

F4-6 Morning Reading Activity – 27/11/2012

The New King of YouTube?

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South Korean rap star Psy's music video “Gangnam Style” has set a new world record, becoming the most watched video in the history of YouTube. According to YouTube’s “Trends” blog, “Gangnam Style” yesterday surpassed the site's previous record holder, Justin Bieber's 2010 music video “Baby”, with more than 809 million views compared to 803 million for “Baby”.

The video has inspired many parodies (諷刺性模仿) in different countries around the world. In fact, if one adds up all the views of “Gangnam Style” and its many parodies across the internet, more than 2.2 billion people have viewed some form of

“Gangnam Style”, according to the online video tracking company Visible Measures.

The video has also made South Korean rapper Psy (age 34), a chubby rap singer known for his slicked-back hair and comic dance style, an international sensation.

As a secondary student, Psy (whose real name is Park Jai-Sang) often went shopping in the affluent Gangnam district of Seoul,



for which the song is named. After secondary school, his parents sent him to business school in the US, but he admits that he was a lazy student and bought musical instruments with his tuition money.

He eventually graduated from The Berklee College of Music in Boston, returned to South Korea, and released his first album in 2001. He has been popular within South Korea for years, but was not known internationally until this year.

Will Psy prove to be a “one-hit wonder”? Only time will tell. His next album, Psy’s seventh, is scheduled for release in English and Korean early next year.

surpass (v) = to go beyond or be greater than
affluent (adj) = rich

tuition (n) = school fees
Seoul (n) = the capital city of South Korea