

Thames Town, a little English town in China

The building company *Hong Kong Housing* has built a new suburb in Shanghai, a city with a population of more than 15 million people. But this suburb is not like other parts of Shanghai, it is a little piece of England. The name of the new area is "Thames Town". The manager of *Hong Kong Housing*, Shi Guangsheng, says many people in this area of China want to buy an English house and live in an English town.



"This town is like Bristol or Chester. There is an English square and there are pigeons to feed like in Trafalgar Square in London. There are four English-style pubs and you can buy English beer to drink. There is a canal and you can row a boat there like in Cambridge."

Are there any cricket fields? "No, there aren't any places to play cricket because nobody in Shanghai can play this game. But there is a football stadium like those in England. And the thing we are very proud of is our shopping street. There are several shops where you can buy traditional English food like fish and chips or Christmas Pudding."

The rich Shanghai businessman can do some gardening, too. Every house in "Thames Town" has got an English lawn and there are long gardens with ponds and tall hedges. But there is a problem: the houses in this part of town cost a minimum of \$400,000!

Read the text and decide if the sentences are T (true), F (false) or NG (not given)

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|--|---|---|----|
| 1. "Thames Town" is a neighborhood in a Chinese city. | T | F | NG |
| 2. The houses there are only for English people to buy. | T | F | NG |
| 3. You can feed the pigeons in the square. | T | F | NG |
| 4. There are some cricket fields in this new suburb. | T | F | NG |
| 5. The English pubs offer a very good Sunday roast. | T | F | NG |
| 6. Shi Guangsheng feels proud about the English-style shops. | T | F | NG |
| 7. There are lots of terraced houses in Thames Town. | T | F | NG |
| 8. The houses are cheap. | T | F | NG |

Choose the right option

Shanghai is a

- a. very big city b. small town c. large suburb d. suburb of Hong Kong

There are pigeons

- a. in all the gardens b. in the square c. in a local park d. on the ponds

Cricket is a

- a. common sport in China c. typical English sport
b. sport played all over the world d. sport mainly played in Hong Kong

3 Answer these questions

1. Who built Thames Town?
2. Why did they build it?
3. How many English-style pubs are there?
4. What can you drink there?
5. How is this Chinese town similar to Cambridge?
6. Are there any sports facilities?
7. Which traditional British food can you buy in the shopping street?
8. How much does a house cost in Thames Town?