



*Bridging Cultures: Our*

*Sino-US Pen Pal Journey*

*A journey of  
knowledge and soul  
across national  
borders*



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*DIFFERENT*



*Qingdao University of Technology*



*Cal State University of Long Beach*

DIGITAL PEN PAL  
PROGRAMS

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EIGHT TOPICS

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**Home Country  
Introduction  
Hobbies On Various  
Aspects  
Fashion  
Travel  
Holidays  
Final Exams  
Hypothetical Meeting  
Life Goals And Reflection**

INTERTWINED WITH  
THE TOPIC TO GROW



# SELF-INTRODUCTION

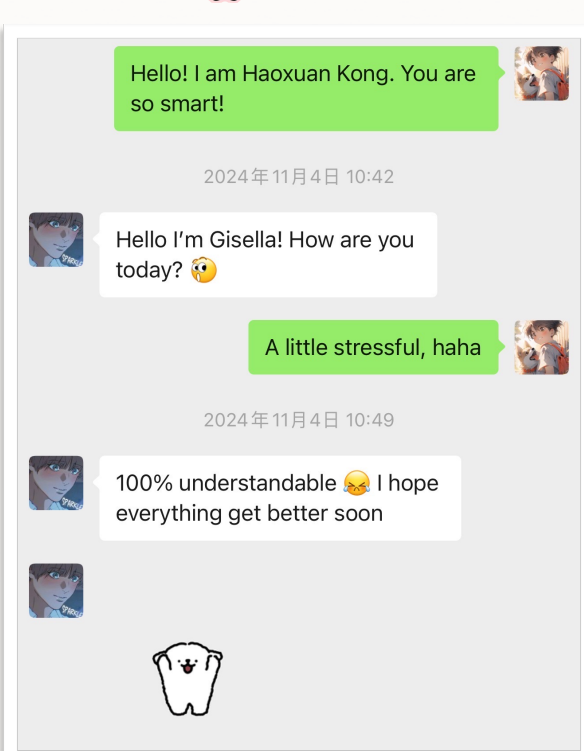
FIRST NAME : *Haoxuan*

LAST NAME : *Kong*

MY PEN PAL: *Gisella Duran Mendez*



## OUR FIRST GREETING



Re: Contact

Gisella Duran Mendez

详情

Hello! My name is Gisella Duran Mendez and I'm from the USA. I don't have WeChat, however I will get it and see if I can use it! (´▽`)

Gisella Duran Mendez

详情

If that is something you would like to try, I'm cool with that as well! Also I downloaded WeChat, but I'm not sure if I sent the friend request correctly?



I am a young man with dreams and curiosity about the world. All along, I have been looking forward to getting to know my American pen pal, sparking thinking in communication, and exploring unknown areas together.

Cultural differences are like the twinkling stars in the night sky, each with its own brilliance. I am eager to establish contact with American pen pal, share each other's life stories, understand American customs and people, and also let each other feel the unique charm of Chinese culture.

I look forward to becoming spiritual partners with American pen pal. We can not only exchange joys and sorrows in life, but also encourage each other in learning, work hand in hand on the road of growth, broaden our horizons, and grow together.



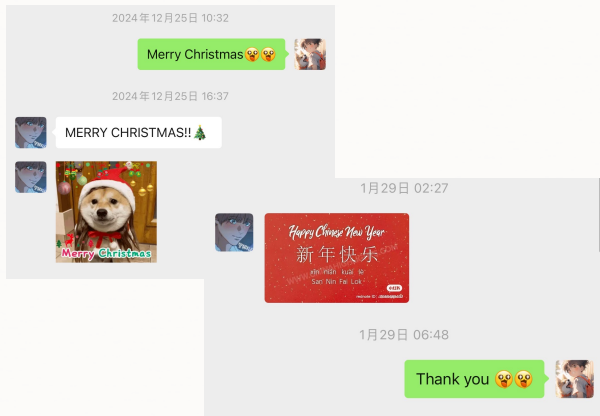
# MY FEELINGS AND GAINS

Through four months of communication, I have gained the joy of friendship and experienced the collision of culture.



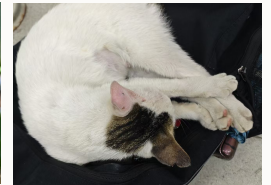
The above two pictures are from the blessings of distant friends to traditional Chinese festivals.

During the Chinese Spring Festival and the American Christmas, we sent blessings to each other. At that moment, we felt the blessings from friends from foreign countries.



## ANIMALS :

There are four cats in Gisella's family, each of which has its own name. They are very lively and cute. We all like animals very much. During the conversation, she also shared American squirrels with me. I found that no matter where we are, kindness and love for small animals will bring us closer.



My pen pal's cute cat    My school's cat

## FOOD:

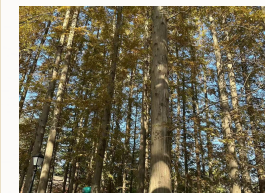
During the discussion, we shared delicious food with each other and learned the charm of cultural integration. Chinese cuisine is full of colour and aroma. From the exquisite dishes of the eight major cuisines to the special snacks at the end of the streets, every bite is full of regional culture and historical inheritance. American cuisine has not only the convenience of fast food culture, but also the rich innovation of integrating diverse immigrant culture.



Chinese cuisine    American Apple Pie

## SCENERY :

We all live in beautiful coastal cities, and the customs and people are the same in different. This difference in regional customs is not only reflected in the natural landscape and traditional customs, but also in people's lifestyles and thinking concepts. The communication with my pen pal has broadened my horizons, deeply realised the diversity of the world, and valued the cultural roots of my country more. At the same time, I have a deeper understanding and respect for American culture.



The beautiful scenery of China    The fog in the United States



Have u seen this movie yet?? I'm so happy that the 2nd movie has finally come out 🥹💖



666, 魔童归来, 风火开年

The magic child returns, the wind fire opens the year! 魔童归来, 风



小红书

I just wanted to ask you if you have watched Nezha II.



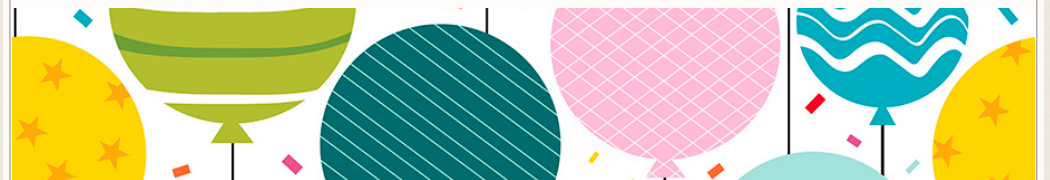
It has been released in China for more than a dozen days.



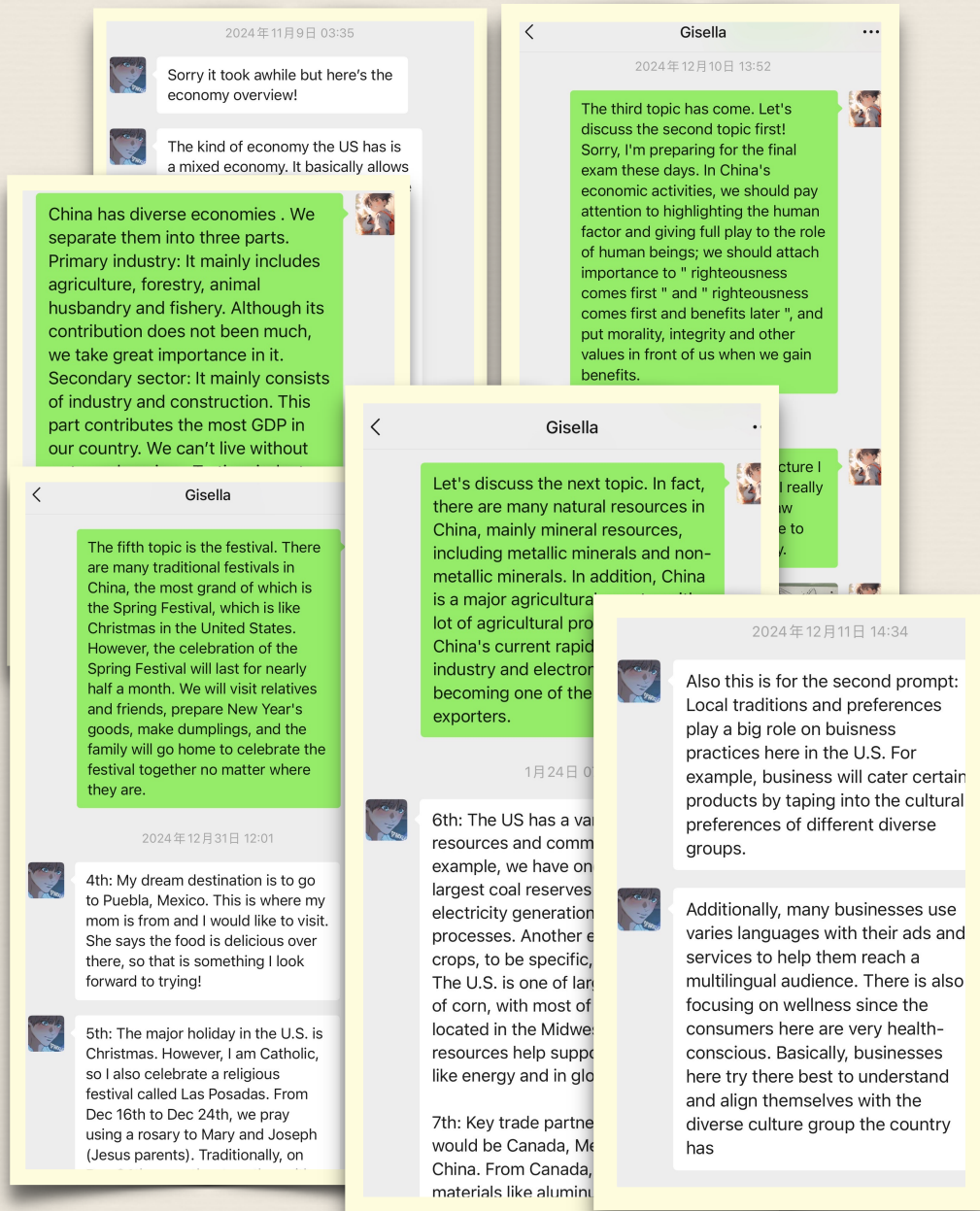
I haven't 🥹🥹 ever since I watched the 1st movie a few yrs ago I've been waiting for the next part



*During the conversation with Gisella, she told me about Las Posadas, a religious holiday, how to celebrate and its history. I was deeply attracted by this wonderful and sacred festival. During the conversation, I also found that China and the United States also have their own charms in the field of film. I like Zootopia in the United States, and shared the pictures I drew with Gisella. Later, I found that she especially liked Nezha in China. At that moment, I felt the charm of culture. It crossed races and languages and let us talk to each other. At the same time, I am also happy about the integration of China and the United States in animation and other fields, and I am also proud of the popularity of Chinese animation in the United States.*



# OUR TOPIC CHAT



# MY EXPERIENCE AND PROGRESS

## DEEPENING OF CULTURAL COGNITION

Communicating with American pen pal has given me a more three-dimensional understanding of American culture. From the perspective of holiday customs, Thanksgiving, Christmas and other festivals in the United States have unique historical origins and cultural connotations.

In terms of the education system, the United States focusses on cultivating students' critical thinking and practical ability. Schools encourage students to explore and innovate independently. Compared with the domestic education system, this difference makes me reflect on the essence and purpose of education, and realise that different education models have their own advantages and disadvantages, and we should learn from each other

## EXPANSION OF THE WAY OF THINKING

The way of thinking of American pen pal has brought me new inspiration. They are more inclined to logical analysis and critical thinking. When discussing problems, they will analyse from multiple angles and put forward different views and solutions. This way of thinking has taught me to question and reflect, no longer blindly accept existing views, but try to look at problems from different perspectives.

## THE PERCEPTION OF CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Intercultural communication is a bridge to enhance international understanding and friendship. Through communication with American pen pal, I deeply understand that although there are differences between different cultures, there are also many similarities, such as the pursuit of family, friendship and happiness. We should respect cultural differences and understand and appreciate different cultures with an open and inclusive mind.



## *MY THOUGHTS*

The experience of chatting with Gisella has given me a lot of experience in terms of cultural cognition, language ability and way of thinking. This experience not only enriched my knowledge reserve, but also made me more confident and mature. In today's globalised world, cross-cultural communication will become more and more important. We should actively participate in it, constantly improve our cross-cultural communication ability, and contribute to promoting international understanding and friendship. In the future, I will continue to keep in touch with my pen pal and look forward to communicating with more people from different countries to broaden my horizons and enrich my life experience.



