

## An Interview With Brett

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One afternoon in late November, we interviewed an art design teacher in our college, a young man from Australia: Brett. He had been in China for only seven weeks, and he was likely to go back to his hometown after this term. So we took the opportunity to interview him about his experiences in China. It was the first time for us to interview a foreign teacher, so we felt a little nervous before the interview. However, as the interview began, we found that Brett was very friendly and easy-going. The following is our interview.

J: Hello. Brett. Nice to meet you.

B: Nice to meet you.

J: We are journalists from Eyes-Around Campus English newspapers. Firstly, we feel so happy that Miss Wu arranged this interview for us. Do you mind if we borrow some of your time?

B: of course not, please.

J: How long have you been in China?

B: About seven weeks. I came to China on 9<sup>th</sup> October, after the National Day.

J: Have you ever visited any other cities in China except Hang zhou?

B: Yes. I have visited Xi an, Beijing and Shanghai. All of them impressed me deeply. When I arrived in Xi an, it was snowing. I felt so excited about it. Shanghai is a fashion city with a lot of modern buildings. It is highly developed. Well, Beijing is full of historical and cultural atmosphere. I love them very much. So I had a good trip.

J: As we all know, Australia has a lot of treasure animals. Can you introduce some to us?

B: Yes. There are many kinds of animals in our country. Among them, kangaroos, koalas and platypus are typical animals. Kangaroos rest during the day but move about in the evening. Koalas are lovely animals and always doze in the branches. Platypuses are unique animals in our country.

J: Do you miss your family and friends? How do you keep in touch with them?

B: Well, we often contact one another via the e-mail and I will go back to my hometown in a month, so I don't feel lonely in China.

J: Do you like Chinese food?

B: Yes. Most of Chinese food taste delicious. Such as Jiaozi, Zongzi, Beijing duck and so on. One of my students gave me some duck heads which taste really good, And some other students sent me traditional Chinese food, which I enjoyed.

J: Are there any difficulties in your teaching?

B: Yes. In China, I find some students sleep in my class, which can't be seen in my own country. It's really a big difference. Sometimes, I even don't know how to deal with it.

J: Many Chinese students have a problem, that is, although their score of the English test is very high, their ability to express oral English is very weak. Could you please explain why?

B: Yes, it is a universal phenomenon. I think they need more practice of spoken English. Some students study hard, they read books every day and get high scores. But most of them speak English only in class. After class, when they communicate with friends and families, they speak in Chinese. I think that's the main reason why many Chinese students can't express themselves in English well. As we all know, learning a language needs practicing every day.

J: It's the first time for you to come to China. How can you overcome the troubles in communicating with Chinese people? Can you tell us something about your experiences?

B: That's a good question. I've never been to China before. I can speak only a little Chinese, such as Xie Xie, Ni hao, Zai jian and so on. Sometimes, when I come to a restaurant, I don't know the Chinese name for the food. I just draw a picture in my hand. I have drawn chicken and potatoes, and sometimes, I will call the Chinese teacher, Caixia for help. She translates both in class and out of class for me and is a great help, life would be much more difficult without her translation help. I also have a Chinese name given by her.

J: Oh, really? So what's your Chinese name?

B: Zeng Jiang.

J: It sounds good. By the way, do you like any sports games?

B: Just so so. I don't play sport games very often. Sometimes I play basketball with friends and sometimes I just walk around the street. I like walking a lot, it's useful to your health, and you can see many beautiful scenes on the way.

J: Do you have any long-term plans in China?

B: Not really. Maybe I will come back after this year. I don't know whether I will still be in China next year.

J: What a pity!

B: Yes. I like China very much. Chinese people are always so friendly and I find Chinese culture very interesting. It's well known that China has a very long history of about 5,000 years.

B: Yes, we all hope that you will be in China next year.

J: How do you view the phenomenon that the Chinese people stare at the foreigners, do you think it rude?

B: I think it is not malicious, but an act of curiosity. It should not be regarded as a kind of rude behavior.

J: Can I take some photos for you?

B: Certainly, please.

J: Thank you.

J: OK. That's all for today's interview. Thank you so much. See you next time. Good Bye.

B: Good Bye.

