1 BAT READING

CHINESE LEG BREAKING

Cloze. Complete the spaces with the phrases below. The text has been divided to help you. There are phrases you will not need

PART 1: Swee Jing paid more money that most Chinese people earn in a year to have both her legs broken and **stretch**ed. The pretty college graduate (1) in a hospital bed, clearly still in pain, after the doctors (2) **the flesh** and bone of both legs in eight places. Each leg now has eight steel rods sticking out of it below the knee and these are connected to a steel cage surrounding each leg. Once the broken bones (3) the doctors will begin to turn the screws on the cage pushing the steel rods apart and so stretching the leg. It is a slow and painful process that will take 18 months to add 8 cm to Swee Jing's height.

Despite the agony, the cost and the inconvenience, the 23-year-old says she (4) a thing. "It hurts, but it will be worth it to be taller. I'll have more opportunities in life and a better chance of finding a good job and husband."

Her parents, who (5) and are now at her bedside, agree. "It's an investment in our daughter's future. Because she was short, she (6) confidence, but this should change that."

Swee Jing is one of a growing number of perfectly healthy Chinese young men and women who (7) have their legs broken in order to rise up the ladder in height-conscious China.

PART 2: In part, the popularity of such surgery can be explained by the surge of interest in fashion and beauty in a country where things like fashion magazines and beauty contests (1) banned. The once closed society (2) to western influences and the relatively prosperous middle classes have the money to explore cosmetic possibilities. Shops and magazines in the cities show endless images of long-legged western models, inevitably putting pressure on young women.

There are also domestic pressures. Height is listed among the criteria (3) job advertisements. To get a post in the foreign ministry, for instance, male applicants need not bother applying unless they are at least **5ft 7in**(*), while women must be at least 5ft 3in. Chinese diplomats are expected (4) tall to match the height of their foreign counterparts.

For more glamorous positions the conditions are even tougher: air stewardesses have to be over 5ft 5in. But height discrimination is evident even at ground level: in some places, people under 5ft 3in are not even eligible (5) driving test. To get into many law schools, women students need to be over 5ft 1in and men over 5ft 5in. Height requirements are also frequently mentioned in the personal ads of newspapers and magazines.

Even successful operations (6) pain several months after the initial operation. "During the final weeks of the stretching, I (7) discomfort that I couldn't sleep at night," says one young woman from Beijing who gave her name as Susan. The 27-year-old is in hospital recovering from an operation to remove the steel rods that have been inside her legs for the past 18 months. Each leg now bears eight circular scars, each half an inch in diameter.

Now that she is 8cm taller than before, Susan says she (8) to recommend the procedure to her friends. "It hurt at first and had a big impact on my life for a long time because I couldn't walk freely. But it (9) , and I feel very good about that. Before, nobody (10) to me because I was short, but now they'll look at me."

(*)1 foot = 30.5 cm // 1 inch = 2.5 cm

How tall in cm is a person who is 5ft 7in?

Handwritten activities.

1. **Copy the words in bold and give them a synonym or a definition.**
2. **Being in a society in which appearances are extremely important, imagine you are a Chinese student who took the procedure described in the text. In what positive ways has this changed your life? Give your arguments in about 60 words.**

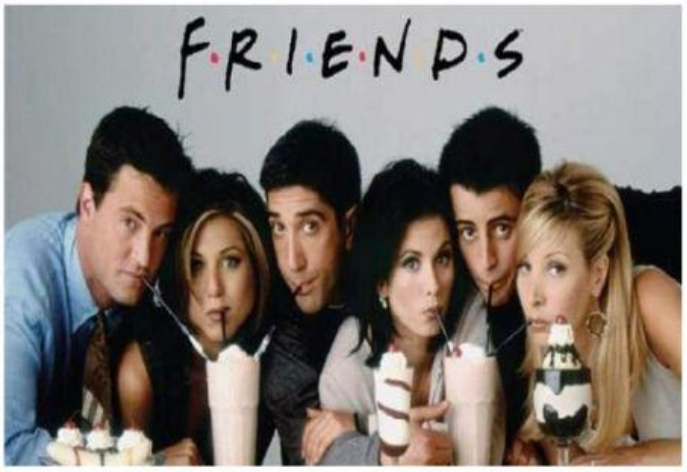
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1 BAT VIDEO

TV SERIES: FRIENDS

1. Handwritten activity. Copy these words/expressions and explain their meaning with a synonym or a definition (do not translate).

Swell –
Poultry –
Bother –
Stretch –
Yams –
Teeny weenie –
Turkey –
Leftovers –
Fold –
Void –
Lure –



Summary: in this episode, the group of friends are celebrating Thanksgiving. One of them, Monica, invited an old friends, Will (Brad Pitt), to celebrate the day with them.

LINKS:

Link 1: will hates Rachel	Link 2: The 'I hate Rachel club'

Answer these questions:

Is Phoebe already a mother?

Why did Monica invite Will?

Why is Chandler watching a game if he's not really interested?

Choose the correct answer. Choose A, B, or C.

1. What's the name of the club founded by Ross and Will?

- ○ "Don't tell Rachel" club
- ○ "I hate Rachel" club
- ○ "I love Rachel" club

2. Where was another member of the club, the exchange student, from?

- ○ Ireland
- ○ Taiwan
- ○ Thailand

3. What was one of the rules of the pact between Ross and Will?

- ○ Not to tell Rachel about the club
- ○ Not to talk to Rachel
- ○ Not to go out with Rachel

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4. How long was the pact supposed to last?

- For ever
- Till the beginning of the high school
- Till the end of the high school

5. What was the rumour that Ross and Will started about?

- That Rachel had both male and female reproductive parts
- That Rachel's parents flipped the coin to decide whether to rise her as a girl or a boy
- That Rachel was the hermaphrodite cheerleader form Long Island.

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1 BAT MULTIPLE MATCHING
DRIVING EXPERIENCES

This month we feature your early driving experiences:

A Terry

I'd been taking lessons for a year before I passed my driving test at the age of eighteen, but my dad never gave me any help. Even after I'd passed he never let me use the car. So **I used to take my dad's keys** before leaving **the apartment block where we lived** and would run round to the car park at the back where my father left the car at night. He **hardly ever** used the car after getting in from work. I used to go and see my girlfriend or just drive around and then come back and leave the car in exactly the same place. One night though, I got back at around ten thirty only to find there were no parking spaces left. I suppose because I went in and told my dad the truth straight away he was quite good about it. Although he did stop my allowance for four weeks.

1. Is it correct to replace 'I used to take my dad's keys' by 'I would take my dad's keys'?
2. Is it correct to replace 'the apartment block where we lived' by 'the apartment block in which we lived'?
3. Choose the correct synonym for 'hardly ever'

B Carl

My most unfortunate driving experience happened ages ago, before I'd actually passed my driving test. My girlfriend's father used to let her borrow his car whenever we were going to the cinema or something. Anyway, I'd been thinking about learning to drive and **I persuaded her to let me have a go**. We took the car down to the beach on the sand where no one could see us and she let me take the wheel. We were having such fun that we didn't notice the tide was coming in until the car was actually swimming in the water. We had to leave the car where it was and catch the bus back to tell her dad. By the time the three of us returned, the car was almost covered in water. Needless to say, her father wasn't too pleased. The funny thing is her dad ended up selling me the car after I passed my test.

1. We could replace 'I persuaded her to let me have a go' by …

C Sarah

I was teaching my mum to drive and we were coming down a rather narrow road which had cars parked on both sides. **Suddenly**, from nowhere there was a young man on a bike coming towards us. Mum slammed the brakes on but he crashed into us, landed on the car and then rolled off. My mother and I both jumped out of the car to see if he was all right. Fortunately, he stood up and said he was OK, just a little shaken. My mum offered to give him some money for the repair of the bike, and then an old lady came along. When she saw what had happened, she began shouting at my mother, saying she must have been driving too fast and that it was a bad example to set her young daughter. Poor old mum didn't say a word and I had to explain that she was still learning to drive.

1. A synonym for 'suddenly' is…
2. Write the prepositions following these verbs:

   Crash land roll stand

D Karen

My advice about learning to drive would be to have **proper** lessons from a qualified instructor and never to let a friend or family member try to teach you. It's a guaranteed way to spoil a good relationship. Every Sunday, when the traffic was quieter, my father would pick me up and take me for a drive along the streets of our hometown and give me a lecture on how to drive, explaining everything he was doing and why. Eventually it was my turn to have a go. My dad was so nervous that he panicked before I'd even started up the engine. He used to shout at the slightest mistake, and when the lesson was finally over he'd come home and have a large glass of whisky to calm down.

Give a synonym for 'proper'.
'lecture'
'eventually'
'have a go'

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E Mike

I didn't start learning to drive until I was twenty one. I**'d** spent lots of money on lessons but I was a terrible driver, I must admit. The first time I took my driving test nobody expected me to pass. But after failing another four times the pressure was really on. I took my test for a sixth time and failed yet again, but I was too embarrassed to admit it to my family, so I just pretended that I**'d** passed after all. My family were delighted and my father went out and bought me a car the next day. I didn't know what to do so I just got in and drove. I continued to drive - illegally - for three months. Fortunately I was never stopped by the police and the next time I took my driving test I passed.

What does ' 'd' stand for?

After reading the previous paragraphs, answer the questions according to the information you read. Answer only with the name.

1) Who was the person whose father was accused of driving dangerously?

2) Who bought a car?

3) Who drove his girlfriend's dad's car?

4) Who drove alone without a license?

5) Which person had to defend one of their parents?

6) Who drove their father's car without permission?

7) Who used to make their father nervous?

8) Who paid for driving lessons?

9) Which of these people had no driving instruction from their father?

10) Who was given driving lessons by an older member of their family?

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