

## Face recognition scanner to stop toilet paper thieves

23rd March, 2017



A park in Beijing, China has started a trial to try and save toilet paper and prevent thieves from stealing it. Park officials have installed six facial recognition scanners at the city's Temple of

Heaven Park. The machines will scan someone's face before providing him or her with 60 cm of toilet paper. That same person will then have to wait for nine minutes if they want extra paper. A park spokesman said there was a problem of visitors to the toilets taking too much toilet paper. He said some people came and filled their bags with it. The park had put up posters and broadcast messages over loudspeakers asking visitors to use less toilet paper.

The new facial recognition scanners have brought a surprise. They have become a tourist attraction. Visitors are now coming to look at and try out the machines. Videos of people pulling strips of toilet paper from the machines have gone viral on social media sites. Staff are available to help people with problems using the machines or for people who urgently need more toilet paper. The scanners seem to be popular. A user on the Chinese social media site Weibo commented: "This is a really good idea. I recommend that it be rolled out in toilets nationwide." The trial appears to be successful so far. The daily amount of toilet paper used in the park's toilets has gone down by 20 per cent.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [shanghaiist.com](http://shanghaiist.com) / [straitstimes.com](http://straitstimes.com)

## Writing

We need to find an alternative to toilet paper to save trees. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

park / thieves / officials / scanner / extra / problem / visitors / posters / broadcast / surprise / tourist attraction / videos / viral / social media / popular / nationwide

## True / False

- The facial recognition machines are just part of a trial. T / F
- Beijing has installed 60 facial recognition scanners in parks. T / F
- The machine only gives people a 60-cm strip of toilet paper. T / F
- A park put up posters asking people to use less toilet paper. T / F
- The facial recognition scanners have become a tourist attraction. T / F
- The article said the scanners are full of viruses. T / F
- There are no staff in a park toilets because of the scanners T / F
- The scanners have had no effect on how much toilet paper is used. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>trial</b>      | a. seems     |
| 2. <b>prevent</b>    | b. more      |
| 3. <b>providing</b>  | c. seriously |
| 4. <b>extra</b>      | d. stop      |
| 5. <b>filled</b>     | e. loaded    |
| 6. <b>strips</b>     | f. decreased |
| 7. <b>urgently</b>   | g. test      |
| 8. <b>recommend</b>  | h. pieces    |
| 9. <b>appears</b>    | i. giving    |
| 10. <b>gone down</b> | j. suggest   |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What things could facial recognition technology be useful for?
- Is facial recognition or fingerprint recognition best?
- Would you go to see a facial recognition toilet paper machine?
- What other technology could be put in toilets?
- How else could the park stop the toilet paper thieves?
- Do you think the scanners will stop the toilet paper thieves?
- What questions would you like to ask the park officials?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. prevent thieves from                 | a. attraction                |
| 2. The machines will scan               | b. filled their bags with it |
| 3. wait for nine minutes if they        | c. toilets nationwide        |
| 4. people came and                      | d. someone's face            |
| 5. broadcast messages over              | e. of toilet paper used      |
| 6. They have become a tourist           | f. want extra paper          |
| 7. gone viral                           | g. need more                 |
| 8. for people who urgently              | h. loudspeakers              |
| 9. I recommend that it be rolled out in | i. on social media           |
| 10. The daily amount                    | j. stealing it               |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about facial recognition technology?
- Is controlling toilet paper a good use of facial recognition?
- Why do people steal toilet paper?
- Why do you think officials decided on a nine-minute wait?
- Do you take anything from public places or restaurants?
- How important is toilet paper?
- What harm does toilet paper do to the environment?
- What could we use instead of toilet paper?

## Spelling

- etnervp thieves from stealing it
- Inaetlisd six facial recognition scanners
- The nhesicma will scan someone's face
- iginpdrov him or her with 60 cm of toilet paper.
- A park ossmpeank said...
- broadcast sasmesge over loudspeakers
- brought a isuepsrr
- become a tourist niarotatct
- gone aivlr on social media sites
- people who ytrulnge need more
- The scanners seem to be ulprpoa
- The daily mnouta of toilet paper

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Toilet Paper

You think toilet paper is the thing that is most OK to take from public places. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they should never take their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst thing of these to take (and why): ketchup, newspapers or straws.

### Role B – Ketchup

You think ketchup is the thing that is most OK to take from public places. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they should never take their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst thing of these to take (and why): toilet paper, newspapers or straws.

### Role C – Newspapers

You think newspapers are the things that are most OK to take from public places. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they should never take their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst thing of these to take (and why): ketchup, toilet paper or straws.

### Role D – Straws

You think straws are the things that are most OK to take from public places. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they should never take their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst thing of these to take (and why): ketchup, newspapers or toilet paper.

## Speaking – Taking things

Rank these with your partner. Put the free things its most OK to take from public places at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| • tissues | • toilet paper    |
| • soap    | • ketchup sachets |
| • salt    | • newspapers      |
| • straws  | • water           |

### Answers – True False

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