

Shanghai Star

1 QUICK QUIZ

1. What is the capital of China?
a. Shanghai b. Beijing c. Guangzhou
2. What is the largest city in China?
a. Shanghai b. Beijing c. Guangzhou
3. Where is San Francisco?
a. New York b. California c. Florida
4. Which of these men is a former US president?
a. Ralph Fiennes b. Kyle Rothstein c. Bill Clinton

2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Skim-read the article and write the words into the gaps next to the meanings. The paragraph number will help you.

**foreign Chinatown native speaker busiest Countess cultural differences
exciting attraction grew up mistakes imagine teens**

1. form a picture of something in your mind _____ (para 1)
2. interesting and full of action, especially when you do not know what is going to happen next
_____ (para 1)
3. changed from being a baby or young child to being an older child or adult _____ (para 1)
4. An area in a large city that has many Chinese restaurants and shops and where the population is mainly Chinese
_____ (para 3)
5. ways which people from different countries act and behave _____ (para 4)
6. young people between the ages of thirteen and nineteen _____ (para 4)
7. the title given to the wife of an earl or count _____ (para 5)
8. a word to describe someone or something from another country _____ (para 5)
9. a two-word phrase used to describe someone who has learnt a language from the time that they began to speak
_____ (Kyle's tips)
10. things that you say or write in a way that are not correct _____ (Kyle's tips)
11. the superlative form of an adjective used to say that a place is full of people and that there is a lot going on there
_____ (fact file)
12. somewhere or something you can visit that is interesting or fun _____ (fact file)

Definitions from www.macmillandictionary.com

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SHANGHAI STAR

by Talitha Linehan

1 Imagine learning Chinese, going to live in China and becoming a movie star there. Crazy? Maybe. Exciting? Absolutely! But that's what Kyle Rothstein, 17, has done. Kyle is American but lives in China. He grew up speaking English but now speaks Chinese too. He's also one of the stars of a Chinese film. And important people want to meet him.

2 Kyle grew up in San Francisco, in California. His father doesn't speak Chinese but has always done a lot of business in China. That's why he decided to send Kyle to San Francisco's Chinese American International School, where he also learned Chinese. Kyle says he hated going there at first but quickly realized how lucky he was. "I think every kid should learn a second language," says Kyle.

3 When Kyle was six, he started visiting China with his dad. He also started going to San Francisco's famous Chinatown and speaking with Chinese visitors. He became so well known around the city that famous people wanted to meet him. Kyle met George Bush Sr. when the ex-president visited Chinatown. Kyle says, "Meeting famous people is always great. I'll never forget when I met President Bill Clinton in China in 1998."

4 Since he was 13, Kyle has lived in Shanghai with his father and sister. Twice a year, he visits his mother in San Francisco. Kyle sees many cultural differences between the US and China. "Chinese people usually live in the same house as their parents and grandparents. And Chinese kids study after school more than American teens do." But the two countries aren't as different as you might think. "Shanghai has as many lights as New York and Las Vegas do. It's very modern."

5 Speaking Chinese isn't the only thing that makes Kyle different. He's danced with the famous San Francisco Ballet Company. When he was ten, he acted in a Chinese TV series. And Kyle worked with British actor Ralph Fiennes in Shanghai on the 2005 film *The White Countess*. Kyle is also the star

of a Chinese movie called *Milk & Fashion* – about a foreign boy who goes to Shanghai to become a dancer. This is the first film in which non-Asian actors speak Chinese. Kyle says, "I worked 16 to 18 hours a day. It was really hard." In the future, Kyle plans to be a businessman – like his father is. He doesn't know whether he'll live in China or in the US. "I'll probably travel a lot between both countries," Kyle says.

Kyle's tips

Kyle has been learning Chinese since he was five. Here are his top language-learning tips:

What you learn at school is a bit different to the language that people use every day. Here are things you can do to sound more like a native speaker.

- Talk to native English speakers.
- Visit an English-speaking country.
- Watch TV and films in English.
- Write down new words and try to remember them.
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes.

Fact file: Shanghai and China

Shanghai

- has more than 20 million people.
- is China's largest city. Tourists love it for its great food and shopping.
- is one of the world's busiest ports.
- is on China's eastern coast. Its name means "on the sea".

China

- Beijing is China's capital. It was called Peking until 1949. The Summer Olympic Games took place there in August 2008.
- The Great Wall is one of the biggest tourist attractions of northern and central China.



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3 FIND THE INFORMATION: TRUE OR FALSE?

Match the sentence halves to summarize the article.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Kyle speaks both | the San Francisco Ballet Company. |
| 2. Kyle's father doesn't | in the USA. |
| 3. His mother lives | English and Chinese very well. |
| 4. Kyle learned to speak | a businessman when he is older. |
| 5. Kyle has danced with | a house with their parents and grandparents. |
| 6. Kyle went to the Chinese American | speak Chinese. |
| 7. Kyle has acted in | than kids in the USA. |
| 8. Kyle wants to be | a Chinese film. |
| 9. Kids in China study more | International School in San Francisco. |
| 10. Chinese kids often live in | Chinese at school. |

4 TEEN TALK: ABSOLUTELY!

1. Find this word in the article. How is the word used?

- To say that you disagree with something somebody said.
- To say that you agree with something somebody said.

2. Your friend says these sentences. When can you answer: "Absolutely!"?

This film is great, isn't it?

The maths test was really difficult.

What time is it?

5 WEBQUEST

Choose one of the subjects in the box and research it on the internet. Tell your class about the information you found.

Shanghai

Beijing

San Francisco

The White Countess

The Great Wall of China

Milk & Fashion

Shanghai Star

5 DISCUSSION

Write *I agree* or *I disagree* next to these sentences and then compare your answers in class.

1. I would like to work in another country. _____
2. Kyle's learning tips are useful. _____
3. I would like to learn to speak Chinese. _____
4. Dancing and acting in films is a great job. _____

7 WRITE A FACT FILE

Read the fact files on Shanghai and China.

Write similar fact files for your own city, town, village and/or country.



My _____ is called _____

Population: _____

Where it is: _____

The language(s): _____

The (tourist) attractions: _____

Special food and drinks: _____

Important businesses and companies: _____

Other interesting information: _____

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KEY

1

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. c

2

1. imagine
2. exciting
3. grew up
4. Chinatown
5. cultural differences
6. teens
7. Countess
8. foreign
9. native speaker
10. mistakes
11. busiest
12. attraction

3

1. Kyle speaks both English and Chinese very well.
2. Kyle's father doesn't speak Chinese.
3. His mother lives in the USA.
4. Kyle learned to speak Chinese at school.
5. Kyle has danced with the San Francisco Ballet company.
6. Kyle went to the Chinese American International School in San Francisco.
7. Kyle has acted in a Chinese film.
8. Kyle wants to be a businessman when he is older.
9. Kids in China study more than kids in the USA.
10. Chinese kids often live in a house with their parents and grandparents.

4

1. b
2. You can respond to the first two sentences with "Absolutely!", but not the third.

NOTES

A list of major Chinese cities with information can be found here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_China

There is an online biography of Kyle Rothstein at:

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1833440/>