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China worries about damaged culture

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

4th August, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

China's Culture Minister Cai Wu has attacked his country's modern-day culture. He feels Chinese people are forgetting their heritage and becoming greedy. He said they are more interested in money and fashion. He targeted the Internet and television for focusing on gossip and trashy books and TV shows instead of Chinese arts. He said: "We publish more than 300,000 books every year, but how many of them could be compared with those...from our ancestors?" He said China "must pay more attention to culture and originality".

What is happening in China is happening in many countries. It seems as though we are moving towards a single world culture. Everywhere we travel, we find McDonalds, Disney, baseball caps and Michael Jackson. Young people love all things American or Western. It is sad to see shopping malls replace historic markets and neighborhoods all across the world. One day, it will be impossible to stand in a city and tell which country it belongs to. Everything and everyone will look the same.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. modern-day | a. and fashion |
| 2. becoming | b. more attention |
| 3. more interested in money | c. with those |
| 4. gossip and trashy | d. culture |
| 5. compared | e. greedy |
| 6. must pay | f. books |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. happening | a. we find McDonalds |
| 2. moving towards a single | b. to see |
| 3. Everywhere we travel, | c. or Western |
| 4. all things American | d. in many countries |
| 5. It is sad | e. it belongs to |
| 6. tell which country | f. world culture |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

China's Culture Minister Cai Wu has attacked his country's _____ . He feels Chinese people are forgetting their heritage _____. He said they are more interested in money and fashion. _____ and television for focusing _____ books and TV shows instead of Chinese arts. He said: "We publish more than 300,000 books every year, but how _____ be compared with those...from our ancestors?" He said China "must _____ to culture and originality".

What is happening in China _____ countries. It seems as though we are moving towards _____. Everywhere we travel, we find McDonalds, Disney, baseball caps and Michael Jackson. Young _____ American or Western. It is sad to see shopping malls replace historic _____ all across the world. One day, it will _____ in a city and tell _____ to. Everything and everyone will look the same.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

China's Culture Minister Cai Wu has (1) ____ his country's modern-day culture. He feels Chinese people are forgetting their heritage and becoming (2) _____. He said they are more interested in money and fashion. He targeted the Internet and television for focusing (3) ____ gossip and trashy books and TV shows instead (4) ____ Chinese arts. He said: "We publish more than 300,000 books every year, but how many of them could be compared with those...from our ancestors?" He said China "must (5) ____ more attention to culture and originality".

What is happening in China is happening in many countries. It (6) ____ as though we are moving towards a (7) ____ world culture. Everywhere we travel, we find McDonalds, Disney, baseball caps and Michael Jackson. Young people love (8) ____ things American or Western. It is sad to see shopping malls replace (9) ____ markets and neighborhoods all across the world. One day, it will be impossible to stand in a city and tell which country it (10) ____ to. Everything and everyone will look the same.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) attacked | (b) attacks | (c) attacking |
| 2. | (a) greedy | (b) greedily | (c) greed |
| 3. | (a) in | (b) by | (c) on |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) to |
| 5. | (a) pay | (b) buy | (c) present |
| 6. | (a) seem | (b) seems | (c) seemingly |
| 7. | (a) single | (b) double | (c) one |
| 8. | (a) every | (b) each | (c) all |
| 9. | (a) history | (b) historic | (c) historian |
| 10. | (a) belong | (b) belongings | (c) belongs |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. rednmo-day culture
2. becoming yeedrg
3. focusing on osgspi
4. slihbpu more than 300,000 books
5. dcemorap with those
6. pay more tnantoeit

Paragraph 2

7. a inslge world culture
8. lslebbaa caps
9. American or steeWnr
10. historic srmtake and neighborhoods
11. which country it gsobenl to
12. eeneyovr will look the same

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1008/100804-china.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () people love all things American or Western. It is sad to see shopping malls replace historic markets and
- (**1**) China's Culture Minister Cai Wu has attacked his country's modern-day culture. He feels Chinese people are forgetting
- () their heritage and becoming greedy. He said they are more interested in money and fashion. He targeted the Internet and
- () world culture. Everywhere we travel, we find McDonalds, Disney, baseball caps and Michael Jackson. Young
- () What is happening in China is happening in many countries. It seems as though we are moving towards a single
- () neighborhoods all across the world. One day, it will be impossible to stand in a city and
- () our ancestors?" He said China "must pay more attention to culture and originality".
- () television for focusing on gossip and trashy books and TV shows instead of Chinese arts. He said: "We publish
- () more than 300,000 books every year, but how many of them could be compared with those...from
- () tell which country it belongs to. Everything and everyone will look the same.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. are their people forgetting heritage Chinese.

2. are more He interested said in they money.

3. books every year We publish more than 300,000.

4. our with from ancestors Compared those.

5. more Pay originality and culture to attention.

6. a towards culture moving world are single We.

7. things people all American Young love.

8. replace to historic see markets shopping malls Sad.

9. and city a in Stand to belongs it country which tell.

10. and Everything same the look will everyone.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. CHINESE CULTURE: Search the Internet and find more information about what the Chinese Culture Minister said. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about culture. Include imaginary interviews with one person who thinks it's really important, and another person who doesn't think it's important. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the Chinese Culture Minister. Ask him three questions about Chinese culture. Give him three of your opinions on Chinese culture. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.