### Part 2

#### Listening

##### Story of Lang Lang

Lang Lang is a famous concert pianist. **His first contact with western music was when he was just 2 years old.** **He watched a cartoon in which a cat played a famous piece** by Franz Liszt. From this experience, he decided that he wanted to learn to play piano. **When he was 3 and half years old he started his piano lessons.**

Two years later, he won the first place in a piano competition. *This early success gave his father high hopes that Lang Lang would become a great pianist.* When lang lang was 9 years old, his father quite his job and took him to Beijing. **They left everything behind, including his mother who had to work.** Lang lang didn’t want to leave her behind, but his father insisted. **His father wanted him to study at the famous the central conservatory of music**.

*When they moved to Beijing, they rented a flat in a poor area of the city.* During this time, lang lang practiced for several hours a day. He started practicing at 5 o’clock which upset his neighbors. **They would often pound on his door and ask him to stop practicing.** They were so angry, and they often threatened that they would beat him up.

*Lang lang usually had piano lessons once a week to prepare for the conservatory.* Nearly 2000 students were applying for just only 12 places at the conservatory. **His lessons were expensive and very difficult, especially because of his piano teacher.** His music teacher didn’t like Lang lang. He always called his teacher Mr. Angry because she always gave him hard time. **One afternoon, his teacher told him he had no talent and told him to go home.**

Upon hearing the news, his father screamed and seemed to lose his mind. *His father told him that everything was destroyed and there was no reason to live.* **He ordered Lang Lang to jump off the 11th-floor balcony**. After this Lang Lang almost went crazy. He didn’t want to play piano any more. **For several months, he neither played piano nor spoke to his father.** Then some friends encourage him to play a piece for them. And **he realized his great love of the piano.** For the next 19 months, he practiced hard and his father encouraged him. Finally, when he was ten, **he was accepted into the conservatory with a full scholarship.**

In 1995, when he was 16 years old, he played music by Chopin in Beijing concert hall. In that same year, he won the first place in an international competition for young musicians in japan. When he was 15, he moved to the united states and began study with a famous pianist Curtis institute of music. Since then, his career has grown, and he has become a major star. One of the American tv called him the most exciting keyboard haven’t encountered for many years the piano.

In 2010, Lang Lang signed a recording contract for several million dollars. In 2011, he performed in white house for presidents Obama of the united states and wu jing tao of china. **With all of his success and fame, Lang Lang tries to encourage others**. He uses his fames to popularity classic music and encourage young musicians. And in the end, Lang Lang and his father has built relationship. In his autobiography, Mr. Lang dedicates the book to his mother and his father.

#### Vocabular

##### Business and economics

**A person’s debt is how much he or she owes to others.** Debt can be in the form of money, products, or services owe to someone else, if you borrow money you are taking on new debt.

*An asset is something that has value, such as money, property, or even a nice personality.* **Assets can be used to pay off debts.** Specialized knowledge or **skills** are also **assets** that can be used to get a job or earn money. Real estate is property, such as land houses and buildings. Buying selling or renting property is the business of real estate. *Buying and selling real estate is a popular form of investment.* **Inventory is a detailed list of items in one’s possession**. *In business one’s inventory is the supply of items that are ready for sale.* If a store runs out of things to sell, it needs to re supply its inventory. An investment is the purchase of an asset with the hope that its value will increase. *A good investment will produce income such as rental income.* If the value of an asset falls, the investment will lose money.

##### Countries and continents

*China is the second largest country in the world by land area.* **A major issue for china is the continuing expansion of its desserts, which have led to dust storms each spring.**

**South Asia is referred to as the Indian subcontinent.** *It’s called a subcontinent because it is separated from the rest of Asia by mountains and seas.* **It is one of the world’s poorest regions, with about 75% of the poor living in rural areas.**

Europe is the western neighbor of Asia. It is separated from Asia by the euro mountains, which stands for 1500 miles into north south direction from the arctic ocean.

**The Philippines is the only country in Asia with majority Christians.** **The Philippines is an island nation with over 7000 islands.** It’s located in south china sea.The country’s capital city is manila.

Asia is the world’s largest continent covering about 30% of the earth land area. **Several island nations are also a part of Asia, including japan.** The world’s tallest mountains are in Asia including mt Everest.

#### Dialogue

##### Election & voting

**W:** hey have you decided how you're going to vote？

**M:** no, I haven't. I don't like any of the candidates.

**W:** so, you aren't going to vote.

**M:** I don't know probably not. It seems like a waste of time

**W:** really? Why do you think it's a waste of time?

**M:** have you listened to any of their speeches?

**W:** yes, I have. And I agree that their speeches aren't very good.

**M:** exactly. I can't believe anything they say. They are just saying **what** they think we want to hear they want to get elected

**W:** I admit that the system isn't perfect but it's all we have.

**M:** whether I vote or not, it won't make a difference. It’s all the show.

**W:** well I think you should vote. Do you do a little research about the candidates?

**M:** have you?

**W:** yes, I have. I've looked into their backgrounds and education.

**M:** how can that help?

**W:** for example, if they know something about science it could help the government make better decisions about issues such as climate change.

**M:** yes, that's a good point. We need well-educated people making decisions.

**W:** and I look to see what kind of people are supporting them.

**M:** what issues do you think are most important?

**W:** I guess, for me, pollution, housing, and taxes are important. I want to know how the government plans to deal with these issues.

**M:** yes, I agree with you. Maybe I will vote, especially if we can get together and talk more about it. What about dinner tomorrow night?

**W:** sorry I’m busy tomorrow night.

**M:** oh, that's too bad. Do you have any time in the next few days? I'll take you to a nice restaurant.

**W:** actually, I’m quite busy, but I may have some time Sunday afternoon. We could have lunch somewhere near the office.

**M:** sure, that works for me. I'll give you a call on Saturday and we can decide the details, ok?

**W:** ok,I’ll be looking forward to seeing which candidates you support.