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Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.17

**1**

Every day, the ancient Shaolin temple is visited by hundreds of tourists. They come from all over China and from every type of background. There are soldiers, business people, retired people and young couples. In particular, there are parents with excited children who are punching and kicking. Most people have learnt about Kung Fu from films and TV and so they all come to the Shaolin Temple – the place where Kung Fu began. According to history, people started learning Kung Fu at the Shaolin Temple in the fifth century. Since then, Kung Fu teachers have taught generations of students.

**2**

Nowadays, the name of Shaolin is known across the Kung Fu world. It is a brand and a multi-million dollar business. Shaolin products are sold from the website. There are film and TV projects and Kung Fu demonstrations are given by groups of Shaolin performers. As a result, the Shaolin Temple has started a new interest in Kung Fu and it is taught in hundreds of new schools in China. In the city of Dengfend, for example, ten kilometres from the Shaolin Temple, more than 50,000 students are enrolled at one of the sixty martial arts schools.

**3**

For six days a week, eleven months a year, the school timetable starts early and finishes late. Male and female students as young as five get up early for their first class. They always wear red uniforms and stand in rows, practising Kung Fu. Many of these students have seen Kung Fu at the cinema and they dream of becoming a Kung Fu film star or a famous kickboxer. Others want to learn the skills they will need for a good job in the military or police force. Some students are sent by their parents because the schools are well-known for their hard work and discipline. At night, the students sleep in unheated rooms. They train outside even when the weather is below zero degrees. They hit trees to make their hands stronger and the movements are repeated again and again for hours on end.

Life