

Conversation Friends Class # 39 Tuesday, November 7, 2017 10:00am - noon

Volunteers: Jon* Charlotte Sister Sage Sister Dixon

Students: Rainbow, Jing Sun

Jon's Notes:

Schools were closed today so most of our students were unable to come to class. We met downstairs since the Social Hall was a voting site today.

Jing Sun and Rainbow are both from China and told us about the elections in their country. The Chinese Communist Party is in power and is the only one of a dozen or so parties that is allowed to be on the ballots. The other political parties have no power.

Citizens can vote after age 21. They elect representatives, who in turn elect the leader of the country. He serves a five year "period" and may serve two "periods" before being replaced.

Charlotte asked about driving laws and what happens if you are caught speeding. Jing Sun said the policeman suspends your license. There is no traffic court; you just lose your license until you go back to driving school and are then tested again. Everyone must take driving lessons with a professional tutor before getting a license. They use a very large car, which Rainbow said made driving a smaller car seem very easy. It costs about \$1,000 to learn to drive. While learning, students cannot drive on the public roads, only in the driving-school area.

In big cities, you cannot drive every day, only on days designated as odd or even, based on your car's number. (This may be a license number.) To get a number, you must go on the Internet and enter a lottery to try to get a number and be allowed to drive.

There are many, many cars on the road in Beijing. It's very cheap to get a number for your car so many cars have numbers. Shanghai has many (16) subway lines and they are very good.

After our break, we tried out a few new activities:

Listening/Pronunciation Bingo- We played games 5,6,7,& 8. They had few problems with the sounds on these cards but enjoyed the practice and I think they enjoyed being correct much of the time.

Syllable-Stress mazes- We tried the Four-syllable words with stress on third syllable (Politician, individual, etc.) and the Two-syllable words with stress on the second syllable (Forget, machine, etc.) These were harder but once they caught on they did very well. Rainbow & Jing were good at sounding out the words and realizing which syllable they was stressing. They missed a few places and had to have hints to get back on track but got them correct at the end. This is a good way to help them remember how to pronounce certain words. For both these games, we used the colored stones as markers.

Scrambled sentences- I'd made a set of six sentences with the words scrambled and they had to figure out the correct order of the words. This is very good for learning and reinforcing the word order and where to put those pesky articles, pronouns and verbs. The answers were on the back of the sheet and they took them home with them. We dismissed at noon.