

04.18-Education

Education

Rigging the daddy race

How **pushy** Chinese parents get their kids into the best schools
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Vocab

1. **rig** v. to arrange or influence sth in a dishonest way in order to get the result that you want (以不正当的手段) 操纵, 控制

e.g. He said the election had been rigged. 他说选举被人操纵了。

2. **pushy** adj. trying hard to get what you want, especially in a way that seems rude 执意强求的; 死缠硬磨的

e.g. a pushy salesman 纠缠不休的推销员

INSIDE the red-**lacquered** door of No. 39 Wenhua Lane in central Beijing is an old-style single-storey home built around a small **courtyard**. Its owner, an elderly man in a **vest**, sits on an **upturned** bucket near a **jumble** of cooking pots; a pile of old cardboard rests **atop** a nearby shed. Next to the man, two estate agents **hover** at the entrance to a room just big enough for a bed, a **wardrobe** and a **rickety** desk. They say it costs 3.9m yuan (\$630,000). At 353,990 yuan per square metre, this makes it pricier than posh digs around New York's Central Park—and it does not even have its own bathroom and kitchen. It is, however, close to the state-run Beijing No. 2 Experimental Primary School, one of the best in the city.

Vocab

1. **lacquered** adj. 上漆的; 喷有发胶的 **Lacquered** is used to describe things that have been coated or sprayed with lacquer.

e.g. ...17th-century **lacquered** cabinets. 17世纪的漆柜

2. **courtyard** n. 庭院; 院子; 天井 A **courtyard** is an open area of ground which is surrounded by buildings or walls.

e.g. They walked through the arch and into the cobbled **courtyard**. 他们穿过拱门走进铺着鹅卵石的院子。

3. **vest** n. (BrE) (NAme **under-shirt**) a piece of underwear worn under a shirt, etc. next to the skin (衬衣等里面贴身穿的) 背心, 汗衫

e.g. a cotton vest 棉汗衫

4. **upturned** adj. pointing or facing upwards 向上翘的; 面朝上的

e.g. She looked down at the sea of upturned faces. 她俯视着一大片仰起的脸孔。

5. **jumble** n. ~ (of sth) an untidy or confused mixture of things 杂乱的一堆; 混乱的一团

e.g. a jumble of books and paper 一堆杂乱的书和纸

6. **atop** n. on top of; at the top of 在...顶上

e.g. a flag high atop a pole 高挂在旗杆顶端的旗子

7. **hover** n. (of a person 人) to wait somewhere, especially near sb, in a shy or uncertain manner 踌躇, 彷徨 (尤指在某人身边)

e.g. He hovered nervously in the doorway. 他在门口紧张地来回踱步。

8. **wardrobe** n. 衣柜;衣橱 A **wardrobe** is a tall cupboard or cabinet in which you can hang your clothes.

9. **rickety** adj. not strong or well made; likely to break 不结实的;不稳固的;易折断的
e.g. a rickety chair 摇摇晃晃的椅子

Until recently, that would have had little **bearing on** the price of the room. For years it has been officially required that admission to a school be based **solely** on how close a child lives to it. Schools have paid little attention. **Backhanders** and connections have counted for much more. So too have entrance tests, designed to exclude the less able (unless they were rich—those with inadequate scores could always buy places). In March, however, the Ministry of Education stamped its feet again: by the beginning of the new school-year in September, all primary-school students and 90% of those in junior secondary-schools must attend the school closest to their registered home address (some state agencies will still be allowed to reserve places for children of employees). Schools appear to be taking this latest order more seriously than previous ones.

Vocab

1. **bearing** n. ~ **on sth** the way in which sth is related to sth or influences it 关系;影响
e.g. Recent events had no bearing on our decision. 近期的事件与我们的决定没有关系。

2. **solely** adv. only; not involving sb/ sth else 仅;只;唯;单独地

e.g. She was motivated solely by self-interest. 她所追求的完全是私利。

3. **backhander** n. =**bribe** a secret and illegal payment made to sb in exchange for a favour 贿赂

4. **stamp** v. 表明;显示出 A quality, feature, or action that **stamps** someone or something **as** a particular thing shows clearly that they are this thing.

e.g. I talked to social workers and the police — that had stamped me as a bad woman...我和社会福利工作者及警方都谈过话——因此我便成了坏女人。

5. **junior** n. a child who goes to **junior school** 小学生

6. **reserve** v. ~ **sth (for sb/ sth)** to keep sth for sb/ sth, so that it cannot be used by any other person or for any other reason 保留;贮备

e.g. These seats are reserved for special guests. 这些座位是留给贵宾的。

Sentence

In March, however, the Ministry of Education stamped its feet again: by the beginning of the new school-year in September, all primary-school students and 90% of those in junior secondary-schools must attend the school closest to their registered home address (some state agencies will still be allowed to reserve places for children of employees).

主干: the Ministry of Education stamped its feet again

从句主干: all primary-school students and 90% of those must attend the school closest to their registered home address 对 the school 的解释

(some state agencies will still be allowed to reserve places for children of employees) 有点补充说明的味道

So too, it seems, are parents. In recent months house prices have been **stabilising** in most places after a **frothy** few years, but not near good schools. Now even the most **rundown** properties in such areas may cost ten times the city average per square metre. The room in Wenhua Lane costs ten times the average. Its lack of cooking or toilet facilities would be of little concern to buyers: they would only use

the space for “proving” **residency**, rather than to live in.

Vocab

1. **stabilize** v. to become or to make sth become firm, steady and unlikely to change; to make sth stable (使) 稳定, 稳固

e.g. The patient's condition stabilized. 患者的病情稳定下来。

2. **frothy** adj. having a mass of small bubbles on the surface 有泡沫的; 起泡沫的

e.g. frothy coffee 泡沫咖啡

3. **rundown** adj. (建筑物、地区等)破旧不堪的, 破败的, 失修的 A **run-down** building or area is in very poor condition.

e.g. ...a **run-down** block of flats. 破败的公寓楼

4. **residency** n. the state of living in a particular place 居住; 定居

e.g. a residency requirement for students 要求学生住校

Sentence

So too, it seems, are parents.

这里 so too 和 it 所指的都是上文的 taking this latest order more seriously than previous ones 这件事

即上文对学校来说, 这里对家长来说。

The **privileges** of wealth will thus be preserved. And that suits the best schools just fine, since their status is **self-reinforcing**. Those able to attract the wealthiest and best-connected—as well as the brightest—are able to **recruit** the best teachers, and —with the help of parents’ cash—pay for **swanky** equipment and facilities. (The state turns a blind eye to such **glaring** inequalities among the schools it runs.) What many parents prize most highly are the connections that such schools help their students to build; the **alumni** networks of China’s best state-schools are as good at opening doors as those of their private equivalents in Britain.

Vocab

1. **privilege** n. a special right or advantage that a particular person or group of people has 特殊利益; 优惠待遇

e.g. Education should be a universal right and not a privilege. 教育应当是全民的权利而非某部份人特别享有的。

2. **self-reinforcing** n. 自我强化

3. **recruit** v. to find new people to join a company, an organization, the armed forces, etc. 吸收(新成员); 征募(新兵)

e.g. The police are trying to recruit more officers from ethnic minorities. 警察机关正试图从少数民族中征募更多的新警员。

4. **swanky** adj. 时髦的; 奢华的 If you describe something as **swanky**, you mean that it is fashionable and expensive.

e.g. ...one of the **swanky** hotels that line the Pacific shore at Acapulco. 坐落在太平洋沿岸的阿卡普尔科的豪华酒店之一

5. **glaring** adj. **=blatant** (of sth bad 负面的事物) very easily seen 显眼的; 明显的; 易见的

e.g. a **glaring error/ omission/ inconsistency/ injustice** 明显的错误/疏漏/不一致/不公正

6. **alumni** n. the former male and female students of a school, college or university (统称) 校友, 毕业生

e.g. Harvard Alumni Association 哈佛大学校友会

Sentence

Those able to attract the wealthiest and best-connected—as well as the brightest—are able to recruit the best teachers, and—with the help of parents' cash—pay for swanky equipment and facilities.

主干: Those able to attract the wealthiest and best-connected

句子连接方式都是 — 就显得读起来很奇怪,

as well as the brightest 这里和前面类似, 即 wealthiest 和 best-connected 作同一个成分 are able to recruit the best teachers 这里省略了成分: which are able to...

and pay for swanky equipment and facilities. 中间多出来的结构, 是做插入成分: —with the help of parents' cash

Students can still get a **leg-up** with intelligence; hence the **fierce** competition for places at the best **kindergartens** in order to prepare children for school admission exams (which are common, though not officially allowed). But **parental** will be still crucial. A commonly used term for the **ordeal** of getting children into good schools is pindie, which literally means daddy race.

Vocab

1. **leg-up** **[IDIOMS] have (或 get) a leg-up on** *[US informal]* have (or get) an advantage over 美, 非正式] 占有 (或取得) 对...的优势

e.g. he'd certainly have a leg-up on the competition. 他当然会在竞赛中占有优势。

2. **fierce** **adj.** (感情或行动)激烈的, 狂热的 **Fierce** feelings or actions are very intense or enthusiastic, or involve great activity.

e.g. Competition has been fierce to win a stake in Skoda... 争夺斯柯达股份的竞争极为激烈。

3. **kindergarten** **n.** 幼儿园 A **kindergarten** is an informal kind of school for very young children, where they learn things by playing.

e.g. She's in kindergarten now. 她目前在上幼儿园。

4. **parental** **adj.** connected with a parent or parents 父亲的; 母亲的; 父母的; 双亲的

e.g. parental responsibility/ rights 父母的职责/权利

5. **ordeal** **n.** 煎熬; 磨难; 折磨 If you describe an experience or situation as an **ordeal**, you think it is difficult and unpleasant.

e.g. ...the painful ordeal of the last eight months... 过去8个月的痛苦煎熬

Sentence

A commonly used term for the **ordeal** of getting children into good schools is pindie, which literally means daddy race.

主干: A commonly used term is pindie

which literally means daddy race 非限定性定语从句, 先行词是 pindie.

The authorities in Beijing say they want to level the playing field: **posh** state schools are being encouraged to share facilities with less **well-endowed** ones, and to open branches to make access to them easier. “You must trust the government,” says one wealthy mother over **espressos** at Moi, a Finnish café in Beijing. After relying on her family **pedigree** to get her seven-year-old daughter into the same school as the grandchild of a Chinese leader, she has bought a 5m yuan apartment close by to assure her **toddler** son a spot.

Vocab

1. **posh** **adj.** elegant and expensive 优雅豪华的; 富丽堂皇的

e.g. You look very posh in your new suit. 你穿上新衣服显得雍容华贵。

2. **well-endowed** *adj.* (of an organization 组织) **having a lot of money** 资金充足的

e.g. well-endowed colleges 资金充足的学院

3. **espresso** *n.* 浓咖啡; 蒸馏咖啡 **Espresso** coffee is made by forcing steam or boiling water through ground coffee beans.

e.g. ...Italian **espresso** coffee. 意大利浓咖啡

4. **pedigree** *n.* a person's family history or the background of sth, especially when this is impressive 家谱; 门第; 世系; 起源

5. **toddler** *n.* a child who has only recently learnt to walk 学步的儿童; 刚学会走路的孩子

Sentence

well-endowed 这个词...很污, 应该很好记, 其他意思如下: *adj.*

1 (*informal, humorous*) (of a woman 女人) **having large breasts** 乳房大的

2 (*informal, humorous*) (of a man 男人) **having large GENITALS** 阴茎大的; 生殖器大的

3 (of an organization 组织) **having a lot of money** 资金充足的

well-endowed colleges

资金充足的学院

After relying on her family pedigree to get her seven-year-old daughter into the same school as the grandchild of a Chinese leader, she has bought a 5m yuan apartment close by to assure her toddler son a spot.

主干: she has bought a 5m yuan apartment

前面的短语相当长, 但却不做主要成分, 真正的主要从句却子啊这么长的短语后面。

From the print edition: China

Education **Rigging the daddy race**

教育: 上学拼爹

How pushy Chinese parents get their kids into the best schools.

中国家长执意将孩子送进最好的学校。

Inside the red-lacquered door of No. 39 Wenhua Lane in central Beijing is an old-style single-storey home built around a small courtyard. Its owner, an elderly man in a vest, sits on an upturned bucket near a jumble of cooking pots; a pile of old cardboard rests atop a nearby shed. Next to the man, two estate agents hover at the entrance to a room just big enough for a bed, a wardrobe and a rickety desk. They say it costs 3.9m yuan (\$630,000). At 353,990 yuan per square metre, this makes it pricier than posh digs around New York's Central Park—and it does not even have its own bathroom and kitchen. It is, however, close to the state-run Beijing No. 2 Experimental Primary School, one of the best in the city.

文华巷39号位于北京市中心地段, 这里坐落着一栋老式平房, 小小的院子, 朱漆大门。屋主是一位老汉, 他穿着背心, 坐在倒扣的水桶上, 旁边凌乱地堆着锅碗瓢盆; 不远处有个棚子, 棚顶上盖着破旧的硬纸板。老汉身边有两位房地产商, 他们在房间门口走来走去。这房间极小, 只能放一张床、一个衣柜和一张摇摇晃晃的书桌。他们说这间房能值390万元人民币(约合63万美元)。按每平方米353990元的价格算, 这间房比纽约中心公园附近的豪宅还贵——它甚至没有浴室和厨房。但是它离北京第二实验小学很近, 那是北京最好的公立小

学之一。

Until recently, that would have had little bearing on the price of the room. For years it has been officially required that admission to a school be based solely on how close a child lives to it. Schools have paid little attention. Backhanders and connections have counted for much more. So too have entrance tests, designed to exclude the less able (unless they were rich—those with inadequate scores could always buy places). In March, however, the Ministry of Education stamped its feet again: by the beginning of the new school-year in September, all primary-school students and 90% of those in junior secondary-schools must attend the school closest to their registered home address (some state agencies will still be allowed to reserve places for children of employees). Schools appear to be taking this latest order more seriously than previous ones.

房子靠近学校本来应该与房子的价格没有很大关系，直到最近才有改变。近几年来当局要求学生就近入学。学校并未予以重视，他们更看重送礼和关系，以及用入学考试来剔除成绩不好的学生。（除非学生家境富裕——那些分数不够的有钱学生总能买到入学名额）。然而今年3月，教育部长又重申了这项规定：9月秋季开学时，所有小学学生和90%的初中学生必须在距离登记居住地最近的学校就读(但一些国家机关仍将为机关人员的子女保留入学名额)。与以往相比，各大学校似乎对这条最新规定更为重视，

So too, it seems, are parents. In recent months house prices have been stabilizing in most places after a frothy few years, but not near good schools. Now even the most rundown properties in such areas may cost ten times the city average per square metre. The room in Wenhua Lane costs ten times the average. Its lack of cooking or toilet facilities would be of little concern to buyers: they would only use the space for “proving” residency, rather than to live in.

家长们也是如此。最近几个月，大部分地区几年来虚涨的房价已经逐步趋于稳定，但那些毗邻优秀学校的房源却始终十分昂贵。如今即使是该地区最破败的学区房每平方米的售价也比该市的平均房价高10倍。文华巷的这个房间就是如此高价。买主并不在意这房子没有厨房或者卫生设施：他们只想以此地来“证明”自己住在这里，而不是真的要住进这里。

The privileges of wealth will thus be preserved. And that suits the best schools just fine, since their status is self-reinforcing. Those able to attract the wealthiest and best-connected—as well as the brightest—are able to recruit the best teachers, and—with the help of parents' cash—pay for swanky equipment and facilities. The state turns a blind eye to such glaring inequalities among the schools it runs. What many parents prize most highly are the connections that such schools help their students to build; the alumni networks of China's best state-schools are as good at opening doors as those of their private equivalents in Britain.

金钱的特权将以这种方式得以保留。金钱特权正和名校心意，因为它们地位能得以巩固。学校能吸引最富有、最有权、最有前途的学生，也能招到最优秀的老师，并且靠着家长所缴的学费添置豪华的教学设备和设施。公办学校之间的不平等如此突出，而教育局却对此视而不见。家长们最重视的是这类学校帮助孩子建立的人脉；中国最好的公立学校的毕业生，他们的校友网络和英国私立学校一样，是锦绣前程的敲门砖。

Students can still get a leg-up with intelligence; hence the fierce competition for places at the best kindergartens in order to prepare children for school admission exams (which are common, though not officially allowed) . But parental wile is still crucial. A commonly used

term for the ordeal of getting children into good schools is "pindie", which literally means daddy race.

学生也可以靠自身的才智跻身名校，因此激烈的竞争从小就开始，大人们要把孩子们送到最好的幼儿园，为通过最好的小学入学考试做足准备。（这种考试很普遍，尽管教育部门并不允许）但关键时候还是要看家长的手段。有一个常见的说法叫“拼爹”，形容家长送子女入名校所受的煎熬，字面意思就是比拼爸爸。

The authorities in Beijing say they want to level the playing field: posh state schools are being encouraged to share facilities with less well-endowed ones, and to open branches to make access to them easier. "You must trust the government," says one wealthy mother over espressos at Moi, a Finnish café in Beijing. After relying on her family pedigree to get her seven-year-old daughter into the same school as the grandchild of a Chinese leader, she has bought a 5m yuan apartment close by to assure her toddler son a spot.

北京市教育局表示，他们想拉平学校间的差距：鼓励条件优厚的公立学校和资源相对不足的学校共享基础设施，以及为了方便共享而开分校。“你得相信政府”，在莫伊(北京的一家芬兰咖啡馆)，一位富有的妈妈喝着咖啡这样说道。她靠着家世让7岁的女儿与一位中国领导人的孙子同校，并且花500万元在学校附近买了一套房子，确保她还在蹒跚学步的儿子将来也能在那儿上学。