

## Four things I didn't expect about China

Read the article and use a good **English dictionary** to help you with the following questions

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**Exercise 1** Match the adjectives from the article with the definitions on the right

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. populous      | a. faultless                            |
| 2. fancy         | b. very weak or slight                  |
| 3. tenuous       | c. having a large population            |
| 4. mind-boggling | d. elaborate in structure or decoration |
| 5. impeccable    | e. overwhelming; startling              |

**Exercise 2** Use the verbs from the text to complete the sentences. You may need to change the form of the verb.

**vouch deliver cultivate venerate elevate**

- The president will \_\_\_\_\_ a speech about the economy tonight.
- High amounts of the drug can \_\_\_\_\_ blood pressure.
- Meditation helped me to \_\_\_\_\_ a more balanced state of mind.
- Mother Teresa is \_\_\_\_\_ as a saint.
- They say you never get bored of London, and I can certainly \_\_\_\_\_ for that.

**Exercise 3** Complete the sentences using words or expressions from the article

- When I visit Asia next year, Malaysia will be my \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you study hard, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ your way through the exam.
- How much longer can we \_\_\_\_\_ the oceans of fish?

**Exercise 4** What are the missing words from the first paragraph of the article?

*I've been teaching \_\_\_ a foreign languages school \_\_\_ the city of Tianjin for \_\_\_ last three months. Like many big cities around \_\_\_ world, Tianjin is full of McDonald's restaurants, Starbucks coffee shops, impressive skyscrapers and fancy malls. And just \_\_\_ every other school I've known, the boys in this school refuse to sit \_\_\_ to the girls, loud students complain when you move them to sit apart \_\_\_ their friends, and the word 'homework' is met \_\_\_ a groan. But in spite \_\_\_ the many similarities with the west, the longer I work here, the \_\_\_ I've come to believe that China has a distinct culture all of its own.*

## Answers (with links to [Oxford English Dictionaries](#))

### Exercise 1

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. e
5. a

### Exercise 2

6. The president will [deliver](#) a speech about the economy tonight.
7. High amounts of the drug can [elevate](#) blood pressure.
8. Meditation helped me to [cultivate](#) a more balanced state of mind.
9. Mother Teresa is [venerated](#) as a saint.
10. They say you never get bored of London, and I can certainly [vouch](#) for that.

### Exercise 3

11. When I visit Asia next year, Malaysia will be my first [port of call](#)
12. If you study hard, you'll [coast](#) your way through the exam.
13. How much longer can we [trawl](#) the oceans of fish? Soon there won't be any left.

### Exercise 4

14. See first paragraph of the article