

Family Stuff 家庭的東西

Vocabulary: *possessions* 拥有品, 所属物

Take every single object out of your house. Pose for a photo. Then, put everything back inside again.

This is what photographer Huang Qingjun has been convincing people to do for the past decade. Families from 14 of China's 33 provinces agreed to stand outside their house and pose for Mr Huang with all their **possessions**. An exhibition of his work, called '**Belongings**' (财产), is now on display in Beijing.



It was not always easy to explain **the object of** the project. "Most people thought what I was proposing was not normal. When I explained I wanted to set up a photo, that it would involve taking everything out of their house and setting it up outside, that took quite a lot of explaining," Mr. Huang says. "But almost all of them, when they realised what I was trying to do, they understood the point."

On one level, the photos are intimate family **portraits**: an art dealer surrounded by his collection of ceramics, or a fishing family with objects mostly related to cooking. On another level, the pictures **capture** the social change that is taking place in China. The four most **sought-after** items in 1950s for newly married couples were **a sewing machine**, a bicycle, a watch and a radio. By the 1980s the **stuff** people longed for was quite different: a TV, **a washing machine**, a rice cooker and a fridge. In some pictures, the sewing machine was pushed to the back, which shows it's no longer as **desirable** as it used to be.

In other photos, **luxury items** are on display: a BMW car and **a flat-screen TV** feature in the portrait of film director Zhang Yuan. Since **brand names** and **consumer goods** already flood China's cities, will these soon reach the more remote parts of the country and become more prominent in Mr. Huang's snaps? Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the start of the project, and Mr. Huang plans to visit the same families to see what has changed. "In the last 10 years, China has seen such a fast rate of growth, I want to go back and see what the effects have been on their lives," he says.

Which new **goods** will appear in the next **batch** of pictures? And which will no longer feature because they've become **a thing of the past**?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. True, false or not given? Photographer Huang Qingjun convinced 14 families to pose for him.
2. Find six words in the article that can mean 'things'.
3. Which word in the article means 'that people want'?
4. According to the article, which item was much more desirable in the 1950s than in more recent decades?
5. Why is Mr. Huang planning to revisit the families next year?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I can never find anything in this house – your _____ is all over the place!

stuff	fridge	brand	batch
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2. He likes taking photos of landscapes, but he prefers _____ because he likes to try to capture a person's personality in his work.

sewing machine	cooking	capture	portraits
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3. Which do you think is more _____ : a mobile phone or an e-reader?

sought-after	after-thought	after-sought	thought-after
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4. He won't wear anything that doesn't have a _____ on it. I think it's ridiculous.

consumer	luxury item	brand name	flat-screen
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5. Do you think writing letters will soon be _____? Everyone sends emails nowadays.

the past tense	a past thing	passed around	a thing of the past
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. True, false or not given? Photographer Huang Qingjun convinced 14 families to pose for him. False. He convinced families from 14 different provinces to pose for him.
2. Find six words in the article that can mean 'things'. Objects, possessions, belongings, stuff, items, goods.
3. Which word in the article means 'that people want'? Sought-after.
4. According to the article, which item was much more desirable in the 1950s than in more recent decades? A sewing machine.
5. Why is Mr. Huang planning to revisit the families next year? Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the project, so Mr. Huang wants to see how things have changed.

Exercise 练习

1. I can never find anything in this house – your stuff is all over the place!
2. He likes taking photos of landscapes, but he prefers portraits because he likes to try to capture a person's personality in his work.
3. Which do you think is more sought-after: a mobile phone or an e-reader?
4. He won't wear anything that doesn't have a brand name on it. I think it's ridiculous.
5. Do you think writing letters will soon be a thing of the past? Everyone sends emails nowadays.

Glossary 词汇表

possessions	拥有物
belongings	所属物品（家什），财产
the object of	目的
a portrait	肖像
to capture	捕捉
sought-after	想得到的
a sewing machine	缝纫机
stuff	物品，东西
a washing machine	洗衣机
desirable	理想的；人人都想要的
luxury items	奢侈品
a flat-screen TV	平板电视
brand names	名牌
consumer goods	消费品
goods	物品
batch	一批
a thing of the past	已经是过去的事了