

## The doctor who tried to warn the world about coronavirus

People in China are **angry** that the government silenced a man who wanted to tell others about the **disease**.



On December 30, 2019, Li Wenliang, doctor at the Wuhan Central hospital, posted a message in an online chat room for classmates from his medical school. He said seven patients had been quarantined at his hospital with a mysterious disease. He told them they should wear protective clothing so they wouldn't catch whatever it was. One person answered, "So  
5 frightening. Is SARS coming again?" SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) is a highly-contagious type of pneumonia. An outbreak of the disease **began** in China in 2002. Between 2002 and 2003, thousands of people were infected with SARS and 774 died from it.

Chinese health authorities found out about Dr Li's post and ordered him, in the middle of the night, to come to the government. They accused him of "making false comments" and  
10 spreading rumours. He had to sign a letter which said: "We warn you: if you keep being stubborn and continue this **illegal** activity, you will be brought to justice – is that understood?" Under it, Dr Li wrote: "Yes, I do."

A week **later**, the Chinese government officially said a new disease had broken out in Wuhan. It wasn't SARS, but it was also caused by a coronavirus. Coronaviruses probably start in  
15 animals and then mutate in a way that they are able to infect humans, too. As SARS had already proved, once a coronavirus infects humans, the disease can then spread from person to person. But in early January, the government in Wuhan was saying that **humans** could only catch the virus directly from infected animals. Doctors were not warned to protect themselves when treating patients.

20 Two weeks **after** he wrote the message to his classmates, Li Wenliang started coughing. The next day he had a fever. Two days later he was in hospital. But another ten days would go by before China declared the coronavirus outbreak a national emergency.

On 30 January, Dr Li was diagnosed with the new coronavirus. From his hospital bed, Dr Li wrote in a **new** post about how the government had threatened him. He also posted a copy of the letter he was forced to sign. The posts were seen by millions in China.

While in hospital, Dr Li was interviewed by the newspaper The New York Times; he was asked if things would be different if the Wuhan government had not stopped him from warning others. He said: "I think it would have been a lot better."

Li Wenliang died on February 6. He was 34 years old. He had a four-year-old child and his wife was pregnant. News of his death began spreading on social media. Chinese people think that the government owes Dr Li's family an apology and they want freedom of speech.

By the middle of February 2020, the new coronavirus had caused hundreds of more deaths than SARS had. Many people think that the situation wouldn't have been so bad if the Chinese government had been more **honest** about the situation earlier.

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#### TASKS:

1. Make a list of all the red underlined words and translate them.
2. Find synonyms for the **blue** words.
3. Find opposites for the **orange** words.
4. Make nouns:
  - a. angry →
  - b. infected →
  - c. honest →
5. Make adjectives:
  - a. threatened →
  - b. die →
6. Make adverbs (Add -ly at the end of the word.)
  - a. mysterious →
  - b. false →
7. Underline 10 verbs from the text. Write the infinitive and the simple past form. (example: to go – went)

**8. Match the headings. (Ordne die Überschriften zu.)**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Dr Li Wenliang is forced to sign a letter.               | a) line 1-7   |
| 2. Dr Li Wenliang gets sick                                 | b) line 8-12  |
| 3. The Chinese government doesn't inform the people         | c) line 13-19 |
|   | d) line 20-25 |
| 4. Dr Li Wenliang dies                                      | e) line 29-31 |
| 5. Dr Li Wenliang warns his colleagues about the new virus. |               |

**9. Decide whether the statements are "true", "false" or "not in the text".**

- Dr Li Wenliang was allowed to talk about the virus.
- The Chinese government didn't protect the people in the beginning.
- More people died from the new coronavirus than from SARS.
- Dr Li Wenliang's mother also had the virus.
- His four-year-old child died from the virus.

**10. Complete the sentences.**

- Dr Li Wenliang's classmates
  - called the government.
  - didn't believe him.
  - were afraid that SARS was coming back.
- The letter he had to sign
  - forced him to keep quiet.
  - allowed him to post things online about the virus.
  - forced him to stay at home.
- In the interview for The New York Times
  - he said that the government didn't make the right decision.
  - he said that he would die.
  - he said that he was angry.

## **WRITING**

### **11. Write a letter to Dr Li Wenliang's wife. (80 words).**

- Tell her that you feel sorry about her husband's death.
- Ask how she and her family have been doing.
- Ask if the government has contacted her.

### **12. Write a text about how life in Germany has changed since the coronavirus started appearing in Europe. (100 words)**

What has changed for you?

How do you feel about it?

Do you know anyone who was infected or got himself/herself tested?

Do you miss the normal life you had before?

### **13. Write a summary (Zusammenfassung) of the article in German.**

Read the beginning of the short story *Kasun*.

### **Kasun's first day at a new school**

On the first day at my new school I was very scared. Not that I showed it, of course. I pretended to be relaxed while all the time my knees were like jelly.

My mom appeared to be calm, but I knew her better than that. Her red eyes told their own story.

When I got to school, all the other kids in Grade 9 seemed to know each other, maybe because they all lived in Colombo. Even the teachers had the same accent as they did. But I was from Kuruwita, a smaller town outside the capital, and I felt like a fish out of water.

"Hey, what's your name?"

I turned around and saw a big boy. He was smiling. But was he talking to me? Or to somebody behind me? I didn't dare answer.

"Hey, what's the problem?" said the boy and took a step closer to me. I couldn't help see his big hands. Was he going to hit me?

"Do you think I'm going to bite you? Hi. I'm Sahan."

"I...I'm Kasun," I stuttered. "I'm not from Colombo. I'm from Kuruwita, but I ..."

"Hey, calm down, you're talking too fast" laughed Sahan.

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#### **1. Choose the correct ending.**

1. On his first day of school Kasun felt...

- a. excited.
- b. out of place.
- c. relaxed.

4. The big boy...

- a. wanted to fight with Kasun.
- b. tried to be friendly.
- c. wasn't talking to Kasun at all.

2. The other kids in Kasun's class...

- a. probably all came from the same city.
- b. were from Kuruwita, too.
- c. seemed to know Kasun.

3. The teachers...

- a. didn't speak to Kasun.
- b. spoke a different language.
- c. spoke like most of the students.

**2. Find sentences or sentence parts that mean the same.**

(Finde im Text Sätze die im Wesentlichen das gleiche bedeuten wie die Sätze aus der Aufgabe. Die Sätze müssen nicht verändert, sondern nur richtig abgeschrieben werden.)

a) I was so frightened that I could hardly move.

b) I felt so nervous that I was unstable on my legs.

c) It was obvious that she had cried.

d) I had a strong feeling that I didn't belong here.

## My new job

Most parents give their \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ pocket money. Mine give me money, too, but it's never enough for what I need. So I looked \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ jobs in our town. But when I finally \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ a job in a clothes shop, my parents \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ happy at all.

They say that if I have a job, I'll be too \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ for school and for doing my homework, even though no teacher has ever complained about my school work. They say that the music in the shop is louder \_\_\_\_6\_\_\_\_ it should be. They say that the shop sells cheap clothes that were \_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_ in Bangladesh, where people often work in terrible conditions for very little pay. They would prefer it, they say, if I \_\_\_\_8\_\_\_\_ in a Fairtrade shop that sends money back to the workers \_\_\_\_9\_\_\_\_ make the products.

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### 1. Multiple choice.

- |                |               |            |
|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. a. children | b. children's | c. child's |
| 2. a. after    | b. for        | c. forward |
| 3. a. find     | b. found      | c. founded |
| 4. a. weren't  | b. were       | c. won't   |
| 5. a. able     | b. proud      | c. tired   |
| 6. a. when     | b. then       | c. than    |
| 7. a. sold     | b. made       | c. done    |
| 8. a. worked   | b. working    | c. works   |
| 9. a. where    | b. who        | c. the     |