

# UNIT 1 Youngsters of 21<sup>st</sup> century



## Chinese Teenagers Show Positive Life Values

China's teenagers hold positive and healthy attitudes toward life and study, despite the mixed influences of traditional Chinese and modern Western cultures, according to a survey by **Beijing Normal University**. Youngsters said they know the power of money, but also hold friendship and classroom democracy as important, in the survey of 2,965 Beijing middle school students by Professor Pei Dina.

The survey, published and analyzed by Sunday's China Education Daily, showed 84.9 percent acknowledged the indispensable power of money, but most refused to make money their ultimate goal in life. Instead, 72.9 percent regarded health and friendship as most precious.

Ideas like equality, freedom and democracy had a greater influence on the life values of the young generation, as China opened wider to the outside world, Professor Pei said. [...]

The survey showed that 71.4 percent strongly defended their privacy, claiming that parents or teachers who secretly read their letters or diaries hurt their personal right to privacy.

"The yearning for freedom reflects their cry for independence," Professor Pei said. Statistics showed that only one percent were willing to let parents make decisions for them, while 74.4 percent believed in their own ability to lead an independent life.

With more choices to be made on their own, Beijing youngsters are interested in Hollywood movies. The survey said 67.4 percent expressed their fondness for Western blockbusters, with 47.5 percent praising them for "professional photography, good audio and visual effects" and 41.4 percent for "novel stories and intriguing plots".

However, high regard for foreign movies did not mean Chinese students worshipped foreign cultures or lifestyles, as only 13.1 percent said they liked "foreign cultures and lifestyles propagated in foreign movies", Professor Pei said.

The survey also revealed that most students had a strong sense of patriotism and were ready to strike a balance between individual and collective interests. [...]

(Xinhua News Agency August 12, 2003)

<i>most precious thing</i>	<b>money</b> 41%	<b>friendship</b> 47%	<b>health</b> 22%
<i>they let their parents take imp. decisions of their life</i>	<b>Yes</b> 35%	<b>No</b> 41%	<b>don't know yet</b> 22%
<i>impressed by any foreign culture</i>	<b>Yes</b> 47%	<b>No</b> 29%	<b>don't want to apply it in their life</b> 22%
<i>spend their time on internet daily</i>	<b>1:30-2hrs</b> 50%	<b>2-4hrs</b> 22%	<b>more than 5hrs</b> 10%
<i>want to go to another country for higher studies</i>	<b>Yes</b> 70%	<b>No</b> 30%	

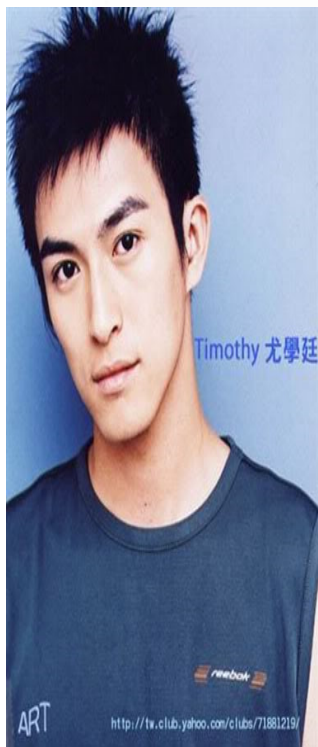
The upper table shows the result of a survey, taken from a 10<sup>th</sup> class in Germany. Try to explain the table in your own words and compare it with China.

### Facts & Figures

- Total number of Internet users: **30 million**
- Total number of websites: more than **260,000**
- China has more than **27,000** newspapers and magazines
- More than **10,000** radio stations
- More than **3,000** television stations
- More than **800** publication houses
- **8,900,00** Internet accounts



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Timothy 尤學廷

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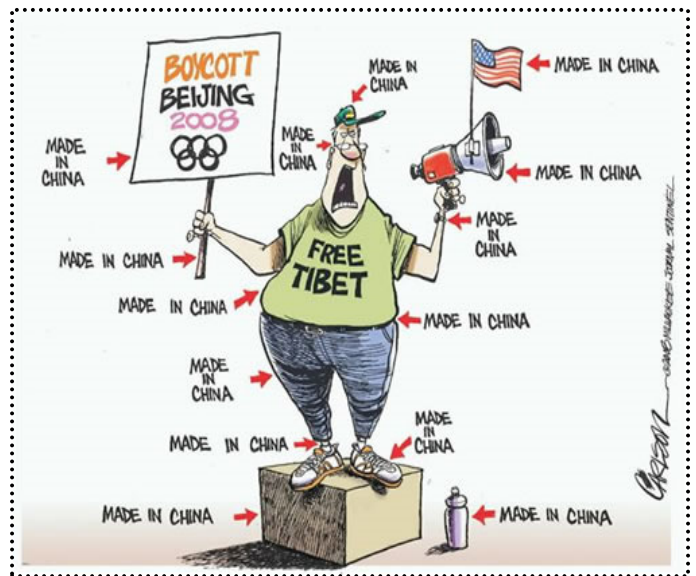
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TEACHING

❖ **Beyond the pictures**

Pictures can just be enjoyed but they can also be used. Think of ways pictures are used: to persuade/ to shock/...

Look at the picture on the right and explain what it is trying to do and how. Does it succeed?



**Let's talk about grammar**

**Active:** In an active sentence, the subject is doing the action. We use the active to talk about someone doing an action.

*Example:* Chinese Teenagers Show Positive Life Values.

Peter builds a house.

**Passive:** We only use the passive when we are interested in the object or when we do not know who caused the action and we use it to talk about what happens to something or someone.

*Example:* Positive Life Values are shown by the Chinese Teenagers.

A house is built by Peter.

tense		subject	form of verb	object
Simple present	active	Rita	writes	a letter.
	passive	A letter	is written	by Rita.
Present progressive	active	Rita	is writing	a letter.
	passive	A letter	is being written	by Rita.
Simple past	active	Rita	wrote	a letter.
	passive	A letter	was written	by Rita.
Past progressive	active	Rita	was writing	a letter.
	passive	A letter	was being written	by Rita.
Present perfect	active	Rita	has written	a letter.
	passive	A letter	has been written	by Rita.
Past perfect	active	Rita	had written	a letter
	passive	A letter	had been written	by Rita
Will-future	active	Rita	will write	a letter.
	passive	A letter	will be written	by Rita.
Modal auxiliary	active	Rita	should write	a letter.
	passive	A letter	should be written	by Rita.

- They make shoes in that factory.  
Shoes .....in that factory.
- Did the plan interest you?  
..... in the plan?
- They make these tools of plastic.  
These tools..... of plastic.
- Someone will speak Japanese at the meeting.  
Japanese.....at the meeting.
- They were cooking dinner when I arrived.  
Dinner.....when I arrived.
- Smithers painted 'Red Sunset' in 1986.  
'Red Sunset'.....in 1986 by Smithers.

