Little Africa in China

New Internationalist Easier English
Ready Upper Intermediate Lesson
Where do you think this is? Why? What can you see?
this lesson

Q & A
Match:
1) social security benefits
2) residence permit
3) fake
4) visa
5) separation
6) prejudice
7) hostility
8) urban
9) overtake
10) integration

a) paper which allows you to stay in a country
b) about a town or city
c) unfriendly behaviour
d) money from the state for people in need
e) not real, for example, a ___ passport
f) when people in a family must live apart
g) negative opinion, for example, about race or class
h) become bigger
i) note In your passport allowing you to stay in a country for a certain time
j) mixing people together happily
Fill the gaps with one or more of the words in the correct form:

1) She had no job and no money in the bank and so she was living on _______________.
2) He was shocked when he realised the expensive painting he had bought was _______________.
3) The _______________ population of Abuja is about 1,500,000.
4) He showed the policeman his _______________ as proof he was allowed to live in the country.
5) _______________ is the best hope for both black and white Americans.
6) Germany quickly _______________ Britain in industrial power.
7) A lot of stress can come from the _______________ of parents and children.
8) She had a _______________ to stay 3 months in the USA.
9) Racial _______________ is a cause of violence between black and white people in the USA.
10) He was very angry about his wife’s family and often showed them great _______________.

What do you think?

1) Guangzhou is in Africa or China?
2) The population of Guangzhou is about 10 million or 15 million?
3) 15,000 or 5,000, or 20,000 Africans live in Guangzhou?
4) Most Africans in Guangzhou come from Nigeria. Yes/no?
5) Why do you think Africans come to China - for business, the universities, cheaper cost of living?
6) Which country does most trade with Africa – USA, UK, China, or Brazil?

Now read and check your answers:
Guangzhou in China is ‘Little Africa’. It has Asia’s biggest African migrant population. They come to China for business opportunities, good universities, and low living costs.

There are no precise figures but we think that more than 15,000 Africans live in the busy city. Most are from Egypt, Mali, the DRC, and Nigeria. Guangzhou is part of the Pearl Delta Region and it is the biggest urban area in the world. More than half a million people travel here each year to buy all kinds of ‘Made in China’ products, for example, air conditioners and fake Nike sneakers, and then they send them back to Africa.

People started arriving in China to follow their dreams when the country made the economy freer in the mid-90s. But the number of people grew in the 2000s when Beijing made stronger economic relations with Africa. China overtook the US as Africa’s largest trading partner in 2010, and in September 2018 President Xi Jinping promised another $60 billion in loans and investments.
What do you think the answers are?

1) Life for Africans in Guangzhou is difficult. True/false?
2) If Africans are ill in Guangzhou, there is a lot of support. True/false?
3) China is making it more difficult for Africans to get visas. True/false?
4) Married African couples have the same rights as the Chinese. True/false?
5) A few Africans have bought flats. True/false?
6) When an African and a Chinese couple have children in Guangzhou, their children still have to pay for school. True/false?

Now read and check:
But it is not easy for those who want to live here. Social-security benefits are poor. There are almost no medical benefits and migration rules are stricter. All this means that most African migrants in the city live in difficult conditions,

Chinese embassies in Africa have made it more and more difficult to get visas to enter the country, and there are now very few opportunities to get residence permits or long-term visas. At the same time, there is greater control of foreign residents in the city. The Guangzhou Public Security Bureau does not allow African husbands full citizenship rights. And so families live in fear of separation.

The researcher Heidi Østbø Haugen says, ‘Even if they are married and have children, most of the African people never know how long they will be allowed to stay. Foreigners cannot buy houses or flats, and they don’t have financial security or legal rights to their kids. They will never be integrated, if they don’t know what the future will bring.’

The growing new generation of mixed-race children born in China have full citizenship. This allows them to go to state schools and be fully integrated. But their parents continue to suffer prejudice and hostility.
There are three paragraphs. They are about two African women in their forties. They both went to China to find new opportunities. They both have jobs.
Jojo is 33 years old and from Ghana. He says, ‘China is not only the land of our dreams, but an opportunity for all Africa.’ He left his family and (1) _________ to find (2) _________ . He remembers that, at the beginning, it was not easy. ‘There is no real (3) _________ in the country. You have to be creative and employ yourself.’ After almost four years, Jojo is a trade representative, helping (4) _________ deals between Chinese and Africans. He is also a fashion designer, designing and making (5) _________ that he sells in both countries. And he has a modern African restaurant in the centre of Guangzhou, together with his Chinese wife.

Masoud is 32 years old and he is a medicine student from Niger. He was one of the 50,000 African students to receive a Chinese government (6) _________ in 2015 to study abroad. He sees China as ‘the new land of opportunities, where anything is possible.’ In less than 15 years the number of African students has (7) _________ 26 times. This is thanks to scholarships and each year more students arrive in China from Africa than from any other region. This means it is the second most (8) _________ place for Africans to study abroad after France. Most of those going to Chinese universities are from Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Morocco, Eritrea, and Cameroon.
Put these words in the gaps in the text:

(a) business                                      (b) scholarship
(c) friends                                        (d) clothes
(e) grown                                         (f) opportunities
(g) popular                                        (h) employment
Role play

Journalist

You are going to interview an African who has gone to Guangzhou to find new opportunities. Write questions to ask them. Find out:
• their name
• age
• where they are from
• why they went to Guangzhou
• what they are doing in Guangzhou
• the advantages and disadvantages

African

A journalist is going to interview you. You have gone to Guangzhou to find new opportunities. Think about:
• your name
• age
• where you are from
• why you went to Guangzhou
• what you are doing in Guangzhou
• the advantages and
• disadvantages
Write a newspaper interview between a journalist and an African living in Guangzhou.

Introduction:

Journalist: ..................................................?
African: ................................................................

J:
A: