

## Women stranded at airport after cosmetic surgery

13th October, 2017



Three Chinese women were left stranded at a South Korean airport after immigration officials said their passport photos did not match their faces. The women had just had cosmetic surgery to change their looks. The surgery had transformed their faces to such an extent that

passport control officials in South Korea could not confirm their identity. Photos of the women went viral on the Internet. Their faces were swollen from the surgery and were heavily bandaged. The Shanghaiist.com website reported that the women were not allowed to take their return flight back to China, and were instead held for questioning by the airport authorities. It is still unclear if the women have been able to return to China.

South Korea has become the cosmetic surgery capital of the world. Cosmetic surgery tourism from China is now booming business. More than 500,000 Chinese residents a year flock to clinics in South Korea to reshape their faces and bodies. Many of them go to clinics that specialize in making clients look more "Western". Cosmetic surgery is also hugely popular with South Koreans. Around half of women under 30 in the capital Seoul are estimated to have had surgery. Many parents encourage their children to undergo surgery in efforts to gain a "competitive edge" in the job market. There are even hugely popular prime time TV shows that feature before and after transformations.

### Sources:

[independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [shanghaiist.com](http://shanghaiist.com) / [seuultouchup.com](http://seuultouchup.com)

## Writing

There is no need for cosmetic surgery. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airport / immigration / passport photos / faces / cosmetic surgery / identity / flight / capital / booming / business / clinics / popular / encourage / efforts / competitive

## True / False

- a) Police could not match passport photos with air passengers' faces. T / F
- b) Immigration officials could not identify three women at an airport. T / F
- c) The women's faces were both swollen and bandaged. T / F
- d) The three women do not know when they can go back to China. T / F
- e) China is the cosmetic surgery capital of the world. T / F
- f) Half a million Chinese have cosmetic surgery in S. Korea every year. T / F
- g) The article says half of South Korean women have had cosmetic surgery. T / F
- h) The article says parents are telling kids not to have cosmetic surgery. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>stranded</b>         | a. have          |
| 2. <b>looks</b>            | b. enlarged      |
| 3. <b>extent</b>           | c. up in the air |
| 4. <b>swollen</b>          | d. extremely     |
| 5. <b>unclear</b>          | e. helpless      |
| 6. <b>capital</b>          | f. reckoned      |
| 7. <b>hugely</b>           | g. degree        |
| 8. <b>estimated</b>        | h. changes       |
| 9. <b>undergo</b>          | i. appearance    |
| 10. <b>transformations</b> | j. metropolis    |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What advice do you have for someone who wants cosmetic surgery?
- c) How popular is cosmetic surgery in your country?
- d) Why would Asian women want a 'Western' look?
- e) Do good-looking people do better in life?
- f) What one part of your face or body would you change?
- g) What do you think of the 'before and after' TV show?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the women?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Three Chinese women were left       | a. to clinics         |
| 2. immigration                         | b. swollen            |
| 3. to such an                          | c. with South Koreans |
| 4. Their faces were                    | d. extent             |
| 5. held for                            | e. business           |
| 6. booming                             | f. stranded           |
| 7. flock                               | g. surgery            |
| 8. hugely popular                      | h. officials          |
| 9. encourage their children to undergo | i. edge               |
| 10. gain a competitive                 | j. questioning        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of cosmetic surgery?
- Why do people have cosmetic surgery?
- What do you think of the term 'plastic surgery'?
- What are the dangers of cosmetic surgery?
- What do you think of your passport photo?
- What do you think will happen to the women?
- Would you ever have cosmetic surgery?
- What problems would you have if your whole face changed?

## Spelling

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- could not confirm their etyidtin
- Their faces were eoslnwl from the surgery
- heavily nbeddgaa
- dnieast held for questioning
- airport usroehatiit
- the cosmetic surgery ilacatp of the world
- More than 500,000 Chinese rnsdisete
- clinics that peliaczise
- adttemsei to have had surgery
- parents gcraoneue their children
- efaetru before and after transformations

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Hair

You think hair is the most important feature of our looks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their features aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): height, eyes or teeth.

### Role B – Height

You think height is the most important feature of our looks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their features aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): hair, eyes or teeth.

### Role C – Eyes

You think eyes are the most important feature of our looks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their features aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): height, hair or teeth.

### Role D – Teeth

You think teeth are the most important feature of our looks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their features aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): height, eyes or hair.

## Speaking – Looks

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that most affect looks at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| • hair         | • eyes  |
| • height       | • ears  |
| • nose         | • teeth |
| • stomach size | • skin  |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.