

China's crackdown on tutoring leaves parents with new problems

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes the pressures on Chinese families to give their children a good education in a competitive environment.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the topic of education and, in particular, university education. The oldest university in the world is Bologna in Italy, where formal teaching started in 1180 and had continued ever since. Oxford is generally regarded as being approximately ten years older than Cambridge (1200 as opposed to 1209), while the biggest university in the world in terms of the number of students is the Gandhi National Open University in India. India also has the most universities. The most remote university is on the Arctic island of Svalbard (formerly known as Spitzbergen), which is part of Norway.

Key:

1. Italy
2. Oxford
3. India
4. India
5. Norway

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that the plural form *fees* is used when you pay for an educational service but the singular is normally used when paying for the services of a lawyer, accountant, doctor etc. Point out that the verb *comply* is followed by *with*, as in 'You must comply with the regulations.'

Key:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. fees | 6. crackdown |
| 2. estimate | 7. stock exchanges |
| 3. competitive | 8. comply |
| 4. vary | 9. poll |
| 5. explode | 10. apprenticeship |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Make sure that, apart from deciding which statements are true and which are false, students also correct the false statements. The corrections given in the key are only suggestions and students may use their own words to correct the false statements.

Key:

1. False. It was very expensive.
2. False. A majority pay for private tutoring.
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. False. There were signs that this was going to happen.
7. True
8. False. Most people in the poll did not think it would reduce the pressure on parents.
9. True
10. True

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs, before looking in the text to check. Note that we can also say 'on the starting line' but there is only one solution that uses all the prepositions.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. on | 5. with |
| 2. at | 6. of |
| 3. between | 7. from |
| 4. by | 8. in |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

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6. In your own words

- a. Have students pick a number from 1 to 12 and assign them with a country from the list below. Have students research the information about education in their assigned country to answer the questions. Students could find this information by entering these questions in internet search engines. They could also research the kind of information covered in the warmer but related to the country. This activity is probably best done as a homework task.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>Finland</i> | 7. <i>New Zealand</i> |
| 2. <i>Kenya</i> | 8. <i>Mexico</i> |
| 3. <i>the UK</i> | 9. <i>Cuba</i> |
| 4. <i>Singapore</i> | 10. <i>the US</i> |
| 5. <i>Hong Kong</i> | 11. <i>Namibia</i> |
| 6. <i>Japan</i> | 12. <i>Saudi Arabia</i> |