

1 Google errs

2 ([http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15267](http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15267915&source=features_box1)
3 [915&source=features_box1](http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15267915&source=features_box1))

4 In the face of much criticism from Western human-rights advocates,
5 Google justified its decision to set up Google.cn in 2006 by pointing out
6 that China often blocked its uncensored Google.com search engine. Better
7 to offer a censored service (with warnings to users that results were
8 filtered), the company argued, than offer nothing at all. Now Google says
9 it might have to leave the country because of alleged attacks by hackers
10 in China and tighter restrictions on free speech online.

11 Mr Drummond, Google's chief legal officer, used unusually direct finger-
12 pointing at China as a source of hacker attacks. A primary goal of the
13 attacks, he said, was to gain access to the e-mail accounts of Chinese
14 human-rights activists who use Google's Gmail service.

15 These attacks, he said, made Google review its business policy in China.

16 This direct approach to China will infuriate the government in Beijing,
17 which is very sensitive to criticism of its web censorship. Moreover, Google
18 has decided to stop censoring its China-based search engine, which will
19 probably result in having to shut down Google.cn and Google's offices in
20 China.

21 The decision has been widely applauded. But some are asking whether it
22 was more about business than ethics. Despite its concessions to the
23 Chinese government, the argument goes, Google had not made any
24 headway against *Baidu*, China's leading search engine—and probably
25 never will. In any case Google's revenues in China are truly immaterial
26 and its costs are not.

Questions

- 1) Why do you think the article's title is 'Google errs'? And what does 'to err' mean?
- 2) What was Google's argument against human rights activists when it decided to start Google.cn, its censored Chinese version?
- 3) 'Goal' (line 12) – what synonyms of this word are you familiar with?
- 4) Why, according to Mr Drummer, was Google attacked by hackers? And who are hackers anyway?
- 5) 'Infuriate' (line 16) means 'to make very angry'. What exactly is going to make the Chinese government angry at Google?
- 6) 'The decision has been widely applauded.' (line 21) – paraphrase this sentence using your own words.
- 7) What is 'Baidu' (line 24)
- 8) The text gives two other reasons which might have led Google to change its attitude towards China. What are they?
- 9) What do you think is behind Google's decision on China? What do you think will be the consequences in terms of freedom of expression and censorship in China? Do you 'applaud' (line 21) this decision?

Vocabulary

point out (to) something (line 5) – to direct attention to; to say
set up (5); to enable to begin in business; to establish; to open, to start
antonym (word with the opposite meaning) = *close down*
alleged (9) – declared or stated to be as described
officer (11) – a person appointed or elected to some position of responsibility or authority in the government, a corporation, a society, etc

You can find additional explanation and more examples to help you understand and use English words and phrases at <http://dictionary.reference.com>, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>, or <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

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Tým jazykové skupiny Spěváček: