

## Shanghai Star

### 1 QUICK QUIZ

- What is the capital of China?  
a. Shanghai   b. Beijing   c. Guangzhou
- What is the largest city in China?  
a. Shanghai   b. Beijing   c. Guangzhou
- Where is San Francisco?  
a. New York   b. California   c. Florida
- 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 to find the words that fit in the gaps. The paragraph number will help you.

- an adverb used to say that someone can speak a language very well \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
- a noun meaning the knowledge that you get from life and from being in a lot of different situations \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
- a three-word phrase that means you are willing to consider new ideas without prejudice \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)
- a plural noun that means a set of ideas, beliefs and ways of behaving of a particular organization or group of people \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)
- past form of the verb that means to move someone's hair in a friendly way \_\_\_\_\_ (para 3)
- the title given to a woman with the same rank as an earl or a count, or the wife of an earl or count \_\_\_\_\_ (para 5)
- an adjective used to describe someone or something from another country \_\_\_\_\_ (para 5)
- a noun that means the characters played by actors in a film or a play \_\_\_\_\_ (para 5)
- a noun for words or expressions that are very informal \_\_\_\_\_ (Kyle's tips)
- a two-word noun phrase used to describe someone who has learnt a particular language from the time that they began to speak \_\_\_\_\_ (Kyle's tips)
- an adverb used for saying that one person, thing or action replaces another \_\_\_\_\_ (Kyle's tips)
- 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)

Definitions from [www.macmillandictionary.com](http://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 fluently. He's never taken acting classes but is one of the stars of a new Chinese film. And important people want to meet him. Kyle says, "I've had a lot of great experiences, and my life is just getting started."

2 Kyle grew up in San Francisco, in California. His father, Jay, doesn't speak Chinese but has always done a lot of business in China. That's why Jay 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. "It helps you to communicate and opens your mind to other cultures. I see the world in two ways now: through Western and through Chinese eyes."

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. He ruffled my hair – just like a father might do to a son."

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, to be close to them. And Chinese kids study after school more than American teens do." But the two countries aren't as different as you might think. "A lot of Americans think China is just the home of Kung Fu and old culture. But 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 10, he acted in a Chinese TV series. And Kyle worked with British actor Ralph Fiennes in Shanghai on the 2005 film *The White Countess*. Now Kyle is the star of a new 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 in the main roles. 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 yet whether he'll live in China or in the US. "I'll probably travel a lot between both countries," Kyle says. "Only time will tell."

#### 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 learn slang and 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. Learn from your mistakes instead.

#### 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".
- is the centre of Chinese filmmaking.

##### 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. When work began, around 200 BC, 70 per cent of China's population helped to build it.



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### 3 FIND THE INFORMATION: SUMMARIZING

Which paragraph do these sentences describe? Write the correct paragraph number 1-5 next to each short summary.

- Because Kyle is an American who speaks Chinese fluently many people want to meet and talk with him.
- We read about where Kyle and his family live and how Chinese families are different to American families.
- Here we learn where Kyle spent his childhood and where he learnt to speak Chinese and what he thinks about it.
- This paragraph tells us about Kyle's skills and film credits. We also learn about his plans for the future.
- This paragraph introduces Kyle. It tells us which languages he speaks and why he is famous.

### 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.
- To say that something is crazy.

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	San Francisco	The Great Wall of China
Kung Fu	<i>The White Countess</i>	<i>Milk &amp; Fashion</i>

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### 6 DISCUSSION

Answer the questions in note form and then discuss the questions and your answers.

1. Kyle left the USA to live and act in China. Which country would you like to live in? Why? Would you have to learn a new language to be able to live and work there? How would you do this?
2. Before he left the USA Kyle learnt to speak Chinese. Read Kyle's language learning tips. Do you agree with them? Can you add one more tip to the list?

### 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. Include information about the population, the location, the (tourist) attractions, the food, special events, sports, and businesses and industry



#### FACT FILE:

### 6 ROLE PLAY: MOVIE STARS

Work in pairs for this role play.

Choose a two or three minute sequence of a DVD in which two characters are speaking. Watch and listen to this sequence in English with the English subtitles on. Then play the sequence again but with the sound off. You and your partner should each play one of the roles and say the lines. Read the subtitles off the screen at first. Practise until you are fluent then act out your sequence in front of your class.

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**KEY:****2**

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

**2**

1. fluently
2. experiences
3. opens your mind
4. cultures
5. ruffled
6. countess
7. foreign
8. roles
9. slang
10. native speaker
11. instead
12. busiest

**3**

1. This paragraph introduces Kyle. It tells us which languages he speaks and why he is famous.
2. Here we learn where Kyle spent his childhood and where he learnt to speak Chinese and what he thinks about it.
3. Because Kyle is an American who speaks Chinese fluently many people want to meet and talk with him.
4. We read about where Kyle and his family live and how Chinese families are different to American families.
5. This paragraph tells us about Kyle's skills and film credits. We also learn about his plans for the future.

**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](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/>