

## China's crackdown on tutoring leaves parents with new problems

### Level 1: Elementary / Pre-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. Point out that the plural form *fees* is used in the context of paying for educational services. Private schools charge fees. It is often singular in the case of other professional services, e.g. a lawyer's fee or a doctor's fee. Highlight the difference between a

non-profit organization and a for-profit organization. The new Chinese rule will ban the latter from private tutoring. Highlight the adjectival form of *competition*, namely *competitive*, and the different stress placement on the two words.

**Key:**

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. fees        | 6. urban   |
| 2. tutoring    | 7. rural   |
| 3. profit      | 8. concern |
| 4. investment  | 9. wages   |
| 5. competition | 10. survey |

#### 3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually to answer the questions and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups.

**Key:**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 6. True  |
| 2. True  | 7. True  |
| 3. True  | 8. True  |
| 4. False | 9. False |
| 5. False | 10. True |

#### 4. Key language

- a. Students can check their answers by finding these phrases in the text. Note that 'low investment' is also possible but there is only one solution that uses all six words.

**Key:**

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. a |
| 2. e | 5. b |
| 3. f | 6. d |

#### 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.

#### 6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to complete the sentences using their own words if possible.

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#### Suggested answers

1. It was very expensive for Ms Hu to send her child to summer school.  
It was very expensive for Ms Hu to pay the fees for the summer school.
2. She didn't want her son to be behind other students if they didn't pay.
3. In 2016, about 65% of families paid for private tutoring.
4. Most of the best universities are on the east coast and in big cities.
5. Chinese people think education and health are the two most important things.
6. Because of low wages and long hours, the birth rate in China is falling.