

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report

A caring, connected society will guard against suicide

Broadcast Date: 20th September, 2016

The World Health Organisation estimates that over 800,000 people commit suicide each year – that’s one person every 40 seconds. It aims to reduce the suicide rate by 10 per cent by 2020. In Hong Kong, the rate has gone down from its historical high of 18.6 per 100,000 in 2003 to 11 per 100,000 in 2015. However, up to 25 times as many people attempt suicide. The costs of providing health care support for those *who* self-harm in Hong Kong is HK\$80 million by 2015 estimates.

There are many more people *who* have been **bereaved** or are close to someone *who* tried to take his or her life. Yet suicide is preventable. “Connect, communicate, care” is the theme of this year’s World Suicide Prevention Day, on September 10. These three words are at the heart of suicide prevention.

First, **fostering** connections with those *who* have lost a loved one or have been suicidal themselves is **crucial**. Those *who* have been **on the brink** of suicide can help us understand the reasons, and what saved or helped them. Those *who* have lost someone to suicide, or supported someone *who* was suicidal, can provide insights into how they moved forward.

**** Grammar point of today: Note the use of the relative pronoun ‘who’**

Suicide is everybody’s business and together we can respond better.

Social connectedness reduces the **risk** of suicide, so being there for someone can be a life-saving act. Individuals, organisations and communities all have a responsibility. Social media has shown to be a promising way to connect the disconnected. We need to be more **innovative** to engage people *who* most need it.

Second, open communication is **vital** if we are to **combat** suicide. In many communities, suicide is **shrouded in silence**. **Stigma** about mental illness is still very common. Careful, considered messages about suicide and its prevention are needed.

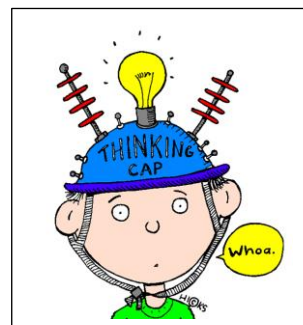
The media also have an important role to play. Some types of reporting (prominent and/or explicit stories, for instance) can result in “**spikes**” in suicide rates, but others – for example, those that help stop suicide – can have a protective effect.

Third, all the connecting and communicating in the world will have no effect without care. We need to ensure policymakers care enough about suicide prevention to make it a priority, and to fund it appropriately. Suicide is the leading cause of death among those aged 15-29 and it is the seventh leading cause of death in Hong Kong.

Adapted from the article in the South China Morning Post which appeared on Saturday, September 10th.

1. Questions to think about:

- What statistic alarmed you or stood out to you?
- (a) What is the main message of this article?
(b) How can you apply this in your daily life?
- Why as a society do we need to be worried about this issue?



2. I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning

Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article. One of them has been done for you as an example.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. bereaved (para 2)	H	A: to help something to develop over time
2. foster(ing) (para 3)		B: danger
3. crucial, vital (para 3 & 5)		C: fight or tackle (e.g. a problem/issue)
4. on the brink of (para 3)		D: new, original or advanced
5. risk (para 4)		E: a feeling that something is wrong or embarrassing
6. innovative (para 4)		F: very important
7. combat (para 5)		G: hidden/not talked about
8. shrouded in silence (para 5)		H: a close family member or friend has died
9. stigma (para 5)		I: sudden increases
10. spikes (para 6)		J: almost ready to do or a situation about to happen

II: Usage of vocabulary

Fill in the missing words of the short paragraphs below using the vocabulary (2-10) from column A.

(a) _____ in the use of drugs, in other words, with the numbers of young people turning to drugs rising dramatically, means we need to think of (b) _____ rather than traditional ways to (c) _____ this worrying issue. Education is indeed (d) _____ if we are going to ensure people, especially the young, are more aware of the (e) _____ of taking drugs. Taking drugs can result in serious physical and mental health problems. (f) _____ a caring environment for drug takers seeking help is also important as there is a (g) _____ associated with being a drug addict. Drug addicts may feel ashamed and therefore, not ask for help. Even now, people prefer to sweep the problem under the carpet and the issue can remain (h) _____.

Scientists hope they are (i) _____ discovering new treatment methods and medicines to treat diseases around the world

THE ENGLISH ROOM IS OPEN TODAY FOR LUNCH (12:30-1:30 pm)

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Where: The English Corner (Room B001B by the basketball court)

Play games and speak ENGLISH in a friendly ENVIRONMENT.