

BLOG 1

it's not just a number

week 1

4, 4, 4... What's wrong with 4? It's just a single digit number to Americans, but apparently on the other side of the world, this number is a BIG deal. Why? You ask? In Chinese, the number four sounds almost identical to the word death. People can take you wrong if you mean to say four but it comes out as death.

Anyways, this incident occurs in Shanghai, China, at an airport -hotel. In it, located on the ground floor, is a dining area serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. We were having a breakfast of porridge, yogurt, eggs and sourdough bread, when I began counting... Floors. Counting floors is just something I do for no particular reason, just like my mom purchases way too many shoes ALSO for no particular reason. As I finish counting, I ask myself, wait a minute where's 8? On the elevators, at the very top, there sits an 8 that smacks you straight in the face. But counting the floors in the center of this courtyard style hotel isn't telling me anything about a floor #8. This is when I start acting like a spoiled child having to go to work 24/7. I'm still not sure why this floor thing got me squirming around in my chair, all I know is that this situation got to the every single one of my nerves, crept up my spine, and got me to the point where I had to drag my dad up the elevator to the eighth floor.

This time, as I count down from the eighth floor, I realize, that there's now no ground floor! It was soooo agitating! *sigh*Down to the first/ground floor once again. As the elevator descended, my dad and I realized the elevator keys show: G 2 3 5 6 7 8. "Where is the four?"



At this point my frustration reached to a certain point that got me mad, especially because of the gears in my brain turning and turning, and getting tired. It's Interesting how I get mad, right?

After my dad kindly explained to me this four and death thing, I understood, except this is when things take another sort of annoying route." Why is this building missing a floor!!!!!!?????:O If I was a builder I'd make sure that all floors are present so that no one would get confused... Or at least no American would." Probably, I was the only one who gets confused and feels frustrated at this situation.

Huh...wouldn't pronouncing the number "four" right help everyone? To me, it's weird that some pronunciation thing can get to the point where "buildings don't even accept" a simple single digit number! Huh...*sigh* Please... (this note is only to Chinese people, because the word four in American sounds nothing like death:)) pronouncing the word right will help everyone!(probably not Everyone but still.) Please pay just the slightest bit of attention to this little tiny thing. it would make living at Chinese hotels a lot more relaxing for me! Thank you for your consideration ;)!