

# Bubble Tea Maniacs



Text Type: Online discussion  
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins


## Let's Think!

1. Do you enjoy drinking bubble tea?
2. What flavour of bubble tea is the most appealing to you?

### Thread: Calling all bubble tea freaks!

J'aimelethé  2 hrs ago

Bubble tea is my favourite beverage of all time! The slightly bitter milk tea combines exquisitely well with the sweet chewy pearls. I have to lavish praise on whoever invented this drink! I heard that the first bubble tea shop in Taiwan, Chun Shui Tang, was inspired by the Japanese tradition of drinking cold-brew tea. Does anyone know the entire story? Its founder has long been well-recognised as the originator of bubble tea culture. Speaking of which, I must say that no other teahouse can satisfy my craving for bubble tea. Jeez, I want to grab one so desperately now!

 RandytheTaiwanese 2 hrs ago

True, Chun Shui Tang is a legendary pioneer in the bubble tea business. It introduced an unprecedented tea drinking experience to the Taiwanese! In the days when tea was only served hot, as it had traditionally been, the founder of Chun Shui Tang happened to see some Japanese selling iced green tea and was mind-blown by the practice! Born with a deep insight into the business world, he knew iced tea would be an instant hit, as it would bring forth a groundbreaking change in the industry, a change in the definition of 'tea'. His decision to vend iced Chinese tea in Taiwan was surely not a half-hearted attempt. He later even tried to come up with new flavours and varieties. One day, he mixed milk with tea and added the pearls, which Taiwanese called Fen Yuan, in the drink. The blend went unexpectedly well, giving rise to the first bubble tea. Since then, more and more people have been queuing up for this habit-forming drink, and more and more shops have been fighting for a slice of the cake in the bubble tea market.

**STEAM**

A cup of takeaway bubble tea is sealed by rapidly melting and cooling a thin plastic film atop the cup.

Bubbleliza  1 hr ago

Apart from the classic taste, tea shops are now providing many other special flavours, like taro and caramel, and even have devised a foamy cheese topping! They're heightening the sensation for our taste buds. Speaking of modern flavours, black sugar must be the latest fad. With its beautiful coating in amber patterns, black sugar bubble tea has spawned discussions on social media. Many teenagers are 'strung out' on it, and I am no exception lol. The two long hours I spent lining up in the sun waiting were totally worth it, as I gained many 'likes' from my followers as soon as I posted a photo of my hard-earned black sugar bubble tea online.

JohnnyKo0612 35 mins ago

@Bubbleliza I could hardly understand why you are all drinking bubble tea, nor why people are willing to spend even half a day queuing for such an artificial drink! People like you are just following the herd blindly without really thinking if what's being done is worthwhile. All you really want is to take a photo with a drink in your hand when there're already loads of them on the Internet. You can actually kill time in far more interesting and meaningful ways!

EdithWong81 13 mins ago

@JohnnyKo0612 I couldn't agree more, bro! Bubble tea is a deadly beverage, if not a liquid junk food that is no good to our bodies. Those chewy pearls, unbeknown to many, are made with chemical additives, not to mention a whole lot of artificial sweeteners and colourings. One serving contains 50 g of sugar, which already goes beyond the ceiling of the daily intake of sugar for an adult. Why risk getting yourself diabetes when you already have safer options?

~580 words

### More to Take Away



There is a growing market for innovative dishes made with pearls. Other than desserts like bubble tea ice cream and cakes, there are bubble tea ramen, boba pizza and even boba sushi!



### Looking into Grammar



Besides actions that happen at or around the time of speaking, the present continuous tense is also used to talk about trends or changing situations.

✓ Her academic performance **is improving** (✗ improves).

? Circle TWO verbs used in the present continuous tense to indicate a trend in paragraph 3.

## Part A Multiple Choice Questions

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

1. J'aimelethé enjoys bubble tea because of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. its modest bitterness
- B. the growing trend
- C. the seamless blend of tastes
- D. the Japanese

2. The idea of bubble tea was inspired by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Japanese tea culture
- B. people not fond of hot tea
- C. teahouses in Taiwan
- D. Chun Shui Tang's founder



3. In line 16, the word 'attempt' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. (v.) to try to do something difficult
- B. (n.) an illegal act that is not successful
- C. (n.) a usually unsuccessful effort to do something
- D. (n.) an act of trying to score a goal in a ball game

4. Bubbleliza \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. does not mind lining up for something she likes
- B. has already tried all the different bubble tea flavours
- C. enjoys drinking taro bubble tea the most
- D. dislikes the classic bubble tea

5. JohnnyKo0612 expresses \_\_\_\_\_ about why people are so \_\_\_\_\_ bubble tea.

- A. understanding...addicted to
- B. doubts...obsessed with
- C. worries...supportive of
- D. concern...crazy about

5 To JohnnyKo0612, is a bubble tea worth queuing up for hours?

6. Which of the following is NOT true?

- A. Foamy cheese topping did not exist decades ago.
- B. JohnnyKo0612 neither understands nor approves of what Bubbleliza did.
- C. The amount of sugar found in the milk tea is much lower than that found in the pearls.
- D. EdithWong81 thinks that there are many healthier alternatives to bubble tea.



7. \_\_\_\_\_ views bubble tea negatively, thinking that it is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Bubbleliza...not worth one's trying
- B. EdithWong81...an unhealthy sweet drink
- C. J'aimelethé...an old-fashioned drink
- D. RandytheTaiwanese...a commercial gimmick

7 Identify the facts and opinions in each comment.



Self-evaluation  
Checklist

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

## Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the online discussion. For questions 1 and 2, answer in complete sentences.

1. In the online discussion, what shows that the bubble tea photo posted online by Bubbleliza is 'hard-earned'? Explain your answer.

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1 'Hard-earned' describes something which one deserves after working hard for it.

2. What is the 'groundbreaking change' that the founder of Chun Shui Tang has brought to Taiwan?

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2 What tea did the Taiwanese drink in the past? What about now?



3. Look for words in the online discussion to match the definitions below.

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 1) (*adv.*) in a beautiful and ingenious way  
(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 1) (*n.*) a strong feeling of desire  
(iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 2) (*adj.*) never having happened in the past  
(iv) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 3) (*adj.*) experiencing the effects of something addictive



4. 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) Chun Shui Tang sold the first bubble tea in Taiwan.	
(ii) The founder of Chun Shui Tang has a good sense of business.	
(iii) Many youngsters found bubble tea in new flavours and with special toppings tempting.	
(iv) Black sugar bubble tea is the most popular and worth lining up for.	

**DSE**

Level Up



- Q4 To answer this question, you need to distinguish between a fact and an opinion. A fact is a statement that has been proven true. Its truth is not arguable.  
**e.g.** *Apples are rich in vitamins and minerals.* (It is a factual description of apples.)  
An opinion is a personal judgment or belief about something. It can vary from person to person. Its truth or falsity is arguable.  
**e.g.** *Apples are the healthiest fruit.* (It is how some people perceive apples.)

## Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the types of flavours from the word box.

passion fruit  
lavender

lychee  
hazelnut

honeydew  
taro

mocha  
caramel



1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



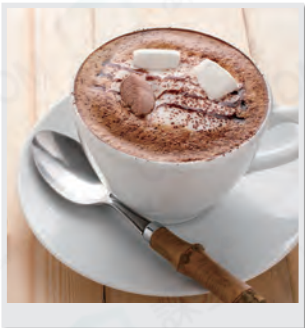
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



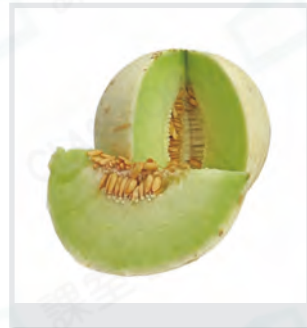
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Word Craft

**lol (Refer to P.132.)**

Abbreviations are commonly used on social media and in text messages. It is deemed inappropriate to use them in formal contexts.

- e.g.** lol (=laughing out loud)  
btw (=by the way)  
bff (=best friends forever)  
ttyl (=talk to you later)

## Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the report below with the appropriate nouns for the types of flavours introduced on the previous page.

Of the eight bubble tea flavours that I tried today, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ comes out on top of my list. That's because, being fond of food that is sticky and sugary, I adore its creamy texture and sweet taste—qualities shared by toffee, the love of my life. My second favourite is (2) \_\_\_\_\_. To me, it has the best of both worlds: having this purplish colour that is so pleasing to my eye, and having this sweet, nutty vanilla taste that deepens with every sip. Thinking of it, I literally want to go out and grab another cup of it! In the third place of my list is (3) \_\_\_\_\_, another nutty flavour. Similar to chocolate, it is brown in colour, but it is different from it in having a richer and more nutty texture. These are my top three.

When it comes to the other flavours, I don't really like any one of them a lot better than any other. But the fruits are worth mentioning as a group.

Although I'm not crazy about them as food, I do like fruit-flavoured drinks a lot.

The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ flavour tasted fruity, but was a bit too sour for me. However, I was amazed by the crispiness of its little black seeds. As for (5) \_\_\_\_\_, another tropical fruit flavour, its adding of the fruit's white flesh further heightens the sensation. Overall, its refreshing taste is similar to grapes, but far less sour. I also tried the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ flavour, which has a kind of melon taste. As I had been misled by its name into thinking that it would taste like honey, the clarity of its taste caught me quite unawares.

The flavours that surprised me most, however, are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and (8) \_\_\_\_\_. I never thought these and milk tea would make such unbeatable combinations. The former was like chocolate-tinged coffee, which kept me awake for the whole afternoon, while the latter relaxed my mind greatly with its mauve colour and soothing floral scent.

### Let's Discuss!

1. Do you think it is a good idea to have more than one serving of bubble tea every day?
2. Why do people post photos of food and drinks on social media?