

Water seller becomes China's richest man

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A businessman who sells bottled water is now the richest man in China. The business magazine Bloomberg named Mr Zhong Shanshan as China's richest man in its latest Billionaires Index. The magazine said Mr Zhong is worth over \$58 billion.

This makes him \$2 billion richer than the previous number one, Jack Ma. Mr Ma founded the retail Internet giant Alibaba. Mr Zhong made his wealth from his Nongfu Spring bottled water company. He then branched out into making vaccines. He is the chairman of a vaccine manufacturer called the Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy. Mr Zhong is now 17th on the global rich list. It seems that he will move up that list in the future.

Zhong Shanshan, 66, was a construction worker before he got into business. He started his Nongfu Spring company in 1996. This was just as China's market for bottled water was emerging. Bottled water is now a huge industry in China. Most people who live in China prefer drinking bottled water to tap water for health reasons. They prefer not to trust tap water. Zhong's pharmaceutical company is also helping in the fight against COVID-19. It is developing a nasal-spray vaccine with the help of researchers from a top university. Chinese media call Mr Zhong a "lone wolf" because he is rarely seen in public. He rarely gives interviews and he likes to keep himself to himself.

Sources: channelnewsasia.com / ft.com / cnn.com

Writing

Bottled water is better than tap water. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

businessman / bottled water / magazine / billion / retail / Internet / giant / vaccine / construction worker / market / industry / trust / tap water / fight / wolf / interview

True / False

- a) The Forbes business magazine names the man the richest in China. T / F
- b) The man (Mr Zhong) is worth over \$60 billion. T / F
- c) Mr Zhong is worth \$2 billion more than China's second wealthiest man. T / F
- d) Mr Zhong also has a pharmaceutical company. T / F
- e) Mr Zhong worked as a construction worker before. T / F
- f) Mr Zhong got into China's bottled water business just as it was starting. T / F
- g) Mr Zhong's company is trying to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. T / F
- h) Mr Zhong is a very sociable person who loves the spotlight. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. businessman | a. enormous |
| 2. latest | b. riches |
| 3. previous | c. building |
| 4. wealth | d. past |
| 5. seems | e. appearing |
| 6. construction | f. battle |
| 7. emerging | g. entrepreneur |
| 8. huge | h. appears |
| 9. fight | i. seldom |
| 10. rarely | j. most recent |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of water?
- b) What do you think of bottled water?
- c) Do you prefer reading magazines or the Internet?
- d) What would it be like to be super rich?
- e) How can we become rich?
- f) How happy are you with your level of wealth?
- g) What company would you like to be chairperson of?
- h) What advice do you have for Mr Zhong?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A businessman who | a. to himself |
| 2. richer than the previous number | b. manufacturer |
| 3. the retail Internet | c. sells bottled water |
| 4. a vaccine | d. trust tap water |
| 5. he will move up that | e. worker |
| 6. construction | f. one |
| 7. prefer drinking bottled water | g. in public |
| 8. They prefer not to | h. giant Alibaba |
| 9. he is rarely seen | i. to tap water |
| 10. he likes to keep himself | j. list in the future |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of water?
- What do you think of bottled water?
- Do you prefer reading magazines or the Internet?
- What would it be like to be super rich?
- How can we become rich?
- How happy are you with your level of wealth?
- What company would you like to be chairperson of?
- What advice do you have for Mr Zhong?

Spelling

- The business agmzanie
- the epivrou number one
- Ma founded the eratil Internet giant
- He then rnbhcaed out
- a vaccine anumautcrfer
- the logabl rich list
- a scutrcoitnon worker
- ...market for bottled water was reegmni
- a huge nuitsdry in China
- developing a sanla spray
- he is rarely seen in uplbic
- He rarely gives ntriiveews

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Property

You think property is the thing that can make you the richest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things can't make you as rich. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): hard work, gambling or love.

Role B – Hard Work

You think hard work is the thing that can make you the richest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things can't make you as rich. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): property, gambling or love.

Role C – Gambling

You think gambling is the thing that can make you the richest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things can't make you as rich. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): hard work, property or love.

Role D – Love

You think love is the thing that can make you the richest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things can't make you as rich. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): hard work, gambling or property.

Speaking – Wealth

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that can make you wealthy at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • Art | • Gambling |
| • Investments | • Property |
| • Hard work | • Gold |
| • The lottery | • Love |

Answers – True False

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