

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

foreign fluently cultures native speaker busiest Countess
population grew up mistakes open your mind imagine roles

- form a picture of something in your mind _____ (para 1)
- an adverb used to say that someone can speak a language very well _____ (para 1)
- changed from being a baby or young child to being an older child or adult _____ (para 1)
- a 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 group of people _____ (para 2)
- the title given to 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 phrase used to describe someone who has learnt a particular language from the time that they began to speak _____ (Kyle's tips)
- things that you say or write in a way that is not correct _____ (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)
- all the people who live in a particular area _____ (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 fluently. 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. "It helps you to communicate and opens your mind to other cultures".

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. "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 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 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.

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.

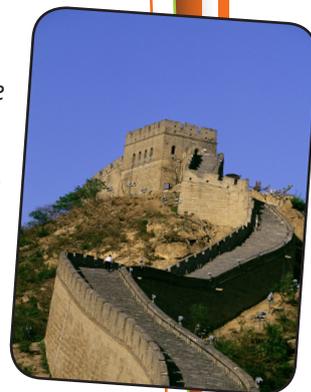
Fact file: Shanghai and China

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".
- 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: TRUE OR FALSE?

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F) according to the article? Correct the sentences that are false.

1. Kyle speaks both English and Chinese very well.
2. Kyle's father speaks fluent Chinese.
3. His mother lives in China.
4. Kung Fu comes from China.
5. Kyle has danced with the San Francisco Ballet Company.
6. Kyle went to school in Shanghai.
7. Kyle has acted in a Chinese film.
8. Kyle wants to be a politician when he is older.
9. Kids in the USA study more than kids in China.
10. Chinese kids often live in a house with their parents and grandparents.

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

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6 DISCUSSION

Write *agree* or *disagree* next to these sentences and then discuss your answers.

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. 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 of the screen at first. Practise until you are fluent then act out your sequence in front off your class.

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KEY:

1

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

2

5. imagine
6. fluently
7. grew up
8. open your mind
9. cultures
10. countless
11. foreign
12. roles
13. native speaker
14. mistakes
15. busiest
16. population

3

1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. F; 10 T

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/>