handle the situation? Would you want his friend released or not?
6. Although sometimes Korea is involved, Korea is rarely the target of terrorist groups. Do you think that Korea should get involved with the War on Terror (which attempts to stop terrorism, usually by spying, torture, and war)? Why or why not?
7. What do you think is the best way to stop terrorism? Why do you think so?

#### Reading 11: 40-Hour Work Week

1. What do you think of a 40-hour work week? Do you think that it would be better or worse for employees? Do you think that it would be better or worse for companies? Why do you think so?
2. Generally, in the US, if you work more than 40 hours a week (this includes any thing that you must do for the companies, including meetings), you get either "time and a half" (1.5 times your pay) or double time (2 times your pay) unless you are an executive. What do you think of overtime? Do you think it's good for employees? Do you think it's good for companies? Why or why not?
3. What are the good and bad points of a 40-hour work week?
4. What are the good and bad points of a longer work week, such as in Korea?
5. Do you think it's possible to change to a 40-hour work week in Korea? Why or why not?
6. In the article, it mentions that there are more accidents, more injuries, and more health problems when people work longer hours. Do you think this is a good reason to support shorter work time? Why or why not?
7. What do you think are the good points and bad points of the Korean work system? Why do you think so? If you were president, what would you change?
8. If you have looked for a job or know someone looking for a job, what problems have they had in finding a job? How could those problems be solved?