Relations in China
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1 Family member relations
Family Members

• In China, most young people will live with their parents until they get married.

• Many couples will even continue to live with one set of parents after marriage. (Usually with husband’s parents)
• When the young couple has a child, at least one pair of grandparents will live with them or very close so that they can help them raise the child.
• The grandparents will be expected to raise their grandchildren, because most Chinese women will return to work full time after the baby is born.
• As the parents grow older, most of the young couple is expected to take care of them in their old age.

• Senior Center
Respect parents

• Filial piety is the most important of all virtues
Orders’ birthday

- Celebrate together
- The order the person is, the greater the celebration is
- Longevity Noodles
- Peach for birthday blessings
Mother-in law & Daughter-in law
Couple

• The wife follows the husband → Equality.

• Usually the husband makes the decisions outside, the wife makes the family decisions.

• Parent-child relationship is higher than couple relationship.
• Elder brother as father

• Harmonious family can lead to the success of everything

• Domestic shame should not be made public

• Financial matters should be settled clearly even between brothers

• A married daughter is like a spilt water
Genealogy
2 Social relations
Video: “Guān xi”
Relation net
Teacher & Student

- Once a teacher, always a teacher

- Respect teachers
Leader
Friendship

• The definition of “Friend” in China

• Courtesy demands reciprocity 礼尚往来

• “两肋插刀”
Neighborhood

• Far relatives are inferior to neighbors

• The Countryside

• The City
Most “Guanxi” are based on individuals “having something in common”. The commonalities may be the fact of having attended or graduated from the same school, having the same place of employment, working in the same industry, or coming from the same village or region.
• In addition, “Guanxi” may sometimes be established through gift giving or personal favors. They can even be arranged by an intermediary.

• “Guanxi” often have a strong emotional element
3 “Face” in China
Face -- “Miàn zi”

• “Mianzi” represents social perceptions of a person’s prestige. For a person to maintain face is important with Chinese social relations because face translates into power and influence and affects prestige.

• A loss of “mianzi” would likely result in a loss of authority.
For example:

• When trying to avoid conflict, Chinese in general will avoid causing another person to lose “Mianzi” by not bringing up embarrassing facts in public.
Puff oneself up at one's own cost
Video: Cultural difference