

Insights from China

A film by Daniel Emmerson presented by EnglishClub.com



Activity 1

How much do you know about China? Test yourself with this 'true or false' quiz!

1. The capital of China is Shanghai.
2. China hosted the Olympic Games in 2004.
3. China has a population of over 1,300,000,000.
4. China is the fourth largest country in the world (by area).
5. The People's Republic of China came into being in 1949.

Activity 2

You are going to watch a video about learning English in China. The interviewees in the video answer the following four questions. Read the questions below and discuss what you think they might say in response, then watch the film to check your answers.

1. Why do staff in Chinese companies have to learn English?
2. Why is English important in the aviation industry?
3. How do Chinese people learn English?
4. What advice do you have for learners working full-time?

Activity 3

Now watch the first part of the film, in which interviewees answer Question 1: Why do staff in Chinese companies have to learn English? Circle the person who makes the following points.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Shanghai has become one of Asia's most important financial cities. | Emmeric..Solomon..Zhang Xiuzhi |
| 2. English is useful for introducing the company at international meetings. | Emmeric..Solomon..Zhang Xiuzhi |
| 3. English is important for business information and technical documentation. | Emmeric..Solomon..Zhang Xiuzhi |
| 4. You can't do anything in the aviation industry without English. | Emmeric..Solomon..Zhang Xiuzhi |
| 5. The Chinese need to learn the language because their English is very poor. | Emmeric..Solomon..Zhang Xiuzhi |
| 6. With English you can be more efficient and happy. | Emmeric..Solomon..Zhang Xiuzhi |

Activity 4

Now watch the second part of the film, in which interviewees answer Question 2: Why is English important in the aviation industry? Decide if the following statements are true or false.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Emmeric Lachaud says you only need basic English in the aviation industry. | T/F |
| 2. Wang Zhi Jie says English is the common language for all nationalities in the aviation industry. | T/F |
| 3. Wang Zhi Jie says that having a common language is important for safety reasons. | T/F |
| 4. Captain Tung Shming says English is important for Chinese pilots because all the information about the planes they fly is in English. | T/F |
| 5. Zhao Rui Juan says English is important in her company because Spring Airlines wants to become an international airline. | T/F |
| 6. Zhang Xuizhi says there are no English lessons on Saturday in her company. | T/F |

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Activity 5

Now watch the third part of the film, in which interviewees answer Question 3: How do Chinese people learn English? Circle the TWO topics the speaker does NOT mention in each case.

Wang Zhi Jie:	Reading	Pronunciation	Writing	Listening
Wei Wei Liu:	Vocabulary	Working in Pairs	Listening	Speaking
Solomon Melchizdek :	Reading	Listening to songs	Pronunciation	Working in Pairs

Activity 6

Now watch part four of the film, in which the interviewees answer Question 4: What advice do you have for learners working full-time? Answer the questions below.

1. What stops Zhang Xiuzhi learning English more quickly?
2. Where does Zhang Xiuzhi learn English?
3. What advice does she have for learners?
4. What does Captain Tung Shming think is most helpful when learning English?
5. What advice does Zhang Wei give learners?
6. Why does Wang Zhi Jie think that speaking practice is more important than writing?
7. Why does Wei Wei Liu think content is so important when speaking English?
8. What advice does Wei Wei Liu give learners about pronunciation?
9. What motto does Solomon Melchizdek advise learners to adopt to help them maintain their confidence when learning English?
10. What does his motto mean and how useful do you think this advice is?

Activity 7

Discuss the following questions.

1. In what ways are the difficulties experienced by students in China similar to those in your country?
2. What other areas of business can you think of that operate solely or mostly in English?
3. Why are the Chinese learning English – why isn't the rest of the world learning Chinese?
4. How difficult would you find it to learn a language with a different alphabet and way of writing?
5. In what ways are your English lessons similar to and different from those mentioned by the interviewees?
6. In what ways can listening to songs in English help learners?
7. Do you think cultural awareness and having an open mind is as important as Wei Wei Liu thinks it is?
8. How effective do you think it is to learn English in your car? Have you ever tried it?
9. To what extent do you agree with Captain Tung Shming that it is important to speak English with foreigners?
10. How helpful do you think Internet websites for learning English are? Which websites do you think are the most useful, and why?
11. To what extent do you agree with Wang Zhi Jie that it is more important to learn to speak English before learning to write in English?
12. What other questions do you think the film should have asked?
13. What did you find most interesting or surprising about the video?
14. What tips and advice do you have for learners who work full-time?

The information, statements and answers used in this worksheet are taken from the film in question and interviewees' responses. They are not necessarily true for the whole country, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the filmmaker or of EnglishClub.com.