

The Podcast – Michael

Listen to the interview with Michael.

1 Answer the following questions.

- 1 How long did Michael live and work in China?
- 2 Where is Michael from?
- 3 Did he have a positive or negative experience of living and working in China?

Listen again and complete the following.

2 Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Michael taught secondary school students in China.
- 2 Michael needed two qualifications to teach in China.
- 3 Michael worked in four different areas of China.

3 Tick (✓) the differences between China and the West that Michael mentions.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| language | <input type="checkbox"/> | nightlife | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| fashion | <input type="checkbox"/> | tipping in restaurants | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| saying 'no' | <input type="checkbox"/> | music | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 'please' and 'thank you' | <input type="checkbox"/> | the way people drive | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4 Answer the following questions.

- 1 What does Michael say is like being a child again?
- 2 What would Michael do if he didn't know what a sign on a shop was?
- 3 What is it polite to do when meeting a businessperson for the first time?
- 4 How did waiters and waitresses react when Michael left tips?

Groupwork

5 What advice would you give someone travelling to and working in your country regarding customs and habits? Write a list of five top tips. Compare your answers with the other groups.

Discuss in pairs

6 Decide if you agree or disagree with the following statement.

'In ten years' time we will all have to learn to speak Chinese.'

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Teacher's Notes

1

- 1 three and half years
- 2 the UK, England
- 3 positive

2

Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 F – university
- 2 T – a degree and CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults)
- 3 F – three

3

language, saying 'no', 'please' and 'thank you', tipping in restaurants

4

Answer the following questions.

- 1 learning to read and write a language / not understanding how to read and write
- 2 go into the building and have a look around
- 3 give a gift e.g. cognac/brandy or cigarettes
- 4 they didn't understand / they didn't know what the money was for

5

Ask students to write five top tips for foreign travellers to their country in terms of etiquette. Invite students to share their ideas with the other groups and then compile a top five list for the class as a whole.

6

As an alternative, put the students into two groups and have a debate on the subject.

Note on the transcript:

As an extra activity, you might want to draw the students' attention to certain areas of vocabulary such as some of the adjectives that appear in the text.

Ask students to look through the transcript and find the words which match the definitions or synonyms below. Alternatively, you could play the recording again and have students listen for the adjectives.

fascinating	(Answer: interesting)
apparent, clear	(Answer: obvious)
difficult	(Answer: complicated)
traditional	(Answer: customary)
standard, usual	(Answer: typical)

expensive	(Answer: not cheap)
thankful	(Answer: grateful)
amazed	(Answer: impressed)
strange	(Answer: unusual)
rude	(Answer: not polite)

Then, in pairs, ask students to write some sentences using some or all of the adjectives.

