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## World's longest bridges open in China

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**2nd July, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

China opened four of the world's six longest bridges on July the 1st. They are part of the country's high-speed rail network between Shanghai and Beijing. Two of the bridges are the longest ever built. The Jiaozhou Bay bridge is now the world's longest over-water bridge at 42.5 kilometres. The local Communist party secretary Li Qun said at the opening ceremony: "It is a magnificent and very advanced bridge. It is another stepping stone in the city's smooth and rapid development."

The cost of the bridge is somewhere between \$1.5 and \$2.3 billion, although some estimates put the figure at nearly \$9 billion. The engineers who built it say it is earthquake-proof and typhoon-proof. It is also strong enough to be hit by a 300,000-ton ship. As well as the Beijing-Shanghai High Speed Railway, the bridge will carry around 30,000 cars a day. The new bridges are an important part of China's efforts to reduce its traffic problems. Eleven of the world's 15 longest bridges are now located in China.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. four of the world's six     | a. stone              |
| 2. part of the country's high- | b. ever built         |
| 3. the longest                 | c. ceremony           |
| 4. opening                     | d. longest bridges    |
| 5. stepping                    | e. rapid development  |
| 6. smooth and                  | f. speed rail network |

## Paragraph 2

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. estimates put the figure     | a. proof                 |
| 2. The engineers                | b. 30,000 cars a day     |
| 3. it is earthquake-            | c. at nearly \$9 billion |
| 4. the bridge will carry around | d. its traffic problems  |
| 5. China's efforts to reduce    | e. in China              |
| 6. now located                  | f. who built it          |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

China \_\_\_\_\_ world's six longest bridges on July the 1st. They are part of the country's high-\_\_\_\_\_ between Shanghai and Beijing. Two of the bridges are the longest ever built. The Jiaozhou Bay bridge \_\_\_\_\_ longest over-water bridge at 42.5 kilometres. The local Communist party secretary Li Qun said at the \_\_\_\_\_: "It is a magnificent and very advanced bridge. \_\_\_\_\_ stone in the city's \_\_\_\_\_ development."

The cost of the bridge \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.5 and \$2.3 billion, although some \_\_\_\_\_ figure at nearly \$9 billion. The engineers who built it say it is earthquake-proof and typhoon-proof. It is also strong enough \_\_\_\_\_ 300,000-ton ship. As well as the Beijing-Shanghai High Speed Railway, the bridge \_\_\_\_\_ 30,000 cars a day. The new bridges are an important part of China's \_\_\_\_\_ traffic problems. Eleven of the world's 15 longest bridges \_\_\_\_\_ China.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

China (1) \_\_\_\_\_ four of the world's six longest bridges on July the 1st. They are part of the country's high-speed rail (2) \_\_\_\_\_ between Shanghai and Beijing. Two of the bridges are the longest (3) \_\_\_\_\_ built. The Jiaozhou Bay bridge is now the world's longest over-water bridge at 42.5 kilometres. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Communist party secretary Li Qun said at the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony: "It is a magnificent and very advanced bridge. It is another stepping (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the city's smooth and rapid development."

The cost of the bridge is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ between \$1.5 and \$2.3 billion, although some estimates put the figure at nearly \$9 billion. The engineers who built it (8) \_\_\_\_\_ it is earthquake-proof and typhoon-proof. It is also strong (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to be hit by a 300,000-ton ship. As well as the Beijing-Shanghai High Speed Railway, the bridge will carry (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 30,000 cars a day. The new bridges are an important part of China's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce its traffic problems. Eleven of the world's 15 longest bridges are now (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in China.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |               |              |               |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) opened    | (b) opening  | (c) open      |
| 2.  | (a) clockwork | (b) network  | (c) metalwork |
| 3.  | (a) ever      | (b) even     | (c) never     |
| 4.  | (a) locally   | (b) locals   | (c) local     |
| 5.  | (a) opening   | (b) creating | (c) starting  |
| 6.  | (a) hopping   | (b) stepping | (c) jumping   |
| 7.  | (a) somewhere | (b) sometime | (c) some of   |
| 8.  | (a) speak     | (b) say      | (c) talk      |
| 9.  | (a) so        | (b) for      | (c) enough    |
| 10. | (a) round     | (b) circle   | (c) around    |
| 11. | (a) tries     | (b) efforts  | (c) effects   |
| 12. | (a) location  | (b) locate   | (c) located   |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. high-speed rail nowrekt
2. the longest ever uitbl
3. Communist ptyar secretary
4. at the ionegpn ceremony
5. another tnpsipge stone
6. smooth and adpir development

## Paragraph 2

7. somewhere tenbewe \$1.5 and \$2.3 billion
8. estimates put the egfiru at nearly \$9 billion
9. typhoon-oporf
10. the bridge will rycar around 30,000 cars
11. uederc its traffic problems
12. now tecdalo in China

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) 42.5 kilometres. The local Communist party secretary Li Qun said at the opening
- ( ) built. The Jiaozhou Bay bridge is now the world's longest over-water bridge at
- ( ) The cost of the bridge is somewhere between \$1.5 and \$2.3 billion, although some estimates put
- ( ) stone in the city's smooth and rapid development."
- ( ) speed rail network between Shanghai and Beijing. Two of the bridges are the longest ever
- ( ) ceremony: "It is a magnificent and very advanced bridge. It is another stepping
- ( **1** ) China opened four of the world's six longest bridges on July the 1st. They are part of the country's high-
- ( ) problems. Eleven of the world's 15 longest bridges are now located in China.
- ( ) the figure at nearly \$9 billion. The engineers who built it say it is earthquake-proof and
- ( ) typhoon-proof. It is also strong enough to be hit by a 300,000-ton ship. As well as the Beijing-Shanghai
- ( ) High Speed Railway, the bridge will carry around 30,000 cars a day. The new bridges
- ( ) are an important part of China's efforts to reduce its traffic

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. world's Four six of longest the bridges.

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2. of the rail country's network high-speed Part.

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3. bridges built are Two the of longest the ever.

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4. and magnificent a is It bridge advanced very.

---

5. and smooth city's The development rapid.

---

6. Some the nearly billion put at \$9 estimates figure.

---

7. who The built engineers it.

---

8. by to ship 300,000-ton a be Strong hit enough.

---

9. around 30,000 cars a day The bridge will carry.

---

10. efforts reduce traffic China's to its problems.

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# **WRITING**

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110702-bridges.html>

**Write about bridges for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.**

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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. BRIDGES:** Search the Internet and find more information about China's bridges. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about the Jiaozhou Bay bridge. Include imaginary an interview with the designer and city residents. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to China's leader. Ask him three questions about China's transport. Give him three of your opinions on how to reduce traffic. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.