

China tops US at box office for first time

5th March, 2015



China's box office takings have beaten those in the USA for the first time ever. China's movie theatres are now the world's most lucrative. This is the result of millions of moviegoers flocking to cinemas across China during the nation's week-long New Year celebrations in February. Sales were also boosted

by Valentine's Day, which is becoming increasingly popular in China. China's box office took in a record \$650 million in February, compared to \$640 million in the USA. The most popular movie with Chinese cinema fans was a movie called *The Man From Macau II*, which grossed \$105 million. The new Jackie Chan flick, *Dragon Blade*, took second spot, earning \$95 million.

China's film industry is growing at breakneck speed. As the number of middle-class people is expanding, so too is the number of new cinemas opening. A huge population shift from the countryside to urban areas is fuelling demand for more cinema screens. Fifteen new screens are being added every day. There are now approximately 23,600 screens in China, which is 475 per cent more than there were in 2008. The USA has 40,000 screens. The forecast is that China will overtake America in the near future. China's movie industry is thriving. It has experienced year-on-year growth of 27 per cent and 36 per cent in the past two years. Much of this success has been without the help of Hollywood blockbusters.

Sources: *Sky.com* / *Hollywood Reporter* / *The Guardian*

Writing

The best movies in the world are made in the USA. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

takings / lucrative / moviegoers / celebrations / boosted / popular / record / fans / industry / expanding / middle class / population / countryside / forecast / growth / help

True / False

- China beat the USA at the box office because of Chinese New Year. T / F
- Valentine's Day also helped China top the USA at the box office. T / F
- China took \$100 million more than the USA in February. T / F
- A Jackie Chan movie was the biggest hit in China in February. T / F
- More cinemas are opening because of China's growing middle classes. T / F
- Fifteen new cinema screens are appearing in China each day. T / F
- There are 23,600 cinema screens in the USA. T / F
- Hollywood blockbusters are behind the China overtaking the USA. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. takings | a. position |
| 2. lucrative | b. increased |
| 3. boosted | c. earned |
| 4. grossed | d. about |
| 5. spot | e. receipts |
| 6. breakneck | f. prediction |
| 7. shift | g. flourishing |
| 8. approximately | h. profitable |
| 9. forecast | i. relocation |
| 10. thriving | j. lightning |

Discussion – Student A

- How different are Hollywood movies to those made in your country?
- What would you do to improve movie theatres?
- What do you think about the price of a movie ticket?
- Why are movies onscreen before they are downloadable?
- What kind of movie actor do you think you could be?
- Are movies art?
- What would the world be like without movies?
- What questions would you like to ask a movie boss in China?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- China's box office
- China's movie theatres are now the world's
- millions of
- becoming increasingly
- Dragon Blade took second
- growing at breakneck
- the number of middle-class people
- fuelling
- year-on-year
- without the help of Hollywood
- moviegoers
- spot
- speed
- growth of 27 per cent
- most lucrative
- demand
- takings
- blockbusters
- popular
- is expanding

Discussion – Student B

- How important are movies?
- In what ways are movie theatres better than watching on TV?
- Which is the better word, 'movie theatre' or 'cinema'?
- What did you think about what you read?
- How might China being number one change Hollywood?
- What do you think of going to the movies?
- Are American movies the best?
- What are your favourite movies, and why?

Spelling

- the world's most vilrceaut
- millions of revoismoeg
- week-long New Year ensotclibare
- becoming cyngesalnrii popular
- which sesdrgo \$105 million
- anergin \$95 million
- growing at recbnkkae speed
- from the countryside to nrbau areas
- lfguilne demand for more cinema screens
- oapaxtlpemiry 23,600 screens
- China's movie industry is rvigithn
- Hollywood otubskslberc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. c	5. a
6. j	7. i	8. d	9. f	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Horror

You think horror movies are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movie genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): romance movies, science fiction movies or action movies.

Role B – Romance

You think romance movies are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movie genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): horror movies, science fiction movies or action movies.

Role C – Science Fiction

You think science fiction movies are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movie genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): romance movies, horror movies or action movies.

Role D – Action

You think action movies are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movie genres aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): romance movies, science fiction movies or horror movies.

Speaking – Movie Genres

Rank these with your partner. Put the best movie genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Anime
- Gangster
- War
- Period drama
- Horror
- Romance
- Action
- Sci-fi

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.