

# Tiǎozhànzhě Yáo Míng Yao Ming the Challenger

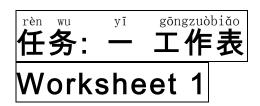
1. 姚明Yáo Míng is the most famous basketball to come out of China. His biography is interesting reading and is included on a separate sheet. His official site www.yaomingmania.com has information about his career with the Houston Rockets, if you are interested in more details.

2. After becoming familiar with the career of姚明Yáo Míng watch the first six minutes of his movie "The Year of Yao" at the link above. The Chinese name of the movie is 挑战者姚明 or Yao Ming the Challenger. After listening to the farewell speech of the lady, and the few sentences of the little boy in Chinese, from 5:00 to 6:03 of the movie, answer the questions in the Worksheet.

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Created by Tania N. Jain

Christ Church Grammar School



1. After listening to the first six minutes of the movie, look at the new words and listen again to the last minute a few times and see what words you can hear.

2. Now answer the following five questions about the farewell speech from the lady for姚明Yáo Míng. Write your answers in Chinese characters, Pīnyīn and English.

a. When is姚明Yáo Míng leaving Shanghai?

b. How long does she say he has been familiar with Shanghai?

c. She says two things about the motherland 祖国zǔguó towards姚明 Yáo Míng. 祖国zǔguó \_\_\_\_\_ 你nǐ. What are these two things??

d. She also says that he will miss 想着 three different things. What are they?

e. What does she wish him at the end?

3. Finally, write down the transcript of the interview of the boy. It is only short and the words should be familiar to you. Write the four sentences in Chinese characters, Pīnyīn and English.

# New Words 生词shēngcí

### Farewell speech by lady:

离开	líkāi	to leave
熟悉	shúxī	know well; be familiar with
祖国	zŭguó	motherland; homeland
想着	xiǎngzhe	be missing
培养	péiyǎng	to train; to groom for a position
成功	chénggōng	succeed
坚定	jiāndìng	firm; resolute
新的地方	xīnde dìfāng	new place
人民	rénmín	the people
祝	zhù	to wish
需要	xūyào	need

### Interview with boy:

美国	měiguó	America
喜欢	xĭhuan	like
看	kàn	watch
电视	diànshì	television

## Answer Sheet 回答表huídábiǎo

2. Now answer the following five questions about the farewell speech from the lady for Yao Ming. Write your answers in Chinese characters, Pīnyīn and English.

a. When is Yao Ming leaving Shanghai? 明天míngtiān tomorrow

b. How long does she say he has been familiar with Shanghai? 他熟悉了二十几年的上海tā shūxíle èrshíjǐ nián de Shànghǎi The Shanghai he has been familiar with for more than 20 years.

c. She says two things about the motherland 祖国zǔguó towards Yao Ming. 祖国zǔguó \_\_\_\_\_ 你nǐ. What are these two things? 祖国需要你 zǔguó xūyào nǐ Your country needs you. 祖国培养你 zǔguó péiyǎng nǐ Your country trained you.

d. She also says that he will be missing 想着 three different things. What are they?

想着祖国xiǎngzhe zǔguó missing his country 想着人民xiǎngzhe rénmín missing the people 想着我们xiǎngzhe wǒmen missing us

e. What does she wish him at the end? 祝姚明成功zhù Yáo Míng chénggōng Wish Yao Ming success.

3. Finally, write down the transcript of the interview of the boy.

The dialogue of the boy and the interviwer.

美国NBA我不喜欢看

Měiguó NBA wǒ bùxǐhuan kàn

I do not like to watch American NBA.

我还是喜欢看中国的NBA

Wǒ háishì xǐhuan kàn Zhōngguó de NBA.

I still like to watch Chinese NBA.

姚明去美国你会不会在电视上看?

Yáo Míng qù Měiguó nǐ huì bú huì zài diànshì kàn?

When Yao Ming goes to America will you watch it on television?

会的 Huì de I will

运动/听/二

**Yao Ming** (Chinese: 姚明; pinyin: *Yáo Míng*; born September 12, 1980) is a professional basketball player who plays for the Houston Rocketsof the National Basketball Association (NBA). He is currently the tallest player in the NBA, at 2.29 m (7 ft 6 in).

Yao, who was born in Shanghai, started playing for the Shanghai Sharks as a teenager, and played on their senior team for five years in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), winning a championship in his final year. After negotiating with the CBA and the Sharks to secure his release, Yao was selected by the Houston Rockets as the first overall pick in the 2002 NBA Draft. Yao has since been selected to start for the Western Conference in the NBA All-Star Game in each of his first seven seasons, and has been named to the All-NBA Team five times. However, the Rockets have advanced past the first round of the playoffs only once since he joined the team, and he has missed significant time due to injury in each of the past six seasons.

He is one of China's best-known athletes, with sponsorships with several major companies, and he has been the richest celebrity in China for six straight years.

#### Early life and CBA career

Yao is the only child of 6 ft 7 in (2.01 m) Yao Zhiyuan and 6 ft 3 in (1.90 m) Fang Fengdi, both of whom were former professional basketball players. At 11 pounds (5.0 kg), Yao weighed more than twice as much as the average Chinese newborn, and he grew to be 5 feet 5 inches (1.65 m) by age ten. Yao started playing basketball at age nine, and he went to a junior sports school at the same age.

Yao first tried out for the Shanghai Sharks junior team of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) when he was 13 years old, and practiced for 10 hours a day to make the team. After playing with the junior team for four years, Yao joined the senior team of the Sharks at age 17, and averaged 10 points and 8 rebounds a game in his rookie season. However, his next season was cut short when he broke his foot for the second time in his career, which Yao said decreased his jumping ability by 10 to 15 cm. The Sharks made the finals of the CBA in Yao's third season and again the next year, but lost both times to the Bayi Rockets. When Wang Zhizhi left the Bayi Rockets to become the first NBA player from China the following year, the Sharks finally won their first CBA championship. During the playoffs in his final year with Shanghai, Yao averaged 38.9 points and 20.2 rebounds a game, while shooting 76.6% from the field, and made all 21 of his shots during one game in the finals.

#### **Entering the NBA Draft**

Yao was pressured to enter the NBA Draft in 1999 by Li Yaomin, the deputy general manager of the Shanghai Sharks.

When Yao decided to enter the 2002 NBA Draft, a team of advisers was formed that would collectively come to be known as "Team Yao". The team consisted of Yao's negotiator, Erik Zhang; his NBA agent, Bill Duffy; his Chinese agent, Lu Hao; University of Chicago economics professor John Huizinga; and the vice president for marketing at BDA Sports Management, Bill Sanders. Yao was widely predicted to be picked number one overall. However, some teams were concerned about Yao's NBA eligibility due to uncertainty over whether the CBA would let Yao play in the United States.

Shortly after Wang Zhizhi refused to return to China to play for the national team and was subsequently banned from playing for China, the CBA stipulated that Yao would have to return to play for the national team. They also said they would not let him go to the United States unless the Houston Rockets would take him first overall. After assurances from Team Yao that the Rockets would draft Yao with their number one pick, the CBA gave permission on the morning of the draft for Yao to play in the U.S. When the Rockets selected Yao with the first pick of the draft, he became the first international player ever to be selected first overall without having previously played U.S. college basketball.

#### 2000 and 2004 Olympics

Yao first played for China in the Summer Olympics at the 2000 Olympics Basketball Tournament, and he was dubbed, together with 7-foot teammates Wang Zhizhi and Mengke Bateer, "The Walking Great Wall". During the 2004 Athens Olympics, Yao carried the Chinese flag during the opening ceremony, which he said was a "long dream come true. They got into the quarterfinals at the 2004 Olympics. Yao scored 27 points and had 13 rebounds, and he hit two free throws with 28 seconds left that proved to be the winning margin. He averaged 20.7 points and 9.3 rebounds per game while shooting 55.9% from the field.

#### Asian Championships

Yao led the Chinese national team to 3 consecutive FIBA Asian Championship gold medals.

#### 2006 World Championships

Yao's injury at the end of the 2005–06 NBA season required a full six months of rest, threatening his participation in the 2006 FIBA World Championship. However, he recovered before the start of the tournament, and in the last game of the preliminary round, he had 36 points and 10 rebounds in a win against Slovenia to lead China into the Round of 16. In the first knockout round, however, China was defeated by eventual finalist Greece. Yao's final averages were 25.3 points, the most in the tournament, and 9.0 rebounds a game, which was fourth overall.

#### 2008 Olympics

After having surgery to repair his fractured foot, Yao said that if he could not play in the Olympics, "It would be the biggest loss in my career to right now". However, he returned to play with the Chinese national team on July 17, 2008. On August 6, Yao carried the Olympic Flame into Tiananmen Square, as part of the Olympic torch relay. He also carried the Chinese flag and led his country's delegation during the opening ceremony. China lost to Lithuania in the quarterfinals by 26 points, eliminating them from the tournament. Yao's 19 points a game were the second-highest in the Olympics, and his averages of 8.2 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game were third overall.