

## China limits pay for movie stars

1st July, 2018



The Chinese government is putting a limit on how much pay its movie stars get. The government says that actors getting very high salaries is bad for society. Authorities say a lot of actors try to avoid paying tax and their love of money is harmful. Government

officials said they want to stop "money worship" in society and in the movie industry because money is not the most important thing in life. The government also wants to try and stop a celebrity culture from developing. It says many young people are "blindly chasing celebrities" and turning them into heroes, which is giving people a false idea about what life is really like. The government said movies should benefit society, not movie star bank accounts.

The government has issued a set of rules that tell movie production companies how to pay their movie stars. The salaries of actors will be capped at 40 per cent of the total cost of the movie. Furthermore, leading actors will receive no more than 70 per cent of the total wages for the entire cast. Many Chinese citizens said they support the new rules. They say it is not good for society that "greedy" actors and celebrities are "showing off" their wealth and "Hollywood lifestyles". One Chinese citizen wrote on social media: "Society has given them too much and they give nothing back. They do not teach young people about the value and importance of humility and community in China."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [screendaily.com](http://screendaily.com) / [the-guardian.com](http://the-guardian.com)

## Writing

Movie stars should not get big salaries. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / movie stars / society / tax / society / money / celebrity / celebrities / rules / salaries / actors / cast / greedy / citizen / nothing / young people / community

## True / False

- China said high salaries for movie stars is bad for society. T / F
- The government wants to stop what it called "money worship". T / F
- China's government said money is the most important thing in life. T / F
- The government said movies should benefit society, not actors. T / F
- Actors' salaries will be capped at 40% of the total cost of the movie. T / F
- Many Chinese people agreed with the new salary rules. T / F
- People say movie stars should not follow a "Hollywood lifestyle". T / F
- A social media user said actors give nothing back to society. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>limit</b>      | a. growing        |
| 2. <b>avoid</b>      | b. worth          |
| 3. <b>developing</b> | c. following      |
| 4. <b>chasing</b>    | d. whole          |
| 5. <b>benefit</b>    | e. dodge          |
| 6. <b>issued</b>     | f. put a limit on |
| 7. <b>capped</b>     | g. riches         |
| 8. <b>entire</b>     | h. restrict       |
| 9. <b>wealth</b>     | i. be good for    |
| 10. <b>value</b>     | j. released       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of movie stars?
- Why should movie stars get big salaries?
- Should there be a limit on all salaries?
- Who should get more money, an actor or a nurse?
- What do you think of movie stars who do not pay tax?
- Is a love of money bad?
- Why do people love celebrities?
- Should movies do more to teach people values?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. try to avoid paying               | a. celebrities     |
| 2. in the movie                      | b. actors          |
| 3. blindly chasing                   | c. a set of rules  |
| 4. a false idea about what life      | d. tax             |
| 5. The government said movies should | e. of humility     |
| 6. The government has issued         | f. is really like  |
| 7. salaries of actors will be capped | g. industry        |
| 8. greedy                            | h. nothing back    |
| 9. they give                         | i. benefit society |
| 10. the value and importance         | j. at 40 per cent  |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Who is your favourite actor, and why?
- Do you prefer male or female actors?
- Would you be a good movie star?
- Will the new rules help or harm the movie industry?
- What is wrong with celebrities showing off a Hollywood lifestyle?
- What do you think of the movies from your country?
- What questions would you like to ask movie stars?

## Spelling

- getting very high saerlasi
- Government cfiasoilf
- in the movie tdnrisyu
- stop a yelercitb culture
- movies should ienetbf society
- movie star bank aoctcsun
- isesud a set of rules
- wages for the irneet cast
- purpost the new rules
- Hollywood lyeesstfi
- One Chinese ntziice
- tuhilyim and community

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. c	5. i
6. j	7. f	8. d	9. g	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Movie Stars

You think movie stars should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people getting the highest salary. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): English teachers, soldiers or presidents.

### Role B – English Teachers

You think English teachers should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people getting the highest salary. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): movie stars, soldiers or presidents.

### Role C – Soldiers

You think soldiers should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people getting the highest salary. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): English teachers, movie stars or presidents.

### Role D – Presidents

You think presidents should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people getting the highest salary. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): English teachers, soldiers or movie stars.

## Speaking – Salaries

Rank these with your partner. Put the people who deserve the biggest salaries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| • soldiers   | • movie stars |
| • astronauts | • presidents  |
| • nurses     | • teachers    |
| • rock stars | • scientists  |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.