



# A Sunset Business

## Let's Think!

1. Is there a dai pai dong near your home?
2. Are you interested in dining there? Why or why not?

You must have heard of the name 'dai pai dong' if you have ever lived in Hong Kong. Dai pai dongs are actually outdoor food stalls with no fancy furnishings: only wooden tables, stools and chopsticks, sizzling woks and sweaty chefs in a hot, steamy open kitchen. Only simple food in local style is served—milk tea, fried rice and wonton noodles are familiar  
5 examples. Decades ago, these stalls were an integral part of Hongkongers' daily life. Now, they are quickly disappearing, becoming a topic of presentation rather than a place to have a meal in.

After World War II, the colonial government allowed the family members of deceased or injured civil servants to start running these stalls. The economy wasn't promising at  
10 that time. Perhaps that's why dai pai dongs became popular, by offering cut-price food to locals and loads of employment opportunities across the city.

Meanwhile, the whole of Hong Kong was being developed and urbanised. As a result, many other kinds of restaurants started to emerge and become more common sights on the streets. Failing in the competition with them, many dai pai dongs were made to either  
15 close or change themselves into localised indoor tea houses, known as 'cha chaan teng' now. Sadly, many remaining stalls are not going to stay for long, since their kind of licence is not renewable, its possible succession applicable only to its holder's immediate family.

Our generation is unlikely to think of dai pai dongs as good eateries to spend time at with friends. My own experience has shown me, however, that you'll change your mind after  
20 your first try. You'll see them as perfect places for gatherings. What would be better than having a drink and some nice hot dishes with a group of friends around a round table, catching up in a casual way on a street? If I am to comment on the disappearing of dai pai dongs, I'd say it signifies the vanishing of not only some savoury dishes, but also a part of Hong Kong's time-honoured local culture.

~340 words

## Looking into Grammar

'Be going to' is used to talk about predictions supported with evidence.

✓ Tim **is going to propose** (✗ is proposing) to Jane. He bought a ring just now.

? Circle a verb phrase in which 'be going to' is used in paragraph 3.


## Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the presentation script. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. The target audience of this presentation is most probably \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the elderly
  - B. the speaker's friends
  - C. foreigners who do not like dai pai dongs
  - D. foreigners who have not tried eating at dai pai dongs


1 Who may this presentation appeal to?

2. What may be seen at dai pai dongs?
- I. sofa and cushions
  - II. ventilation fans
  - III. simple cooking tools
  - IV. wooden tables and chairs
- A. IV only
  - B. I and II
  - C. III and IV
  - D. II, III and IV

-  3. In paragraph 1, what is the speaker's tone?

- A. excited
- B. neutral
- C. sarcastic
- D. anxious

3 What adjectives are used in the paragraph?

-  4. In line 12, the word 'urbanised' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. having more shops and buildings
- B. looking more modern in appearance
- C. having more visitors from around the world
- D. no longer colonised

5. Which of the following is NOT a reason why there have been fewer dai pai dongs?

- A. the tough competition with restaurants of other kinds
- B. the lack of experienced chefs
- C. their non-renewable kind of licence
- D. their transformation into tea houses

6. In general, the presentation is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. what a dai pai dong is
- B. local food one may find in Hong Kong
- C. the history and development of dai pai dongs
- D. why dai pai dongs are better eateries than others

### More to Take Away

'Dai pai' means 'big licence plate' in Cantonese. It refers to the licences issued to these small food stalls.

### Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/x)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the presentation script. For question 2, answer in complete sentences.



1. Which of the following is NOT an example of 'immediate family'?

- A. a person's children                       B. a person's spouse  
 C. a person's siblings                       D. a person's close friends

1 Who can be the successor of the licence?

2. Janet and her friend are in their twenties. They want to meet and chat in a quiet environment where they will be served coffee and cheesecake. Why might they NOT like to have their meal at a dai pai dong?

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Arrange the following events in the order in which they happened by writing the letters (A-D) in the boxes.

- A. The colonial government issued dai pai dong licences to their families.  
B. There have been fewer and fewer dai pai dongs as the licences are not renewable.  
C. Some civil servants passed away and some were injured.  
D. Some dai pai dongs had to shut down because of keen market competition.



4. In the last paragraph, what is the speaker's tone?

- A. pushy                                       B. neutral  
 C. worried                                       D. encouraging

4 The wording she uses can reflect her tone.

5. Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact (F) or an opinion (O). Write the correct symbols 'F' or 'O' in the spaces provided.

Statement	F/O
(i) Only locals like to eat at dai pai dong.	
(ii) Dai pai dong appeared after World War II.	
(iii) Dai pai dong are not nice places to have dinner in.	

## Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of some delectable Hong Kong foods from the word box.

wonton noodles      egg waffle      dim sum      milk tea  
French toast      fried rice      steamed rice rolls      stir-fried beef noodles

### Menu



1.



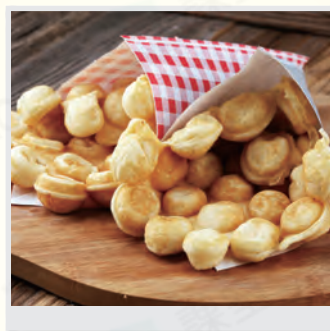
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

#### Let's Discuss!

1. What is your favourite Hong Kong-style food?
2. Do you know about any old Hong Kong food that has become a collective memory to the older generations?

#### Word Craft

For the phrases below, place a suitable **preposition** after the verb:

- e.g.** a good friend to talk **to**  
a nice chair to sit **on**  
slides for children to play **on**



8.