

READING ACTIVITIES	1. Reading Comprehension 2. Warm up Questions, activities and discussion questions
GRAMMAR WRITING PRACTICE	3. Synonyms 4. Letter writing

1. Reading Comprehension

The world's tallest man marries

The world's tallest man has married a woman who is just two-thirds his height and half his age in a traditional ceremony in Mongolia. The wedding took place on July 12th at the tomb of the most famous ever Mongolian, Kublai Khan. The record-breaking 2.4 metre high groom Bao Xishun, 56, is a farmer from Mongolia. He met his bride Xia Shujian, 28, earlier this year after searching for a suitable woman by sending advertisements around the world. Xia is a petite 1.7 metres tall and comes up to her husband's elbow when standing side by side. In the end, he didn't have to look so far as his bride is a saleswoman from his own hometown. More than 2,000 people attended the happy day, including relatives, locals and a large crowd of journalists.

Bao wore a specially designed, traditional pale blue wedding robe underneath a decorative gold vest. He rode to his bride's relatives in front of the tomb in a wedding cart pulled by two camels. In keeping with Mongolian tradition, the bride's family tried to "stop" Bao reaching his bride, symbolizing the family's last efforts to protect her. However, they soon changed their minds after he pleaded to see and marry his intended. The bride's family accepted him and offered tea, which means he had been accepted into her family. Bao entered the Guinness Book of World Records last year as the world's tallest person. He was average height until the age of 16, when he suddenly shot up to his current height within seven years.

2. Warm up questions:

2.1. Ask about weddings in your student's own culture.

2.2 Ask your student to discuss their wedding in relation to the following. Compare with your wedding, or weddings in your culture/country.

Venue	Ceremony
Tradition	Relatives and guests
Clothes	Food
Honeymoon	Vows (promises)

2.3. Discuss world records. Which of the following records would you like to break and why?

- World's most intelligent person
- World's longest married person
- World's most beautiful / handsome person
- World's oldest person
- World's tallest person
- other?

2.4. True/ False:

a.	The world's tallest man has married the world's tallest woman.	T / F
b.	The ceremony took place at the tomb of a famous Mongolian.	T / F
c.	The man found his bride through advertising worldwide.	T / F
d.	There were no journalists among the two thousand wedding guests.	T / F
e.	The groom wore a pale blue robe on top of a traditional gold vest.	T / F
f.	Two camels pulled the bridegroom's wedding cart.	T / F
g.	The bride's family tried to stop the groom from seeing his intended.	T / F
h.	The groom was average height for his age when he was sixteen.	T / F

2.5. Fill in the Blanks:

<p>The world's tallest man has married a woman who is just _____ his height and half his _____ in a traditional ceremony in Mongolia. The wedding took _____ on July 12th at the tomb of the most famous ever Mongolian, Kublai Khan. The record-breaking 2.4 metre high _____ Bao Xishun, 56, is a farmer from Mongolia. He met his bride Xia Shujian, 28, earlier this year after searching for a _____ woman by sending advertisements around the world. Xia is a petite 1.7 metres tall and _____ up to her husband's elbow when standing side by side. In the _____, he didn't have to look so far as his bride is a saleswoman from his own hometown. More than 2,000 people attended the happy day, _____ relatives, locals and a large crowd of journalists.</p>	<p><i>comes place end groom including two-thirds suitable age</i></p>
<p>Bao wore a specially designed, _____ pale blue wedding robe underneath a decorative gold vest. He rode to his bride's relatives in front of the tomb in a wedding _____ pulled by two camels. In keeping with Mongolian tradition, the bride's family tried to "stop" Bao _____ his bride, symbolizing the family's last _____ to protect her. However, they soon changed their minds after he _____ to see and marry his intended. The bride's family accepted him and offered tea, which means he had been accepted into her family. Bao _____ the Guinness Book of World Records last year as the world's tallest person. He was average height until the age of 16, when he suddenly _____ up to his _____ height within seven years.</p>	<p><i>current reaching pleaded shot traditional efforts entered cart</i></p>

2.6. Further discussion questions:

What did you think when you read the headline?

What do you think it would be like to be the world's tallest person?

What do you think it would be like to be the world's shortest person?

Would you prefer to be the tallest or the shortest person in the world?

Did you have a very traditional wedding? (or would you like a very traditional wedding?)

What do you think of the idea of advertising for a partner?

Would you prefer to marry someone from your hometown or someone from another country?

What did you / what would you like to wear at your wedding?

Do you think wedding ceremonies in your country or other countries are best?

Do you think marriage is important?

What happens at a traditional wedding in your country?

What questions would you like to ask Bao?

What questions would you like to ask Xia?

3. Grammar:

Synonyms

Synonyms are different words with identical or similar meanings. Words that are synonyms are said to be synonymous, and the state of being a synonym is called synonymy. An example of synonyms is the words *car* and *automobile*. Similarly, if we talk about a *long time* or an *extended time*, *long* and *extended* become synonyms. Synonyms can be any **part of speech** (e.g. **nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs** or **prepositions**), as long as both members of the pair are the same part of speech.

Examples of synonyms :

baby and *infant* (noun)

student and *pupil* (noun)

buy and *purchase* (verb)

pretty and *attractive* (adjective)

sick and *ill* (adjective)

quickly and *speedily* (adverb)

on and *upon* (preposition)

freedom and *liberty* (noun)

dead and *deceased* (adjective)

3.1. What are some examples of synonyms that you can think of?

3.2. Synonym Match: Match the following synonyms from the article:

1.	Ceremony	reporters
2	Petite	grew
3.	in the end	family
4.	Journalists	small
5.	Pale	betrothed
6.	Relatives	celebration
7.	in keeping with	light
8.	Intended	present
9.	shot up	sticking to
10.	Current	eventually

3.3. Can you think of words that have more than one synonym?

Word	First synonym	Second synonym	Third Synonym
<i>eg. important</i>	<i>vital</i>	<i>significant</i>	<i>critical</i>

4. Writing practice

Letter writing:

Letter writing is a very important activity in day to day life. Even in the age of the Internet-driven communications such as e-mail and text-messaging, when it comes to the bottom line on a situation, a formal letter will almost always be necessary. People still feel the need to have something confirmed in writing and a letter can add the all important personal touch. There are many different letter writing formats. The first paragraph of the letter should introduce the subject matter and either state or imply your purpose in writing. The body of the letter should consist of one or more paragraphs. It should develop clearly and logically the argument and facts of the case. If there is more than one paragraph, each paragraph should focus on a separate aspect of the subject matter and there should be clear links between paragraphs. The final paragraph should leave the reader in no doubt about your attitude towards the subject of the letter. It may, for example, spell out what you would like to see happen. It should be positive and unambiguous. Although the reader of your letter may be unknown to you, it is important to achieve a suitable tone in your writing and not to be too casual or too formal. If you are writing to someone whose name and title you do not know, use the greeting *Dear Sir or Madam*, and the ending *Yours faithfully*, signing yourself with your initials and surname. If you are writing to a named person, address them as *Dear Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms*, and end *Yours sincerely*, followed by your first name and surname. If you have met them or spoken to them by phone, or otherwise feel that you have some acquaintance with them, address them by their first name and sign yourself *Yours sincerely*, using your first name.

Discussion questions:

Have you written many letters in the past?

What sorts of letters have you written?

What do you think the main difference is between a formal letter and an informal letter?

What are some examples of both formal and informal letters?

Writing a formal letter:

If you were applying for a job, you would need to write a cover letter to include with your resume. What would you include in your cover letter? Can you write a sample cover letter?

Writing an informal letter:

Write a letter to Bao in Mongolia. Ask him three questions about being so tall. Give three suggestions about how to live happily with Xia.