



My MEP Projects

Project: Mobile technology in China
Series: technology

Name: _____



In this project, you will get to learn more about the exciting modern mobile technologies that are used daily by people across China. Just like here in the UK, mobile phones are now playing a huge role in young people's lives – they can be used for almost anything, from chatting to friends, watching a funny video or even paying for a haircut. At the end of this project, you will have an opportunity to express your opinions on whether mobile phones have more advantages or disadvantages in our lives.

Go for it!

1. Towards a cashless society

Cash seems to have been losing favour, especially among young people in China. Mobile payment are increasingly becoming an everyday part of people's lives. Watch this video - *Going Cashless in China* and discover what Chinese people can do with their mobile phones. Try to remember them and find the right words from the box below:

<http://www.wsj.com/video/mobile-payment-going-cashless-in-china/82324CF7-42C8-4DA0-A04A-CD5E35548B6E.html> (3 minutes long)

Task A: what can you do with your mobile phone?

A 爬山 páshān

B 坐出租车 zuò chūzū chē

C 去饭店吃饭 qù fàndiàn chīfàn

D 看电影 kàn diànyǐng

E 买零食 mǎi língshí

F 做飞机 zuò fēijī



在深圳 (shēnzhèn), 我可以用手机 (zài shēnzhèn, wǒ kěyǐ yòng shǒujī):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

☆	Task A complete	
---	-----------------	--

Task B: Read the following article and learn more about the cashless trend in China

Cashless trend takes hold in China

GUANGZHOU - WeChat and Alipay, two major online payment platforms in China, call for consumers to go cashless and cardless in their daily life through promotions in August 2017.



Cashlessness is a new Chinese characteristic. In a Monday report by the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, and French market research firm Ipsos, 84 percent of Chinese were "comfortable" going out with only mobile phones, no cash.

Gao Jingwen, in her 20s, can hardly recall when she last paid in cash.



"I do not need cash in a restaurant, seeing a doctor, paying electricity and water bills. I cannot think of any place I cannot pay with my smart phone," she said.

Zhang Shucui, 67, always used to take a large amount of change when going to the wet market [a type of market that sells fresh meat and fish] near her home in Beijing's Haidian district, but that time has gone.

"The QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response Code, is a machine-readable optical label that contains information about the item to which it is attached) replaced the change basket in front of the stalls," she said. "Gone are the days when I had to search all my pockets for a coin."

Mei Houdui, an electronic products dealer in Shenzhen, shared a recent "awkward" experience - he wanted to borrow some cash as pocket money for his child at a party, and failed as no one had any cash in their pockets.

A big cake

"Alipay or WeChat?" This is the most often question posed up when a purchase is made in China. Cards and cash, the once dominant purchasing methods, have become a second option in less than half a decade.

"Mobile payment companies were worried about their future just four years ago, but the spread of technology has exceeded the imagination of almost everyone," said Li Gang, a professor at the Tencent Research Institute.

Data from the People's Bank of China showed a total of 157 trillion yuan of payments were made on mobile devices in China last year, more than 200 times that in the United States in the same period. The figure is expected to continue expanding by 50 percent each year, it said.

No big surprise

It is no accident that mobile payment have expanded so fast in China. According to a report by eMarketer, China's lack of "credit card culture" has somewhat fuelled the popularization of mobile payments, especially in small cities and underdeveloped areas.



In a remote mountain village of central China's Hunan Province, one can easily buy a hen or groceries by scanning a QR code.

Payment and Clearing Association of China said in a report that mobile payment users in small towns and the countryside account for half of the total in China. The percentage of mobile payment users in the countryside is even higher than in provincial capitals.

Both the Internet giants have actively expanded their services overseas since last year. Alipay can be used in several hundreds of thousands of shops in over 70 countries, while Wechat has landed in 19 countries and regions, including Japan, Thailand and Republic of Korea – the most popular destinations among Chinese tourists.

(Adapted from: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/tech/2017-08/01/content_30315259.htm)

Some important words:

Credit card	信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ
Cash	现金	xiànjīn
WeChat	微信	wēixìn
Alipay	支付宝支付	zhīfùbǎo zhīfù
QR code	二维码	èr wéi mǎ

1. The article talks about the popularity of WeChat pay and Alipay. In Mandarin:

WeChat pay is 微信支付 (wēixìn zhīfù)

Alipay is 支付宝支付 (zhīfùbǎo zhīfù)

Can you guess the Chinese characters for these related words? Write them down. Use the vocabulary box above to find out how to say 'credit card' or 'cash' if you do not know these two words in Chinese.



Mobile pay: _____

Credit card pay: _____

Cash payment: _____

2. What does the sentences below mean? Can you make sentences by using the given phrase in Chinese? These sentences are bold and italics in the article.

e.g. "Alipay or WeChat?" This is the question most often posed when a purchase is made in China. Cards and cash, the once dominant purchasing methods, have become a second option in less than half a decade.

In Chinese, the meaning of the above sentence is:

Using 喜欢(xǐhuan): 中国人喜欢用支付宝支付和微信支付。

zhōngguó rén xǐhuān yòng zhīfùbǎo zhīfù hé wēixìn zhīfù

2.1 84 percent of Chinese were "comfortable" going out with only mobile phones, no cash.

In Chinese, the meaning of the above sentence is:

Using 喜欢: _____

2.2 "I do not need cash in a restaurant, seeing a doctor---. I cannot think of any place I cannot pay with my smart phone," she said.

In Chinese, the meaning of the above sentence is:

Using 需要(xūyào): _____

Using 不需要(bù xūyào): _____



2.3 Extension:

China's lack of "credit card culture" has somewhat fueled the popularization of mobile payments, especially in small cities and underdeveloped areas.

The meaning of the above sentence in English is:

"Because Chinese people do not like using credit cards, **so** they enjoy mobile payments."

Using 因为(yīnwèi) —— 所以(suǒyǐ) —— (if you have not learnt this structure, see below for some language tips.)

Chinese Cause and effect with " yīnwèi " and " suǒyǐ "

因为 (yīnwèi) and 所以 (suǒyǐ) Together

The full pattern 因为.....所以..... (yīnwèi... suǒyǐ...) is used to indicate cause and effect. They could be thought of as equating to: "Since ___ happened, so ___ happened." It sounds weird to use both "since" and "so" in one sentence in English, but it makes everything crystal clear in Chinese.

e.g. 因为苹果很好吃，所以我天天吃苹果。

Because apples are delicious, so I have apples every day.



Task B complete

2. Alipay, Alibaba and Taobao

Now you are more familiar with 'Alipay'. To give you some background, Alipay is a product of the Alibaba Group (阿里巴巴集团 – ālǐbābā jítuán). This group also owns China's largest shopping website, Taobao Marketplace (淘宝网 – táobǎo wǎng).



Does that ring a bell to you? Yes, we talked about online shopping via Taobao in our Year 7 student project: shopping and money. Do you still remember anything about it? List what you remember here, or carry out some online research.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

And what does 淘宝网 táobǎo wǎng mean in English? Can you guess?

What is the meaning of 淘 táo? _____

What is the meaning of 宝 bǎo? _____

What is the meaning of 网 wǎng? _____

So 淘宝网 táobǎo wǎng is:





Yes, it literally means: "searching for treasure network".

Task C: Read this article and get to know more about Taobao!

Meet Taobao: China's bigger faster version of Amazon

By Virginia Werner • 2:01 pm, May 27, 2016



Photo: Virginia Werner/Cult of Mac

Taobao is China's version of Amazon, but much faster: products are sometimes delivered in minutes, not days.

SHANGHAI CITY, China — Imagine a website where all the millions of “made in China” products are at your fingertips. Taobao delivers just that, and the app has completely revolutionized online shopping here in China.

App name: *Taobao*

What it is: *Amazon, but bigger and faster*

Owned by: *Alibaba Group, one of China's biggest Internet companies*

What it does: *A combination of eBay and Amazon, Taobao sells 800 million items,*

Special sauce: *The express service can have goods to your door in 15 minutes*

I ordered a bicycle helmet on Taobao one afternoon and received a phone call from the distributor within 15 minutes. “When will someone be home today?” they asked me. I told



them the exact hours my apartment would be occupied, then realized with horror after hanging up that I had left myself vulnerable to being robbed.

I rushed home from work and caught the hungover delivery man, just as he pulled up to my apartment on a scooter. He had me sign a piece of paper, gave me the helmet, mumbled something unintelligible and zoomed away. This was all in a matter of two hours. I remember when I used to think free two-day shipping from Amazon Prime was cool.

Products on Taobao are sold at a fixed price or by auction (not as common) from different regions of China and surrounding Chinese-speaking countries.

Browse the website and you'll find great deals on clothing, digital equipment, food and spices, childcare products, household appliances ...

Over 98 million people use Taobao. On the last Singles' Day, China's largest annual online sales event, Taobao reported sales profits upward of \$10 billion. That was just for one day.



(Adapted from: <https://www.cultofmac.com/430097/in-china-taobao-is-like-amazon-but-bigger-and-faster/>)

Do you think the following statements are true or false about Taobao?

True	1. 淘宝很快。
	2. 淘宝很大。
	3. 淘宝卖很多东西。
	4. 淘宝上的东西很贵。



	5. 很多人用淘宝。
	6. 淘宝上的东西很不好。

Write a list of things impress you about Taobao in Chinese. The statements above about Taobao may help you to frame your thoughts.

★	Task C complete	
---	------------------------	--



3. WeChat craze

Now that we have got to know WeChat pay, let's have a look at of WeChat specifically. WeChat began life in January 2011 as a simple chat app with features and functionality similar to WhatsApp. It was created by a small team of just 8 developers. Over the following 5 years WeChat grew beyond anyone's wildest dreams to become by far the most important app in China.



WeChat is often described as a Swiss army knife super app that seemingly does everything. Yet its primary function is for communication with friends and family. Now, let's watch a short video to get to know what specifically you can do via WeChat.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYDLL0oS2uk> (1.43 minutes long)

Task D: select from the box below what you can do with WeChat:

我可以用微信：

A. 看朋友信息 kàn péngyǒu xīnxi

B. 买东西 mǎi dōngxī

C. 读书 dúshū

D. 聊天 liáotiān

E. 玩游戏 wán yóuxì

F. 吃饭和付款 chīfàn hē fùkuǎn

G. 收红包 shōu hóngbāo

H. 写作业 xiě zuòyè

I. 做饭 zuò fàn

J. 上网 shàngwǎng



★	Task D complete	
---	-----------------	--

Task E: to get to know how influential WeChat is, can you translate the following sentences into Chinese by filling in the missing words in the lines?

e.g WeChat has more than 800 million monthly users .

微	信	每	月	有	8	亿	用	户	。	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

1. WeChat has more than 500 million daily users. (If you do not know how to say 'million' in Chinese, check the language tip below for some advice.)

		每	天	有			用	户	。	
--	--	---	---	---	--	--	---	---	---	--

2. On average, the WeChat users read 7 articles per day on WeChat.

				平	均	每					篇
文	章	。									

3. Many users use WeChat more than 30 times per day.

		用	户		天	用		次		
。										

(figures are adapted from <https://chinachannel.co/wechat-introduction/>)



Language tips: One Hundred Million - 亿 (yì)

One-hundred million in Mandarin Chinese is 亿 (yì).

After 99,999,999, there is yet another new numerical unit, 亿 (yì), which is used to express "hundred million." A number like 1,101,110,000 would be written out as "十一亿一百一十一万 (shíyī yì yībǎi yīshí-yī wàn)."

Here are some tips on how to say numbers and big numbers in Chinese:

100,000,000	亿 yì	Hundred million
10,000,000	千万 qiān wàn	Ten million
1,000,000	百万 bǎi wàn	Million
100,000	十万 shí wàn	Hundred thousand
10,000	万 wàn	Ten thousand
1,000	千 qiān	Thousand
100	百 bǎi	Hundred
10	十 shí	Ten
1	一 yī	One

★	Task E complete	
---	-----------------	--

4. Mobile technology: double edged sword?

The modern world is a busy world. People usually do two or more things together. In Chinese, to express that one thing is done while doing something else, the word 一边 (yībiān) is used.

This structure is like this:

Subject. + 一边 + Verb (,) + 一边 + Verb

Example:



我一边洗澡，一边唱歌。wǒ yībiān xǐzǎo, yībiān chàngē.

I sing songs while I take a shower.

不要一边开车，一边打电话。bùyào yībiān kāichē, yībiān dǎ diànhuà.

Don't talk on the phone while you drive.

Task F: Can you write a line beneath each picture to tell what they are doing by using the structure “一边 ---一边”?



比如：他们一边排队，一边玩手机。tāmen yībiān páiduì, yībiān wán shǒujī.

While they are queueing, they are playing with their mobile phone.





1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

☆	Task F complete	
---	-----------------	--



Task G: Can you write a few lines to express your opinion on whether you support what the people in the pictures above are doing or not and tell us why.

Here are some words you can use:

很有用	hěn yǒuyòng	very useful
学习	xuéxí	study
了解世界	liǎojiě shìjiè	understand the world
像老师	xiàng lǎoshī	like a teacher
像朋友	xiàng péngyǒu	like a friend
玩游戏	wán yóuxì	play games
花很多时间	huā hěnduō shíjiān	spend a lot of time
不能好好休息	bùnéng hǎohǎo xiūxi	cannot rest well
不安全	bù ānquán	not safe



Well done!



太棒了!

Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You've got to know the cashless way of living in China
- You learnt what roles mobile phones play in people's lives
- You have done some writing to express your opinions on whether mobile phones are useful in our lives and how to use it in positive ways.

If you are interested in knowing more about the opening ceremonies for Beijing and London Olympics, click below:

Beijing 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremony:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QchkyWef18>

London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4As0e4de-rl>

*If your teacher signs you off,
you will collect 1 Badge!*