

# GENERAL ENGLISH

With Jonathan Rogers





# TODAY'S VOCABULARY



practice makes  
perfect

to hit the books

to mean that the more you  
practice something, the better  
you will become at it.

to describe a problem or task  
that is extremely difficult to  
solve or accomplish

a tough nut  
to crack

to be determined to achieve  
something, you will find a way  
to make it happen, no matter  
how difficult the task may be




to be at sea

where there's a  
will, there's a way

to study hard and diligently

to feel lost, confused, or  
uncertain about something

A central yellow book with a black outline and a textured spine is the focal point. The text on the book is written in a simple, hand-drawn font. The background is a solid blue color, decorated with various white doodle elements: stars, swirls, and double-line brackets. The overall style is clean, modern, and hand-drawn.

PREPARING FOR  
SUCCESS: LESSONS  
FROM THE TOUGHEST  
EXAM IN THE WORLD

Exams are a source of stress for many students around the world. However, some exams are known to be particularly challenging. One such exam is the suneung, which is a South Korean national college entrance exam that takes place every November.



The suneung is notorious for being one of the most difficult exams in the world. It covers a range of subjects, including math, science, and Korean language, and requires years of preparation to do well. Many students in South Korea attend private tutoring schools, known as hagwons, to help them prepare for this important exam.



Despite the difficulties, there are many idiomatic expressions that can be applied to learning and overcoming challenging situations, including exams. For example, "practice makes perfect" is a common expression that emphasizes the importance of putting in the time and effort to improve one's skills.



Another expression, "to hit the books," refers to studying hard and immersing oneself in the material.



However, some things can be particularly difficult to learn or overcome. For instance, the phrase "a tough nut to crack" can be used to describe a problem or task that is extremely challenging. Similarly, "to be at sea" means to feel confused or lost, which is a feeling many students experience during exams.



Despite the challenges, it's important to remember that "where there's a will, there's a way." With dedication and hard work, anyone can overcome difficult obstacles, including exams like the suneung. So, if you're feeling stressed about an upcoming exam, take a deep breath and remember that you have the ability to succeed.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In break out rooms, you will discuss with your group, and then feedback to the rest of the class.

Question 2: Why do you think exams are such a significant source of stress for students around the world?

Question 1: What are your thoughts on this article?

Question 3: What are some strategies you use to manage exam stress and stay focused during the exam period?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In break out rooms, you will discuss with your group, and then feedback to the rest of the class.

Question 1: Can you think of a personal **example of a** time when you had to "hit the books" to prepare for an exam?

Question 2: Have you ever encountered a **"tough nut to crack"** when it comes to studying? How did you overcome it?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In break out rooms, you will discuss with your group, and then feedback to the rest of the class.

Final question: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail"  
- Benjamin Franklin. What are your thoughts on this statement?