

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, January 12 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Starbucks to help its workers in China pay for housing (Business, page A11).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions.

2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. adapts
- B. allowance
- C. benefits
- D. custom
- E. disclose
- F. dormitory
- G. migrants
- H. perks
- I. pitch
- J. sector
- K. subsidize
- L. swath
- M. tenure
- N. transitions
- O. volatility

- 1. an action or way of behaving that is usual and traditional among the people in a particular group or place
- 2. to talk about or describe (something) in a favorable way so that people will want to buy it, accept it, etc.
- 3. the amount of time that a person holds a job, office, or title
- 4. to change (something) so that it functions better or is better suited for a purpose
- 5. an area of an economy : a part of an economy that includes certain kinds of jobs
- 6. a person who goes from one place to another especially to find work
- 7. likely to change in a very sudden or extreme way
- 8. something extra (such as vacation time or health insurance) that is given by an employer to workers in addition to their regular pay
- 9. to help someone or something pay for the costs of (something)
- 10. to make (something) known to the public
- 11. something extra that someone receives in addition to regular pay for doing a job; a good thing that you have or get because of your situation

12. to make a change from one state, place, or condition to another
13. an amount of money that is given to someone regularly or for a specific purpose
14. a broad strip or area of something
15. a building such as at a college, containing a number of private or semiprivate rooms for residents, usually along with common bathroom facilities and recreation areas

Comprehension

1. Chinese industrial companies often build huge dormitory complexes for employees moving from the where to work in their factories?
2. Starbucks' plan adapts that custom to the _____ sector. **(Fill in the blank)**
3. Starbucks' housing program is limited to what type of workers?
4. Unlike the manufacturers that provide centralized dormitories, what will Starbucks give employees for their housing choice?
5. About how many of Starbucks' total workforce of 30,000 in China will qualify immediately for the housing program? **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) 3,000
 - b) 5,000
 - c) 7,000
6. Starbucks wouldn't disclose how much it may spend per employee and the company also declined to provide what?
7. Workers must be migrants in order to have access to Starbucks' housing program benefit – **true or false?**
8. The housing subsidy is being announce in the massive city of Chendgu where Starbucks is having its fourth Partner Family Forum. What do Starbucks executives pitch and to whom, at the Partner Family Forum?
9. Give one example, mentioned in the article, of a benefit that has been extended to Starbucks workforce in the United States or in the United Kingdom.
10. China is Starbucks second largest market after the United States – **true or false?**

Additional Activities

1. Interview some of the adults in your family, friends, etc. and ask them what types of benefits they receive from their employer. If they are an employer ask them what types of benefits they provide to employees. What type of benefits or perks would entice you to work for a company and why?
2. Search through the two-week archive of the e-Edition to find articles related to affordable housing and housing subsidies. How important do you think housing subsidies and affordable housing is to the community you live in and why? What were some additional housing topics written about in the articles you found?

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2016 The Seattle Times Company

Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 4
- B. 13
- C. 8
- D. 1
- E. 10
- F. 15
- G. 6
- H. 11
- I. 2
- J. 5
- K. 9
- L. 14
- M. 3
- N. 12
- O. 7

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. Moving from the countryside to work in their factories.
2. retail
3. It is limited to full-time workers.
4. They will give employees an allowance for their housing choice.
5. c) 7,000
6. An estimate of the program's total cost.
7. False – workers do not have to be migrants.
8. Starbucks executives pitch the benefits of working for the company to employees and their families.
9. Subsidized college tuition, pay raises, loans for rent deposits, sabbatical program for employees with tenure of at least 10 years. **(Answers may vary – only one example necessary)**
10. True