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## **Level 5**

### **Chinese maths teachers to help UK schools**

**14th March, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140314-mathematics.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140314-mathematics.html>

The British government wants Chinese teachers to try to improve the standard of maths in British schools. Students in Shanghai have the highest international test results according to a global testing agency. There is a huge difference in numeracy levels between the UK and China. A British newspaper reports: "The children of cleaners in Shanghai outperform those of UK doctors and lawyers in global maths tests." To try and change this, the UK will hire 60 of Shanghai's best maths teachers. It is part of a new initiative aimed at improving the mathematics ability of one million British students.

The UK said it was shocked it was so far behind many countries in maths. It warned that poor numeracy costs the economy \$30 billion a year. Britain's education minister, who recently returned from a fact-finding mission in China, said: "We have some brilliant maths teachers in this country but what I saw in Shanghai and other Chinese cities has only strengthened my belief that we can learn from them." She added: "They have a can-do attitude to maths and I want us to match that." She said maths qualifications could mean higher salaries and protect against unemployment.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/education-26533428>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10691030/Chinese-teachers-sent-into-English-schools-to-boost-results.html>  
<http://news.tes.co.uk/b/news/2014/02/18/china-39-s-poorest-children-outperform-uk-39-s-wealthiest-in-international-maths-tests.aspx>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140314-mathematics.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. improve the standard of                         | a. test results             |
| 2. the highest international                       | b. those of UK doctors      |
| 3. according to a global                           | c. million British students |
| 4. There is a huge difference                      | d. maths in British schools |
| 5. The children of cleaners in Shanghai outperform | e. in numeracy levels       |
| 6. hire 60 of Shanghai's                           | f. initiative               |
| 7. part of a new                                   | g. testing agency           |
| 8. the mathematics ability of one                  | h. best maths teachers      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The UK said it                 | a. qualifications  |
| 2. it was so                      | b. numeracy        |
| 3. poor                           | c. finding mission |
| 4. Britain's education            | d. far behind      |
| 5. recently returned from a fact- | e. unemployment    |
| 6. strengthened                   | f. was shocked     |
| 7. maths                          | g. my belief       |
| 8. protect against                | h. minister        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140314-mathematics.html>

The British government wants Chinese teachers (1) \_\_\_\_\_ standard of maths in British schools. Students in Shanghai have the highest international test (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a global testing agency. There is a huge difference (3) \_\_\_\_\_ between the UK and China. A British newspaper reports: "The children of cleaners in Shanghai (4) \_\_\_\_\_ UK doctors and lawyers in global maths tests." To try and change this, the UK (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Shanghai's best maths teachers. It is part of a new initiative aimed at improving the mathematics (6) \_\_\_\_\_ British students.

The UK said it was shocked (7) \_\_\_\_\_ many countries in maths. It warned that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the economy \$30 billion a year. Britain's education minister, who recently (9) \_\_\_\_\_ mission in China, said: "We have some brilliant maths teachers in this country (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Shanghai and other Chinese cities has only strengthened my belief that we can learn from them." She added: "They have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ maths and I want us to match that." She said maths qualifications could mean higher (12) \_\_\_\_\_ unemployment.

# MATHEMATICS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140314-mathematics.html>

Write five GOOD questions about maths in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

*Chinese maths teachers to help UK schools - 14th March, 2014*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

