

Longest sea bridge links Hong Kong to China

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The world's longest sea bridge has opened. It links Hong Kong and Macau to mainland China. The bridge is called the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and is 55 kilometers long. The bridge

took over a decade to construct. Builders had to make artificial islands in the Pearl River Delta to provide the supports for the bridge. There is also a 6.7-kilometre underwater tunnel in the middle of the bridge. This is to allow ships to sail through the Delta. The new bridge stretches longer than 14 Golden Gate Bridges lined up end to end. The bridge will greatly cut the time it takes to travel from mainland China to Hong Kong and Macau. The journey time to Macau has been cut from over three hours to just 30 minutes.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the bridge on Thursday. He hopes the new crossing will help to connect 68 million people in 11 different cities. China's government believes that up to 29,000 cars will cross the sea link daily by the year 2030. A trade and tourism expert said: "This makes Hong Kong a lot more accessible for goods, passengers and trade, so this is a benefit from the economic perspective." The bridge will be open to tourists to drive across it. However, local car owners will not be able to cross the bridge unless they have a special permit. Most drivers will take a shuttle bus to make the journey. The shuttle buses will cost \$8-\$10 for a single trip.

Sources: latimes.com / xinhuanet.com / abcnews.go.com

Writing

There should be a bridge to the Moon one day. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sea / bridge / mainland / decade / artificial / islands / underwater / tunnel / journey / opening ceremony / connect / daily / trade / tourism / passengers / permit / shuttle

True / False

- a) The new bridge links Hong Kong, Macau and China. T / F
- b) The new bridge took over 20 years to build. T / F
- c) Construction of the bridge included the making of manmade islands. T / F
- d) The bridge will cut over two hours from the journey time to Macau. T / F
- e) The new bridge will connect 11 million people in 68 different cities. T / F
- f) As many as 29,000 cars will cross the bridge every day by next year. T / F
- g) Only tourists can drive across the bridge without a special permit. T / F
- h) There is a shuttle bus that will take people across the bridge for \$20. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. links | a. manmade |
| 2. construct | b. specialist |
| 3. artificial | c. only |
| 4. greatly | d. motor vehicle |
| 5. just | e. build |
| 6. expert | f. license |
| 7. perspective | g. journey |
| 8. car | h. connects |
| 9. permit | i. viewpoint |
| 10. trip | j. considerably |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the new bridge?
- b) What new bridges does your country need?
- c) How safe is a bridge across the sea?
- d) How safe is a 2.7-kilometre tunnel under the sea?
- e) What would your country be like without bridges?
- f) What is your favourite bridge, and why?
- g) What environmental damage might the bridge have created?
- h) What three adjectives best describe this story?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The world's longest sea bridge | a. ceremony of the bridge |
| 2. It links Hong Kong and Macau to mainland | b. has been cut |
| 3. The bridge took over a decade | c. perspective |
| 4. artificial | d. to construct |
| 5. The journey time to Macau | e. connect 68 million people |
| 6. Xi Jinping attended the opening | f. China |
| 7. the new crossing will help to | g. tourism expert |
| 8. A trade and | h. shuttle bus |
| 9. this is a benefit from the economic | i. has opened |
| 10. Most drivers will take a | j. islands |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think the opening ceremony was like?
- Have you ever attended an opening ceremony?
- How proud might Chinese people be about this bridge?
- Would you like to see a bridge to the Moon?
- How will this bridge benefit Hong Kong and Macau?
- Why can't local car owners drive across the bridge?
- What questions would you like to ask the bridge's designer?

Spelling

- ianmdanl China
- over a edecad to construct
- lfaitracii islands
- deirpov the supports for the bridge
- a 6.7-kilometre underwater unlten
- lrytega cut the time it takes
- attended the opening meryceno
- onnctce 68 million people
- a lot more ccseaelibs
- this is a enebitf
- they have a special eirtpm
- \$10 for a nelgis trip

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Bridges

You think bridges are the most important transport links. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): airports, cycle lanes or space ports.

Role B – Airports

You think airports the most important transport links. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): bridges, cycle lanes or space ports.

Role C – Cycle Lanes

You think cycle lanes the most important transport links. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): airports, bridges or space ports.

Role D – Space Ports

You think space ports the most important transport links. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): airports, cycle lanes or bridges.

Speaking – Transport links

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important transport links at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| • bridges | • railway stations |
| • tunnels | • taxi ranks |
| • airports | • space ports |
| • ports | • cycle lanes |

Answers – True False

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