

Blog 17-PART 1. – \$10 Purchasing Mission – Fruits and Vegetables

How much can you get with 10 \$ in America? Two meals at McDonald's? A movie ticket? Or a large carton of ice cream? Recently, I've been wondering what I can get with 10\$ in Nanjing. According to the currency exchange rate, \$10 roughly equals to 62RMB. So my mom and I set off on our \$10 purchasing mission from everyday foods to dining and entertainment/service.



Vegetables are a big part of our food pyramid, so our first mission was veggie hunt at a local farmer's market. On a late Saturday morning, we visited the booth my mom usually buys the vegetables at. Based on owner's expression, she sure was happy to see us! The market was *packed* with people during the weekend. It is a very large building and sells everything from live chicken, quacking duck, floppin' fish to fruits and vegetables. Through the noisy people chatting on and on, I can hear the roosters crowing in a dark room in the far side of the building. I was wondering how come the rooster is crowing so late in the morning. My mom carefully selected a dozen different types of vegetables and she stopped when the owner told her our total was over 62RMB already. As our family's "professional" grocery shopper, my mom said: "These vegetables might cost \$20-\$30 in America."



The other side of the building was colorful fruit booths selling oranges, apples, bananas and some other local Asian fruits. My mom handed me another 62RMB to guard. We carefully checked the price, booth after booth and did a bit of negotiation. We settled at a reasonable priced booth. As my mom placed bag after bag of fruits on the rusty old scale, I examined the owner's delightful expressions. I watched the corners of his mouth slowly curve upwards. It gave me a flashback on *my* bargaining experience at the dirt market last month. I hope my heart won't sink this time. When we spent all of the 62RMB in my hands, we got 2 bunches of grapes, a big bag of three different types of oranges and 8 big juicy apples. I can't imagine buying so much fruit for 10\$ in America. On our way out, I glanced at the plum sized strawberries and tender cherries on the other side of the booth. I did a bit of calculation and realized that strawberries were \$5.00/pound and cherries were \$12.50/pound! By the way, the cherries were imported from America. In this case, I would rather go back to the U.S to enjoy these fruits 😊

