

食飯

sik6 faan6

to have dinner; to have a meal

- **Jyutping:** sik6 faan6
- **Main meaning:** to eat; to have a meal
- **Literal meaning:** "eat rice," but in everyday Cantonese it usually means "eat a meal," not necessarily rice.
- **Register:** very common, casual, and natural in daily conversation.

COMMON USES

- **General eating:** Use 食飯 when talking about having breakfast, lunch, dinner, or a meal in general.
- **Social invitation:** It often means "go out to eat" or "have a meal together."
- **Polite check-in:** 你食咗飯未？ is a common way to ask "Have you eaten yet?"

EXAMPLES

- 你食咗飯未？
nei5 sik6 zo2 faan6 mei6?
Have you eaten yet?
This is a very natural Cantonese greeting or casual check-in.
- 我哋一齊去食飯啦。
ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 heoi3 sik6 faan6 laa1.
Let's go eat together.
Used when inviting someone to have a meal with you.

早餐

zou2 caan1

breakfast

- **Jyutping:** zou2 caan1
- **Meaning:** breakfast; the morning meal.
- **Usage:** Usually used as a noun. To say "eat breakfast," use 食早餐 (sik6 zou2 caan1).

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我未食早餐。
ngo5 mei6 sik6 zou2 caan1
I haven't had breakfast yet.
- 早餐你想食咩呀？
zou2 caan1 nei5 soeng2 sik6 me1 aa3
What do you want to eat for breakfast?
- 我通常早餐食麥皮同飲咖啡。
ngo5 tung1 soeng4 zou2 caan1 sik6 mak6 pei4 tung4 jam2 gaa3 fe1
I usually have oatmeal and coffee for breakfast.
- 返工前，我會喺屋企食早餐。
faan1 gung1 cin4, ngo5 wui5 hai2 uk1 kei2 sik6 zou2 caan1
Before going to work, I eat breakfast at home.
- 呢間茶餐廳嘅早餐好抵食。
ni1 gaan1 caa4 caan1 teng1 ge3 zou2 caan1 hou2 dai2 sik6
The breakfast at this cha chaan teng is really good value.

嘢食

je5 sik6

the general term to describe food

- **Jyutping:** je5 sik6
- **Meaning:** food; something to eat; things for eating.
- **Register:** very common, casual spoken Cantonese.
- **Explanation:** 嘢 means "thing" and 食 means "eat," so 嘢食 literally means "things to eat." It is more conversational than 食物, which sounds more formal or written.

COMMON USES

- 買嘢食 — to buy food / buy something to eat
- 有冇嘢食？ — Is there anything to eat?
- 啲嘢食好食 — the food is tasty
- 煮嘢食 — to cook food / make something to eat

EXAMPLES

- 我肚餓，想買啲嘢食。
ngo5 tou5 ngo6, soeng2 maai5 di1 je5 sik6.
I'm hungry. I want to buy something to eat.
- 雪櫃仲有冇嘢食？
syut3 gwai6 zung6 jau5 mou5 je5 sik6?
Is there still any food in the fridge?

食嘢

sik6 je5

to eat

- **Jyutping:** sik6 je5
- **Meaning:** to eat; to have something to eat; to get food.
- **Register:** casual, everyday spoken Cantonese.
- **Breakdown:** 食 means "eat," and 嘢 means "thing/stuff." Together, 食嘢 means "eat something" or "have food," not literally "eat things" in a strange way.
- **Usage note:** 食嘢 is a verb phrase. For the noun "food," use 嘢食 instead.

COMMON USES

- 去食嘢 (heoi3 sik6 je5)
"Go eat / go get something to eat."

Used when suggesting or describing going out for food.

- 食咗嘢未？ (sik6 zo2 je5 mei6?)
"Have you eaten yet?"

A natural, casual way to check whether someone has had food.

- 我想食嘢。 (ngo5 soeng2 sik6 je5.)
"I want to eat something."

Useful when you are hungry but have not decided what to eat.

晚飯

maan5 faan6

evening meal; dinner; supper

evening meal · dinner · supper

Meaning: dinner; the evening meal.

- 晚 means "evening" or "late."
- 飯 can mean "rice," but in everyday Cantonese it often means "a meal."
- 食晚飯 is the normal way to say "eat dinner" or "have dinner."

COMMON EXAMPLES

- 我哋七點食晚飯。
ngo5 dei6 cat1 dim2 sik6 maan5 faan6.
We eat dinner at seven.
- 你今晚食唔食晚飯？
nei5 gam1 maan5 sik6 m4 sik6 maan5 faan6?
Are you having dinner tonight?
- 晚飯想食咩？
maan5 faan6 soeng2 sik6 me1?
What do you want to eat for dinner?
- 我食咗晚飯喇。
ngo5 sik6 zo2 maan5 faan6 laa3.
I've already had dinner.
- 佢今晚唔返嚟食晚飯。
keoi5 gam1 maan5 m4 faan1 lai4 sik6 maan5 faan6.
He or she isn't coming back for dinner tonight.

餸

sung3

meals dishes; (Cantonese) dish, usu. eaten with rice

meals dishes · (Cantonese) dish, usu. eaten with rice

- **Core meaning:** cooked dishes eaten with rice or another staple food. In English, it is often translated as "dish," "side dish," or "food that goes with rice."
- **Everyday Cantonese feel:** 餸 is a very common home-meal word. It usually refers to the meat, fish, eggs, tofu, or vegetable dishes on the table, not the plain rice itself.
- **Shopping meaning:** in phrases like 買餸, it means buying ingredients for cooking a meal, especially fresh groceries from a market.
- **Useful classifiers:** 一味餸 "one dish," 一碟餸 "a plate of food," 兩餸飯 "rice with two dish choices."

COMMON PHRASES

- 買餸 *maai5 sung3* — buy groceries or ingredients for a meal.
- 煮餸 *zyu2 sung3* — cook dishes.
- 食餸 *sik6 sung3* — eat the dishes that go with rice.
- 三餸一湯 *saam1 sung3 jat1 tong1* — three dishes and one soup.
- 兩餸飯 *loeng5 sung3 faan6* — a rice box or plate with two dish selections.

食物

sik6 mat6

food

- **Jyutping:** sik6 mat6
- **Meaning:** food; things that people or animals can eat.
- **Usage:** 食物 is neutral and slightly formal. In casual Cantonese, people often say 嘢食 for "food."

EXAMPLES

- 雪櫃入面有好多食物。
syut3 gwai6 jap6 min6 jau5 hou2 do1 sik6 mat6.
There is a lot of food in the fridge.
- 呢間餐廳嘅食物好新鮮。
ni1 gaan1 caan1 teng1 ge3 sik6 mat6 hou2 san1 sin1.
The food at this restaurant is very fresh.
- 我哋要珍惜食物，唔好浪費。
ngo5 dei6 jiu3 zan1 sik1 sik6 mat6, m4 hou2 long6 fai3.
We should value food and not waste it.
- 佢對某啲食物敏感。
keoi5 deoi3 mau5 di1 sik6 mat6 man5 gam2.
They are allergic or sensitive to certain foods.
- 食物放得太耐就會變壞。
sik6 mat6 fong3 dak1 taai3 noi6 zau6 wui5 bin3 wai6.
Food will go bad if it is left out for too long.

食晏

sik6 aan3

(verb) to eat lunch

- **Jyutping:** sik6 ngaan3
- **Meaning:** to have lunch; to eat lunch.
- **Register:** everyday spoken Cantonese. More formal equivalents include 食午飯 or 食午餐.
- **Usage note:** 食 means "eat," and 晏 here refers to the midday meal. The phrase is usually used as a verb phrase.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我而家去食晏。
ngo5 ji4 gaa1 heoi3 sik6 ngaan3
I'm going to have lunch now.
- 你食咗晏未？
nei5 sik6 zo2 ngaan3 mei6
Have you had lunch yet?
- 我哋一齊食晏㗎。
ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 sik6 ngaan3 aa1
Let's have lunch together.
- 今日食晏食咩好？
gam1 jat6 sik6 ngaan3 sik6 me1 hou2
What should we eat for lunch today?
- 佢食晏嗰陣打電話畀我。
keoi5 sik6 ngaan3 go2 zan6 daa2 din6 waa2 bei2 ngo5
He/she called me while having lunch.

飲嘢

jam2 je5

drink something (spoken)

- **Meaning:** to drink something; to have a drink.
- **Jyutping:** jam2 je5
- **Register:** casual spoken Cantonese.
- **Literal idea:** 飲 means "drink"; 嘢 means "thing/stuff," so 飲嘢 literally means "drink stuff."
- **Common use:** It usually means having any drink, not necessarily alcohol. Context decides whether it means "go for drinks."

EXAMPLES

- 我想飲嘢。
ngo5 soeng2 jam2 je5
I want something to drink.
- 你想飲咩嘢？
nei5 soeng2 jam2 me1 je5
What do you want to drink?
- 我哋去飲嘢啦。
ngo5 dei6 heoi3 jam2 je5 laa1
Let's go get a drink.
- 天氣咁熱，記得飲多啲嘢。
tin1 hei3 gam3 jit6, gei3 dak1 jam2 do1 di1 je5
It's so hot; remember to drink more.
- 佢成日唔記得飲嘢。
keoi5 seng4 jat6 m4 gei3 dak1 jam2 je5
They always forget to drink anything.

開飯

hoi1 faan6

(verb) Dinner; lunch is ready

(verb) Dinner · lunch is ready

- **Jyutping:** hoi1 faan6
- **Meaning:** to start eating; to begin a meal; "food is ready"; "let's eat."
- **Literal sense:** 開 means "to open/start," and 飯 means "rice/meal," so 開飯 means "start the meal."
- **Usage note:** Very common in spoken Cantonese. People often say 開飯喇！ when calling family or friends to the table.

EXAMPLES

- 開飯喇！
hoi1 faan6 laa3
Dinner's ready! / Let's eat!
- 阿媽嗌我哋開飯。
aa3 maa1 aai3 ngo5 dei6 hoi1 faan6
Mom is calling us to come eat.
- 等埋爸爸先開飯。
dang2 maai4 baa4 baa1 sin1 hoi1 faan6
Let's wait for Dad before we start eating.
- 七點鐘準時開飯。
cat1 dim2 zung1 zeon2 si4 hoi1 faan6
We start dinner right at seven o'clock.
- 仲未開飯，唔好偷食住。
zung6 mei6 hoi1 faan6, m4 hou2 tau1 sik6 zyu6
We haven't started eating yet, so don't sneak food for now.

晚餐

maan5 caan1

evening meal; dinner

- **Jyutping:** maan5 caan1
- **Meaning:** dinner; the evening meal.
- **Usage:** 晚餐 is clear Cantonese, but it sounds more formal or written. In everyday speech, many Cantonese speakers say 晚飯 instead.

COMMON PATTERNS

- 食晚餐 — to have dinner
- 晚餐時間 — dinner time
- 晚餐聚會 — dinner gathering
- 正式晚餐 — formal dinner

EXAMPLES

- 我哋今晚七點食晚餐。
ngo5 dei6 gam1 maan5 cat1 dim2 sik6 maan5 caan1
We are having dinner at seven tonight.
- 呢間酒店嘅晚餐好出名。
ni1 gaan1 zau2 dim3 ge3 maan5 caan1 hou2 ceot1 meng2
This hotel's dinner is very famous.
- 公司聽晚有個晚餐聚會。
gung1 si1 teng1 maan5 jau5 go3 maan5 caan1 zeoi6 wui2
The company has a dinner gathering tomorrow night.
- 醫生叫我晚餐食清淡啲。
ji1 sang1 giu3 ngo5 maan5 caan1 sik6 cing1 daam6 di1
The doctor told me to eat lighter food at dinner.

煮飯

zyu2 faan6

(verb) To cook rice

- **Jyutping:** zyu2 faan6
- **Meaning:** to cook; to prepare a meal; literally, to cook rice.
- **Usage:** In Cantonese, 煮飯 often means “to cook a meal,” not only “to cook rice.” The exact meaning depends on context.

EXAMPLES

- 我今晚喺屋企煮飯。
ngo5 gam1 maan5 hai2 uk1 kei2 zyu2 faan6
I'm cooking at home tonight.
- 你識唔識煮飯？
nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 zyu2 faan6?
Do you know how to cook?
- 今日唔想煮飯，叫外賣啦。
gam1 jat6 m4 soeng2 zyu2 faan6, giu3 ngoi6 maai6 laa1
I don't feel like cooking today. Let's order takeaway.
- 媽媽煮嘅飯好好食。
maa4 maa1 zyu2 ge3 faan6 hou2 hou2 sik6
The food Mum cooks is really tasty.
- 我未煮飯，你等多陣。
ngo5 mei6 zyu2 faan6, nei5 dang2 do1 zan6
I haven't cooked yet. Wait a little longer.

飲食

jam2 sik6

eating and drinking; food and drink; diet

eating and drinking · food and drink; diet

- **Jyutping:** jam2 sik6
- **Core meaning:** food and drink; eating and drinking.
- **Common extended meaning:** diet, eating habits, or the food-and-beverage / catering industry.

USAGE NOTES

- 飲食 is usually more formal or written-sounding than simply saying 食嘢 for "to eat."
- In health contexts, 注意飲食 means "watch your diet."
- In business contexts, 飲食業 means "the food and beverage industry" or "catering industry."

EXAMPLES

- 醫生叫佢注意飲食，唔好食太鹹。

ji1 sang1 giu3 keoi5 zyu3 ji3 jam2 sik6, m4 hou2 sik6 taai3 haam4.

The doctor told him to watch his diet and not eat food that is too salty.

- 呢排我想改善飲食，少啲食煎炸嘢。

ni1 paai4 ngo5 soeng2 goi2 sin6 jam2 sik6, siu2 di1 sik6 zin1 zaa3 je5.

Lately I want to improve my diet and eat less fried food.

宵夜

siu1 je6*2

midnight snack; late-night snack

midnight snack · late-night snack

- **Jyutping:** siu1 je6
- **Meaning:** a late-night snack or late-night meal, usually eaten after dinner and before sleeping.
- **Common English translations:** late-night snack, midnight snack, late-night supper.
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, people usually say 食宵夜 to mean “to have a late-night snack/meal.” It can refer to a small snack, noodles, congee, street food, or a full casual meal late at night.

COMMON PHRASES

- 食宵夜 — to have a late-night snack/meal
- 去食宵夜 — to go out for late-night food
- 買宵夜 — to buy late-night food
- 宵夜檔 — a late-night food stall
- 宵夜時間 — late-night snack time

EXAMPLES

- 我哋今晚收工之後去食宵夜啦。
ngo5 dei6 gam1 maan5 sau1 gung1 zi1 hau6 heoi3 sik6 siu1 je6 laa1.
[Let's go have late-night food after work tonight.](#)
- 你想食咩宵夜？魚蛋粉定係燒賣？
nei5 soeng2 sik6 me1 siu1 je6? jyu4 daan2 fan2 ding6 hai6 siu1 mai6?
[What do you want for a late-night snack? Fish ball noodles or siu mai?](#)

飲品

jam2 ban2

drinks; beverage

drinks · beverage

Jyutping: jam2 ban2

Meaning: a drink; a beverage. This word is commonly used on menus, signs, packaging, and in more formal or commercial contexts.

- 餐牌上有好多凍飲品。

caan1 paai2 soeng6 jau5 hou2 do1 dung3 jam2 ban2

There are many cold drinks on the menu.

- 你想要咩飲品？

nei5 soeng2 jiu3 me1 jam2 ban2

What drink would you like?

- 呢款飲品太甜，我唔係好鍾意。

ni1 fun2 jam2 ban2 taai3 tim4, ngo5 m4 hai6 hou2 zung1 ji3

This drink is too sweet. I do not really like it.

- 買滿五十蚊可以免費換一杯飲品。

maai5 mun5 ng5 sap6 man1 ho2 ji5 min5 fai3 wun6 jat1 bui1 jam2 ban2

If you spend fifty dollars, you can get a free drink.

- 餐廳唔准自攜飲品。

caan1 teng1 m4 zeon2 zi6 kwai4 jam2 ban2

The restaurant does not allow outside drinks.

USAGE NOTES

- 飲品 sounds more formal than everyday speech. In casual Cantonese, people often say 嘢飲 for “a drink” or “drinks.”

零食

ling4 sik6

snack; nibbles

- **Jyutping:** ling4 sik6
- **Meaning:** snacks; snack food; small foods eaten between meals.
- **Usage:** Often used with 食 to mean "to snack" or "to eat snacks": 食零食.

EXAMPLES

- 我肚餓，想食啲零食。
ngo5 tou5 ngo6, soeng2 sik6 di1 ling4 sik6
I'm hungry and want to eat some snacks.
- 唔好食咁多零食，陣間食唔落飯。
m4 hou2 sik6 gam3 do1 ling4 sik6, zan6 gaan1 sik6 m4 lok6 faan6
Don't eat so many snacks, or you won't be able to eat dinner later.
- 呢包薯片係我最鍾意嘅零食。
ni1 baau1 syu4 pin2 hai6 ngo5 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 ge3 ling4 sik6
This bag of chips is my favorite snack.
- 我哋睇戲嗰陣會準備啲零食同汽水。
ngo5 dei6 tai2 hei3 go2 zan6 wui5 zeon2 bei6 di1 ling4 sik6 tung4 hei3 sei2
When we watch a movie, we prepare some snacks and soda.
- 呢間士多冇好多香港零食。
ni1 gaan1 si6 do1 jau5 hou2 do1 hoeng1 gong2 ling4 sik6
This corner shop has lots of Hong Kong snacks.

午餐

ng5 caan1

lunch; luncheon

lunch · luncheon

- **Meaning:** lunch; the midday meal.
- **Usage note:** 午餐 is natural in written Cantonese, menus, schools, workplaces, and formal speech. In casual spoken Cantonese, people often say 食晏 or 食晏晝飯 for “to have lunch.”

EXAMPLES

- 今日嘅午餐好豐富。

gam1 jat6 ge3 ng5 caan1 hou2 fung1 fu3

Today's lunch is very plentiful. Use this when describing the lunch provided at school, work, an event, or home.

- 我哋十二點半去食午餐。

ngo5 dei6 sap6 ji6 dim2 bun3 heoi3 sik6 ng5 caan1

We'll go have lunch at 12:30. This is clear and polite, especially in a workplace or organized schedule.

- 呢間餐廳嘅午餐套餐幾抵食。

ni1 gaan1 caan1 teng1 ge3 ng5 caan1 tou3 caan1 gei2 dai2 sik6

The lunch set at this restaurant is pretty good value. 午餐套餐 means “lunch set” or “lunch combo.”

- 你午餐想食咩？

nei5 ng5 caan1 soeng2 sik6 me1

What do you want to eat for lunch? This is understandable, though casually many speakers would say 你晏晝想食咩？

餐廳

caan1 teng1

dining hall; dining room; restaurant

dining hall · dining room · restaurant

- **Meaning:** restaurant; a place where people go to eat meals.
- **Jyutping:** caan1 teng1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage note:** 餐廳 is a neutral, everyday word. It can refer to almost any restaurant, from casual to formal. In Hong Kong Cantonese, 茶餐廳 specifically means a Hong Kong-style café.

COMMON PATTERNS

- 去餐廳 — to go to a restaurant
- 喺餐廳食飯 — to eat at a restaurant
- 訂餐廳 — to book a restaurant
- 呢間餐廳 — this restaurant
- 嗰間餐廳 — that restaurant

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- **Cantonese:** 我哋今晚去餐廳食飯。

Jyutping: ngo5 dei6 gam1 maan5 heoi3 caan1 teng1 sik6 faan6.

Meaning: We are going to eat at a restaurant tonight.

Explanation: 去餐廳食飯 is a very natural phrase meaning "go to a restaurant to eat." 食飯 literally means "eat rice," but in Cantonese it usually means "have a meal."

好食

hou2 sik6

tasty; delicious; yummy

- **Jyutping:** hou2 sik6
- **Meaning:** tasty, delicious, good to eat
- **Use:** Describes food, drinks, snacks, dishes, or ingredients that taste good.
- **Negative form:** 唔好食 — not tasty, bad-tasting

EXAMPLES

- 呢間茶餐廳嘅焗豬扒飯好食。
ni1 gaan1 caa4 caan1 teng1 ge3 guk6 zyu1 paa4 faan6 hou2 sik6
The baked pork chop rice at this cha chaan teng is tasty.
- 呢個芒果又甜又香，好食到停唔到口。
ni1 go3 mong1 gwo2 jau6 tim4 jau6 hoeng1, hou2 sik6 dou3 ting4 m4 dou2 hau2
This mango is sweet and fragrant, so delicious that I can't stop eating it.
- 你整嘅叉燒好食過出面買嘅。
nei5 zing2 ge3 caa1 siu1 hou2 sik6 gwo3 ceot1 min6 maai5 go2 di1
The char siu you made tastes better than the ones bought outside.
- 賣相一般，但係幾好食。
maai6 soeng2 jat1 bun1, daan6 hai6 gei2 hou2 sik6
It doesn't look especially good, but it's quite tasty.

肚餓

tou5 ngo6

(adjective) hungry;

- **Meaning:** hungry; to be hungry.
- **Literal sense:** "stomach hungry." 肚 means "belly/stomach," and 餓 means "hungry."
- **Usage:** In Cantonese, 肚餓 works like a state, so you can say 我肚餓 for "I'm hungry." Do not add 係 before it.
- **Common patterns:**
 - 好肚餓 — very hungry
 - 有啲肚餓 — a bit hungry
 - 肚餓未？ — Are you hungry yet?
 - 未肚餓 — not hungry yet
 - 餓到... — so hungry that...

EXAMPLES

- 我肚餓。

ngo5 tou5 ngo6

I'm hungry.

A simple, natural sentence. Cantonese does not need "am" here.

埋單

maai4 daan1

(slang) (a term of gang) to kill somebody; to pay the bill (in a restaurant etc) (loanword from Cantonese); (fig.) to bear responsibility

(slang) (a term of gang) to kill somebody · to pay the bill (in a restaurant etc) (loanword from Cantonese) · (fig.) to bear responsibility

- **Main meaning:** to settle or pay the bill, especially at a restaurant, cafe, or bar.
- **Common English equivalents:** "pay the bill," "settle the bill," "check, please," "foot the bill."
- **Register:** natural, everyday Cantonese. Very common in Hong Kong restaurant situations.
- **Literal idea:** 埋 can mean "bring together/close up," and 單 means "bill" or "receipt," so 埋單 means closing or settling the bill.
- **Mandarin note:** Mandarin commonly says 买单 / 買單, but in Cantonese the standard restaurant phrase is 埋單.

USEFUL PATTERNS

- 唔該，埋單。 m4 goi1, maai4 daan1.
Check, please.
- 我嚟埋單。 ngo5 lai4 maai4 daan1.
I'll pay the bill.
- 邊個埋單？ bin1 go3 maai4 daan1?
Who's paying?
- 我哋一齊埋單啦。 ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 maai4 daan1 laa1.
Let's pay together.

外賣

ngoí6 maai6

take away; (of a restaurant) to provide a takeout or home delivery meal; takeout (business)

take away · (of a restaurant) to provide a takeout or home delivery meal · takeout (business)

- **Jyutping:** ngoí6 maai6
- **Meaning:** takeaway, takeout, or food delivery.
- **Usage:** In Cantonese, 外賣 usually means food bought from a restaurant to eat somewhere else. Depending on context, it can mean either picking food up yourself or having it delivered.
- **Opposite:** 堂食 tong4 sik6 — dine-in.

COMMON PHRASES

- 叫外賣 giu3 ngoí6 maai6 — to order takeout or delivery
- 買外賣 maai5 ngoí6 maai6 — to buy takeout
- 攞外賣 lo2 ngoí6 maai6 — to pick up takeout
- 外賣餐 ngoí6 maai6 caan1 — takeaway meal
- 外賣盒 ngoí6 maai6 hap6 — takeaway box/container

EXAMPLES

- 我今晚唔煮飯，叫外賣算啦。
ngo5 gam1 maan5 m4 zyu2 faan6, giu3 ngoí6 maai6 syun3 laa1.

I'm not cooking tonight; let's just order takeout/delivery.

Explanation: 叫外賣 is the most common phrase for ordering food from a restaurant, especially through an app or by phone.

茶餐廳

caa4 caan1 teng1

a café which serves food

- **粵拼:** caa4 caan1 teng1
- **Meaning:** a Hong Kong-style casual café or diner, usually serving affordable meals, drinks, snacks, noodles, rice dishes, sandwiches, and baked goods.
- **Explanation:** 茶餐廳 is not just any restaurant. It usually refers to a fast, informal, everyday Hong Kong eatery where people go for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, or a quick meal.
- **Word breakdown:** 茶 means "tea," 餐 means "meal," and 廳 means "hall" or "restaurant." Together, the word suggests a place for tea, meals, and casual dining.

COMMON USAGE

- 去茶餐廳 — to go to a cha chaan teng
- 喺茶餐廳食飯 — to eat at a cha chaan teng
- 茶餐廳早餐 — cha chaan teng breakfast set
- 茶餐廳奶茶 — Hong Kong-style milk tea from a cha chaan teng

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我哋去茶餐廳食早餐啦。

ngo5 dei6 heoi3 caa4 caan1 teng1 sik6 zou2 caan1 laa1

Let's go to a cha chaan teng for breakfast.

This is a natural everyday sentence for suggesting a casual meal.

下午茶

haa6 ng5 caa4

an afternoon tea; afternoon tea (light afternoon meal, typically pastries with tea or coffee)

an afternoon tea · afternoon tea (light afternoon meal, typically pastries with tea or coffee)

- **Jyutping:** haa6 ng5 caa4
- **Meaning:** afternoon tea; a light afternoon snack or meal.
- **Usage:** In Hong Kong Cantonese, 下午茶 often means a casual late-afternoon meal, especially a discounted set at a 茶餐廳 between lunch and dinner. It does not always mean formal British-style tea.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我哋三點去食下午茶，好唔好？

ngo5 dei6 saam1 dim2 heoi3 sik6 haa6 ng5 caa4, hou2 m4 hou2?

Shall we go for afternoon tea at three?

- 呢間茶餐廳嘅下午茶好抵，有奶茶同多士。

ni1 gaan1 caa4 caan1 teng1 ge3 haa6 ng5 caa4 hou2 dai2, jau5 naai5 caa4 tung4 do1 si2.

The afternoon tea set at this cha chaan teng is good value; it comes with milk tea and toast.

- 我今日食晏食得少，依家想食下午茶。

ngo5 gam1 jat6 sik6 aan3 sik6 dak1 siu2, ji1 gaa1 soeng2 sik6 haa6 ng5 caa4.

I didn't eat much for lunch today, so now I want an afternoon snack.

飯

faan6

food; cuisine; cooked rice; meal

food · cuisine · cooked rice · meal · 頓 dùn [顿] · means of living · cigarettes · (loanword) fan · devotee

- **Core meaning:** cooked rice; rice as food.
- **Extended meaning:** a meal in general, especially in everyday Cantonese speech.
- **Not raw rice:** raw uncooked rice is usually 米 (mai5), while 飯 means rice that is cooked or served as part of a meal.

COMMON USES

- 食飯 (sik6 faan6) — to eat; to have a meal.
- 煮飯 (zyu2 faan6) — to cook rice; to cook a meal.
- 白飯 (baak6 faan6) — plain steamed rice.
- 炒飯 (caau2 faan6) — fried rice.
- 晚飯 (maan5 faan6) — dinner.
- 開飯 (hoi1 faan6) — to start eating; "food is ready."
- 飯盒 (faan6 hap6) — lunch box; boxed meal.
- 飯碗 (faan6 wun2) — rice bowl; also figuratively "job" or "livelihood."

米

mai5

rice; meter (classifier); grain-like things; money

rice · meter (classifier) · grain-like things · money · a cigarette · uncooked rice · (slang) Chinese yuan

- **Core meaning:** uncooked rice; rice grains before they are cooked.
- **Measure-word note:** use 粒 for individual grains: 一粒米 = one grain of rice.
- **Contrast:** 米 is uncooked rice; 飯 usually means cooked rice or a meal.
- **Other meaning:** 米 can also mean “metre/meter” as a unit of length, but context normally makes this clear.
- **Do not confuse with:** 咪 (also mai5), a very common Cantonese particle/word meaning things like “don’t” or “then/so,” depending on context.

EXAMPLES

- 屋企冇米喇。

uk1 kei2 mou5 mai5 laa3

“There’s no rice left at home.”

冇米 means “to be out of rice.” 喇 adds a sense of changed situation: now there is none left.

- 我要去買米。

ngo5 jiu3 heoi3 maa5 mai5

“I need to go buy rice.”

買 is “buy”; 米 is the thing being bought.

湯

tong1

(noun) Chinese surname; soup; hot or boiling water; decoction of medicinal herbs

(noun) Chinese surname · soup · hot or boiling water · decoction of medicinal herbs · water in which sth has been boiled · a surname

- **Core meaning:** 湯 means “soup” or “broth” in Cantonese. It usually refers to a liquid dish served with a meal, especially Chinese-style soup.
- **Pronunciation:** tong1, high level tone.
- **Common measure word:** 碗 wun2, as in 一碗湯 — “a bowl of soup.”
- **Usage note:** Cantonese commonly says 飲湯 “drink soup,” rather than “eat soup.”

COMMON PHRASES

- 飲湯 jam2 tong1 — to drink soup
- 煲湯 bou1 tong1 — to make slow-cooked soup
- 湯底 tong1 dai2 — soup base; broth base
- 例湯 lai6 tong1 — daily soup, often served with a set meal

EXAMPLES

- 我想飲湯。
ngo5 soeng2 jam2 tong1.
I want to drink soup.
- 呢碗湯好熱。
ni1 wun2 tong1 hou2 jit6.
This bowl of soup is very hot.

粥

zuk1

congee; gruel; porridge

congee · gruel · porridge

- **Meaning:** congee; rice porridge; gruel.
- **Main Cantonese sense:** Usually refers to rice cooked with a lot of water until soft, smooth, and porridge-like.
- **Classifier:** 碗 wun2, as in 一碗粥 jat1 wun2 zuk1, "a bowl of congee."
- **Usage note:** In Hong Kong Cantonese, 粥 normally means rice congee, not oat porridge. For oat porridge, people often say 燕麥粥 jin3 mak6 zuk1.
- **Common verb:** 煲粥 bou1 zuk1, "to cook congee." 煲 suggests simmering or boiling in a pot.

COMMON PHRASES

- 白粥 baak6 zuk1 — plain congee.
- 魚片粥 jyu2 pin3 zuk1 — sliced fish congee.
- 皮蛋瘦肉粥 pei4 daan2 sau3 juk6 zuk1 — century egg and lean pork congee.
- 潮州粥 ciu4 zau1 zuk1 — Teochew-style congee.
- 煲電話粥 bou1 din6 waa2 zuk1 — to talk on the phone for a long time; literally, "cook telephone congee."

麵包

min6 baau1

bread

- **Jyutping:** min6 baau1
- **Meaning:** bread; baked bread products in general.
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 麵包 usually means Western-style bread, including loaves, slices, rolls, and sweet bakery bread.

COMMON MEASURE WORDS

- 一片麵包 — one slice of bread
- 一條麵包 — one loaf of bread
- 一個麵包 — one bread roll or individual bun
- 一包麵包 — one packet or bag of bread

EXAMPLES

- 我想買麵包。
ngo5 soeng2 maai5 min6 baau1
I want to buy bread.
A simple everyday sentence for buying bread at a bakery or supermarket.
- 早餐我食咗兩片麵包。
zou2 caan1 ngo5 sik6 zo2 loeng5 pin3 min6 baau1
I ate two slices of bread for breakfast.
Use 片 for slices, especially sliced sandwich bread.

麵

min6

flour; noodles; dough; (of food) soft (not crunchy)

flour · noodles · dough · (of food) soft (not crunchy) · (slang) (of a person) ineffectual · spineless

- **Main meaning:** noodles; noodle dishes.

In Cantonese, 麵 usually refers to noodles made from wheat or other flour, especially in dishes like soup noodles, fried noodles, wonton noodles, and instant noodles.

- **Related meaning:** flour-based food.

The character also appears in words for flour or baked goods, such as 麵粉 "flour" and 麵包 "bread."

- **Note:** do not confuse 麵 with 面.

In traditional Cantonese writing, 麵 is normally "noodles/flour," while 面 can mean "face," "side," or "surface." They are both pronounced **min6**, but they are used differently.

COMMON WORDS

- 湯麵 (tong1 min6) — noodle soup
- 炒麵 (caau2 min6) — fried noodles
- 撈麵 (lou1 min6) — tossed noodles; dry mixed noodles
- 雲吞麵 (wan4 tan1 min6) — wonton noodles
- 即食麵 (zik1 sik6 min6) — instant noodles
- 麵包 (min6 baau1) — bread
- 麵粉 (min6 fan2) — flour

面條

min6 tiu4

noodles

- **Meaning:** noodles; noodle strands.
- **Cantonese form:** 麵條 is the traditional form normally used in Cantonese writing. 面條 is the simplified form.
- **Jyutping:** min6 tiu4
- **Usage note:** In everyday Cantonese, people often just say 麵 when the context is clear. 麵條 sounds more specific, referring to the noodle strands themselves.

EXAMPLES

- 我想食一碗雲吞麵，啲麵條要爽口啲。
ngo5 soeng2 sik6 jat1 wun2 wan4 tan1 min6, di1 min6 tiu4 jiu3 song2 hau2 di1.
I want a bowl of wonton noodles; the noodles should be a bit springy.
Explanation: 爽口 describes noodles with a firm, pleasant bite, not too soft or mushy.
- 呢間舖頭嘅麵條係自己整嘅，所以特別彈牙。
ni1 gaan1 pou3 tau2 ge3 min6 tiu4 hai6 zi6 gei2 zing2 ge3, so2 ji5 dak6 bit6 daan6 ngaa4.
The noodles at this shop are made in-house, so they are especially chewy.
Explanation: 彈牙 is commonly used for noodles, fish balls, and other foods with a bouncy texture.

多士

do1 si6*2

toast (loanword)

- **Meaning:** toast; toasted sliced bread.
- **Jyutping:** do1 si6*2. In everyday speech, the second syllable is often heard like **si2** because of tone change.
- **Usage:** Common in Hong Kong Cantonese, especially in cafés and cha chaan tengs. It is a sound-based loanword from English "toast," so do not interpret it as 多 "many" + 士 "scholar."
- **Natural classifiers:** 一塊多士 "a piece of toast" and 一片多士 "a slice of toast" are both natural. On menus, you may also hear 件多士 for one served piece/item of toast.

COMMON PHRASES

- 牛油多士 — buttered toast
- 奶油多士 — toast with condensed milk and butter
- 奶醬多 — toast with condensed milk and peanut butter; a shortened menu-style phrase
- 西多士 — Hong Kong-style French toast
- 烘多士 — to toast bread
- 多士烘爛咗 — the toast got burnt

雲吞

wan4 tan1

(slang) nasal mucus that wrapped with a tissue paper (because the shape of that tissue paper is like a wonton.); wonton

(slang) nasal mucus that wrapped with a tissue paper (because the shape of that tissue paper is like a wonton.) · wonton

- **Jyutping:** wan4 tan1
- **Meaning:** wonton; a small Cantonese dumpling, usually filled with shrimp, pork, or both.
- **Common use:** Most often appears in noodle shops, especially in 雲吞麵 meaning "wonton noodles."
- **Measure word:** 粒 is commonly used for individual wontons, as in 幾粒雲吞 meaning "a few wontons."

USEFUL PHRASES

- 雲吞麵 wan4 tan1 min6 — wonton noodles
- 鮮蝦雲吞 sin1 haa1 wan4 tan1 — fresh shrimp wontons
- 雲吞湯 wan4 tan1 tong1 — wonton soup
- 炸雲吞 zaa3 wan4 tan1 — fried wontons
- 淨雲吞 zing6 wan4 tan1 — wontons without noodles

公仔麵

gung1 zai2 min6

brand of Hong Kong instant noodles; also used as term for instant noodles in general

brand of Hong Kong instant noodles · also used as term for instant noodles in general

- **Meaning:** instant noodles; packet or bowl noodles that cook quickly.
- **Natural English:** "instant noodles," "instant ramen," or "a packet of noodles," depending on context.
- **Usage note:** Very common in Hong Kong Cantonese. It originally comes from the Doll instant noodle brand, but many speakers use 公仔麵 generally for instant noodles.
- **Common measure words:** 一包公仔麵 = one packet of instant noodles; 一碗公仔麵 = one bowl of instant noodles.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我今晚唔想煮飯，食公仔麵算啦。

ngo5 gam1 maan5 m4 soeng2 zyu2 faan6, sik6 gung1 zai2 min6 syun3 laa1.
I don't feel like cooking dinner tonight. I'll just eat instant noodles.

Note: 算啦 means "let's just do that" or "that'll do," often when choosing an easy option.

- 你食唔食公仔麵？我煮多個俾你。

nei5 sik6 m4 sik6 gung1 zai2 min6? ngo5 zyu2 do1 go3 bei2 nei5.
Do you want instant noodles? I'll cook one more for you.

Note: 煮多個 here means "cook one extra portion."

餃子

gaau2 zi2

dumpling; pot-sticker

dumpling · pot-sticker

餃子 (GAU2 ZI2)

- **Main meaning:** a Chinese-style dumpling, usually with a filling wrapped in dough.
- **Also:** a pot-sticker or pan-fried dumpling, especially when the context is about cooked dumplings. If you need to be specific, 煎餃 means "pan-fried dumpling."
- **Register:** neutral and everyday. It is common in both spoken Cantonese and written Chinese.
- **Common verbs:** 包餃子 means "to wrap/make dumplings"; 整餃子 also means "to make dumplings"; 賣餃子 means "to sell dumplings."
- **Note:** One example uses 餃子 colloquially to mean padding inserts, by comparison with the shape of dumplings. This is separate from the normal food meaning.

NATURAL EXAMPLES

- 我想要一啲餃子，唔該。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 di1 gaau2 zi2, m4 goi1.
I'd like some dumplings, please.
- 阿媽包啲餃子好好食！
aa3 maa1 baau1 di1 gaau2 zi2 hou2 hou2 sik6!
Mum's handmade dumplings are really good.

米線

mai5 sin3

rice-flour noodles

米線 (MAI5 SIN3)

Meaning: rice-flour noodles; in Hong Kong Cantonese, this often means Yunnan-style rice noodles served in soup, commonly customized with toppings and spice levels.

- **Core sense:** 米線 refers to the noodles themselves, made from rice flour.
- **Common food sense:** It can also refer to a bowl of rice noodles, especially at casual noodle shops such as Tam Jai-style places.
- **Register:** Neutral and everyday. It is used naturally in restaurants, casual conversation, and menus.
- **Useful measure words:** 碗 for a bowl of noodles, 條 for one strand of noodle, and 間 when talking about a rice-noodle shop or chain.

EXAMPLES

- 呢碗米線好好食。
ni1 wun2 mai5 sin3 hou2 hou2 sik6.
This bowl of rice noodles is really tasty.
- 雞肉墨丸米線大辣咩唔該！
gai1 yuk6 mak6 jyun2 mai5 sin3 daai6 laat6 aa1 m4 goi1!
A bowl of extra-spicy rice noodles with chicken and squid balls, please.
- 條米線仲有啲硬。
tiu4 mai5 sin3 zung6 jau5 di1 ngaang6.
The noodle is still a bit hard.

河粉

ho4 fan2

hor fun, a type of wide, flat rice noodle

河粉 **HO4 FAN2**

Meaning: wide, flat rice noodles, often called **hor fun**. The term can refer to the noodles themselves or to a dish made with them.

USAGE NOTES

- **河粉** is an everyday food term used in restaurants, cafés, markets, and home cooking.
- Common preparations include **炒河粉** (stir-fried hor fun) and **湯河** (hor fun in soup).
- In dish names, **河** often serves as a short form of **河粉**, as in **乾炒牛河** ("dry-fried beef hor fun").
- Typical measure words are **碟** for a plate and **碗** for a bowl.
- The standard reading here is **ho4 fan2**; **河** is pronounced **ho4**.

EXAMPLES

- 「炒貴刁」即係炒河粉。
caau2 gwai3 diu1 zik1 hai6 caau2 ho4 fan2.
"Char kway teow" is a stir-fried hor fun dish.
- 我想要一碟乾炒牛河，唔該。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 dip6 gon1 caau2 ngau4 ho4, m4 goi1.
I'd like a plate of dry-fried beef hor fun, please.
- 呢間茶餐廳嘅河粉好滑。
ni1 gaan1 caa4 caan1 teng1 ge3 ho4 fan2 hou2 waat6.
The hor fun at this cha chaan teng is very smooth and silky.

雞

gai1

fowl; chicken; (slang) prostitute; ten thousand dollars

fowl · chicken · (slang) prostitute · ten thousand dollars · the trigger of a gun

- **Basic meaning:** chicken; a chicken as an animal, or chicken meat as food.
- **Pronunciation:** 雞 is pronounced **gai1** in Cantonese, with a high level tone.
- **Classifier:** use 隻 (zek3) for a whole chicken or a live chicken: 一隻雞 means "one chicken."
- **Common compounds:** 雞肉 chicken meat, 雞蛋 egg, 雞翼 chicken wing, 雞髀 chicken thigh or drumstick, 雞湯 chicken soup.
- **Note:** 雞 can also be used in some slang contexts with insulting meanings, so for learners it is safest to use it clearly for the animal or food unless you know the context well.

EXAMPLES

- 我今晚想食雞。

ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 sik6 gai1

I want to eat chicken tonight.

Explanation: 食雞 means "to eat chicken." In Cantonese, 食 is the everyday verb for "eat."

- 呢隻雞好嫩滑。

ni1 zek3 gai1 hou2 nyun6 waat6

This chicken is very tender and smooth.

Explanation: 隻 is the classifier for a whole chicken. 嫩滑 is a common food-description word meaning tender, soft, and smooth.

肉

juk6

meat; flesh; pulp (of a fruit); (coll.) (of a fruit) squashy

meat · flesh · pulp (of a fruit) · (coll.) (of a fruit) squashy · (of a person) flabby · irresolute · KangXi radical 130 · physical · slow-motion

- **Core meaning:** meat; flesh. In Cantonese, 肉 usually refers to animal meat for eating, or the soft flesh of a body or fruit.
- **Pronunciation:** yuk6. It has a low entering tone, so the syllable is short and clipped.
- **Usage note:** 肉 often appears inside compounds, such as 豬肉 pork, 牛肉 beef, and 雞肉 chicken meat.

COMMON WORDS

- 豬肉 zyu1 yuk6 — pork
- 牛肉 ngau4 yuk6 — beef
- 雞肉 gai1 yuk6 — chicken meat
- 魚肉 jyu4 yuk6 — fish meat
- 果肉 gwo2 yuk6 — fruit flesh or pulp
- 瘦肉 sau3 yuk6 — lean meat
- 肥肉 fei4 yuk6 — fatty meat

牛肉

ngau4 juk6

beef

- **Meaning:** beef; meat from a cow or cattle.
- **Usage:** 牛肉 is the normal Cantonese word for "beef" and can be used for raw beef, cooked beef, or beef as an ingredient.
- **Word parts:** 牛 means "cow" or "cattle," and 肉 means "meat."

COMMON PHRASES

- 牛肉飯
ngau4 juk6 faan6:
beef rice; rice served with beef.
- 牛肉麵
ngau4 juk6 min6:
beef noodles; noodle soup or noodles with beef.
- 炒牛肉
caau2 ngau4 juk6:
stir-fried beef.
- 牛肉丸
ngau4 juk6 jyun2:
beef ball; a common food item in Cantonese cuisine.

蛋

{daan6 daan6*2}

egg; oval-shaped; 打dá [打]; a watch

egg · oval-shaped · 打dá [打] · a watch · fellow (used in conjunction with an adjective or a noun in a derogatory manner) · oval-shaped thing

- **Core meaning:** "egg," especially a chicken egg. In Cantonese, 蛋 is the everyday word used in food, cooking, and shopping.
- **Measure word:** Use 隻 for whole eggs.
— 一隻蛋 — jat1 zek3 daan2 — one egg
- **Useful related words:**
 - 雞蛋 — gai1 daan2 — chicken egg
 - 煎蛋 — zin1 daan2 — fried egg
 - 焗蛋 — hap6 daan2 — boiled egg
 - 炒蛋 — caau2 daan2 — scrambled eggs
 - 蛋黃 — daan2 wong4 — egg yolk
 - 蛋白 — daan2 baak6 — egg white
 - 蛋殼 — daan2 hok3 — eggshell
 - 蛋撻 — daan2 taat1 — egg tart
- **Example:**
我早餐食咗兩隻蛋。

ngo5 zou2 caan1 sik6 zo2 loeng5 zek3 daan2.

I ate two eggs for breakfast.

雞蛋

gai1 daan6

(chicken) egg; hen's egg

(chicken) egg · hen's egg

- **Jyutping:** gai1 daan6
- **Meaning:** egg; chicken egg; hen's egg.
- **Literal meaning:** 雞 means "chicken," and 蛋 means "egg."
- **Common usage:** In everyday Cantonese, 雞蛋 usually means an egg used for cooking or eating. When the context is clear, people often shorten it to 蛋.
- **Measure word:** Use 隻 for whole eggs: 一隻雞蛋, 兩隻雞蛋.

EXAMPLES

- 我早餐食咗兩隻雞蛋。

ngo5 zou2 caan1 sik6 zo2 loeng5 zek3 gai1 daan6

I ate two eggs for breakfast.

Note: 食咗 means "ate" or "have eaten." 兩隻 is the natural way to count two whole eggs.

- 你要煎雞蛋定焗雞蛋？

nei5 jiu3 zin1 gai1 daan6 ding6 hap6 gai1 daan6?

Do you want a fried egg or a boiled egg?

Note: 定 means "or" when asking someone to choose between options. 煎雞蛋 is "fried egg," and 焗雞蛋 is "boiled egg."

豬肉

zyu1 juk6

pork

- **Jyutping:** zyu1 juk6
- **Meaning:** pork; meat from a pig.
- **Usage:** A common everyday noun. It can refer to pork generally, raw pork bought at a market, or cooked pork in a dish.

USEFUL NOTES

- 豬 means "pig"; 肉 means "meat." Together, 豬肉 literally means "pig meat."
- To say "eat pork," use 食豬肉.
- To say "buy pork," use 買豬肉.
- Common related words include 瘦肉 "lean meat," 肥肉 "fatty meat," and 豬肉檔 "pork stall."

EXAMPLES

- 我今晚想食豬肉。
ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 sik6 zyu1 juk6.

I want to eat pork tonight.

想食豬肉 means "want to eat pork." This is a natural sentence for talking about food preferences or dinner plans.

叉燒

caa1 siu1

char siu; barbecued pork

char siu · barbecued pork

- **Jyutping:** caa1 siu1
- **Meaning:** Cantonese-style barbecued pork, usually roasted with a sweet-savory glaze until the outside is slightly caramelized.
- **English equivalent:** char siu; Cantonese barbecue pork
- **Common context:** Often served with rice, noodles, wonton noodles, or inside buns such as 叉燒包 (caa1 siu1 baau1), "barbecue pork bun."

USEFUL NOTES

- 叉燒飯 means "char siu rice," a very common dish at Hong Kong-style roast meat shops.
- 燒臘舖 means a roast meat shop, where you can buy 叉燒, roast duck, roast goose, roast pork, and similar foods.
- People often describe 叉燒 by its texture and fat level, such as 半肥瘦 "half fatty, half lean" or 瘦叉燒 "lean char siu."

EXAMPLES

- 我想要一碟叉燒飯。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 dip6 caa1 siu1 faan6.
"I'd like a plate of char siu rice."

Use this when ordering food at a restaurant or roast meat shop.

牛扒

ngau4 paa2

(noun) (food) a beefsteak; (dialect) beef steak

(noun) (food) a beefsteak · (dialect) beef steak

- **Jyutping:** ngau4 paa2
- **Meaning:** steak; beef steak.
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Usage:** Common in Hong Kong Cantonese, especially on restaurant menus. 扒 means a steak, chop, or cutlet-style piece of meat, so 牛扒 specifically means a beef steak.
- **Related word:** 牛排 is the more Standard Chinese written form, but 牛扒 is very natural in Cantonese.

COMMON PHRASES

- 黑椒牛扒 — black pepper steak
- 西冷牛扒 — sirloin steak
- 肉眼牛扒 — rib-eye steak
- 牛扒餐 — steak meal or steak set
- 五成熟牛扒 — medium steak
- 全熟牛扒 — well-done steak

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我今晚想食牛扒。

Jyutping: ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 sik6 ngau4 paa2

Meaning: I want to eat steak tonight.

鴨

aap3

duck; (slang) male prostitute

duck · (slang) male prostitute

- **Meaning:** duck; a duck as an animal or as food.
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Common measure word:** 隻 zek3, as in 一隻鴨 jat1 zek3 aap3, "one duck".
- **Food usage:** very common in dishes such as 燒鴨 siu1 aap3, "roast duck".
- **Related word:** 鴨仔 aap3 zai2 means "duckling" or "little duck".

EXAMPLES

- 我鍾意食燒鴨。
ngo5 zung1 ji3 sik6 siu1 aap3.
I like eating roast duck.
- 呢隻鴨好肥美。
ni1 zek3 aap3 hou2 fei4 mei5.
This duck is very plump and tasty.
- 池塘入面有幾隻鴨。
ci4 tong4 jap6 min6 jau5 gei2 zek3 aap3.
There are several ducks in the pond.
- 佢哋養咗兩隻鴨。
keoi5 dei6 joeng5 zo2 loeng5 zek3 aap3.
They raised two ducks.
- 嗰隻鴨仔跟住媽媽行。
go2 zek3 aap3 zai2 gan1 zyu6 maa1 maa1 haang4.
That duckling is walking after its mother.

雞翼

gai1 jik6

chicken wing

Jyutping: gai1 jik6

Meaning: chicken wing; chicken wings, especially as a food item.

- **Basic use:** 雞翼 is the normal Cantonese word for “chicken wing.” It can refer to one wing or wings in general; number and measure words make the quantity clear.
- **Measure word:** Use 隻 for individual wings: 一隻雞翼 means “one chicken wing.”
- **Food context:** In everyday Cantonese, 雞翼 is more natural than the Mandarin-style 雞翅.

EXAMPLES

- 我想食雞翼。

Jyutping: ngo5 soeng2 sik6 gai1 jik6

Meaning: I want to eat chicken wings.

Note: A simple, natural sentence for ordering or saying what you feel like eating.

- 呢啲雞翼好香口。

Jyutping: ni1 di1 gai1 jik6 hou2 hoeng1 hau2

Meaning: These chicken wings are really tasty and crispy.

Note: 香口 describes food that is fragrant, savory, and pleasant to bite into.

雞肉

gai1 juk6

chicken meat

- **Meaning:** chicken meat; chicken as food.
- **Breakdown:** 雞 means "chicken"; 肉 means "meat."
- **Usage:** Use 雞肉 when you want to emphasize the meat itself, especially when comparing it with beef, pork, fish, or other foods.
- **Natural contrast:** 雞 can mean "chicken" generally or a chicken dish, while 雞肉 is more specific: "chicken meat."

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我今晚想食雞肉。

ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 sik6 gai1 juk6.

I want to eat chicken tonight.

Note: 食 means "to eat," and 今晚 means "tonight."

- 呢碟雞肉好嫩。

ni1 dip6 gai1 juk6 hou2 nyun6.

This plate of chicken is very tender.

Note: 嫩 describes meat that is tender or soft.

- 你鍾意食雞肉定牛肉？

nei5 zung1 ji3 sik6 gai1 juk6 ding6 ngau4 juk6?

Do you like eating chicken or beef?

Note: 定 is used between choices, like "or" in a question.

火腿

fo2 teoi2

ham

- **Jyutping:** fo2 teoi2
- **Meaning:** ham; cured or processed pork, often sliced and used in sandwiches, fried with eggs, or added to rice/noodle dishes.
- **Part of speech:** noun

USAGE NOTES

- 火腿 usually refers to ham, especially sliced ham used in everyday food.
- 火腿片 means "slices of ham." The classifier is often 片 for slices or 包 for a packet.
- Do not confuse 火腿 with 午餐肉, which means luncheon meat or spam-style canned meat.

EXAMPLES

- 我想要一份火腿蛋三文治。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 fan6 fo2 teoi2 daan6 saam1 man4 zi6.
I'd like a ham and egg sandwich.
- 你食唔食火腿？
nei5 sik6 m4 sik6 fo2 teoi2?
Do you eat ham?
- 我買咗一包火腿片。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 baau1 fo2 teoi2 pin2.
I bought a packet of sliced ham.

雞髀

gai1 bei2

chicken leg (spoken)

雞髀 GAI1 BEI2

Meaning: chicken leg; chicken thigh or drumstick in spoken Cantonese.

- **Register:** casual and very common in everyday speech, especially when talking about food.
- **Nuance:** The exact cut can depend on context. It may mean a chicken leg, thigh, drumstick, or leg piece served as food.
- **Common phrase:** 炸雞髀 zaa3 gai1 bei2 means "fried chicken leg."

EXAMPLES

- 你哋有冇廿隻雞髀呀？
nei5 dei6 jau5 mou5 jaa6 zek3 gai1 bei2 aa3?
Do you have twenty chicken legs?
- 呢排我熱氣，唔想食炸雞髀。
ni1 paai4 ngo5 jit6 hei3, m4 soeng2 sik6 zaa3 gai1 bei2.
I've been feeling "hot" lately, so I don't want to eat fried chicken legs.
- 食雞髀梗係攞上手大啖大啖咬先爽。
sik6 gai1 bei2 gang2 hai6 lo2 soeng6 sau2 daai6 daam6 daai6 daam6 ngaau5 sin1 song2.
Of course chicken legs taste best when you pick them up and take big bites.
- 我買咗兩隻雞髀今晚焗。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 loeng5 zek3 gai1 bei2 gam1 maan1 guk6.
I bought two chicken legs to roast tonight.

牛腩

ngau4 naam5

brisket (esp. Cantonese); belly beef; spongy meat from cow's underside and neighboring ribs; erroneously translated as sirloin

brisket (esp. Cantonese) · belly beef · spongy meat from cow's underside and neighboring ribs · erroneously translated as sirloin

牛腩 (NGAU4 NAAM5)

- **Core meaning:** beef brisket, especially in Cantonese food contexts.
- **Broader food sense:** a stewing cut of beef from the cow's underside, belly, or nearby rib area. It is often tender and gelatinous after slow cooking.
- **Common English translation:** usually "beef brisket," though in menus it may also be described as "beef flank" or "belly beef."
- **Important note:** it should not be understood as sirloin. "Sirloin" is a different, leaner cut and is not the usual meaning of 牛腩 in Cantonese.

USAGE NOTES

- **Register:** neutral and everyday. It is common in restaurants, menus, markets, and home cooking.
- **Food context:** 牛腩 usually refers to cooked beef brisket or stewing beef, especially in dishes such as curry beef brisket, braised beef brisket, or beef brisket noodles.
- **Common combinations:** 清湯牛腩 means beef brisket in clear broth; 咖喱牛腩 means curry beef brisket; 炆牛腩 means braised or simmered beef brisket.

燒肉

siu1 juk6

(n.) roast meat, usually referring to pork

燒肉 (SIU1 JUK6)

- **Main meaning:** roast meat, most commonly **Cantonese roast pork**, especially pork belly with crispy skin.
- **Typical context:** food shops, meals, offerings, restaurant menus, and casual conversation.
- **Nuance:** In everyday Cantonese, 燒肉 often means roast pork specifically, not just any roasted meat. In wider menu contexts, it can also mean BBQ or grilled meat, especially in phrases like 燒肉晚市任食.
- **Register:** neutral and very common. It is fine in speech, menus, and ordinary writing.

SENSE NOTES

Expression	Meaning	Usage
燒肉	roast pork; roast meat	The default Cantonese meaning is usually roast pork, especially crispy roast pork from a 燒味 shop.
炭燒肉乾	charcoal-grilled meat jerky	Here 燒肉 is part of a compound and refers more generally to grilled or barbecued meat.
燒肉晚市任食	all-you-can-eat BBQ/grilled meat dinner	In restaurant advertising, 燒肉 can refer to BBQ-style grilled meat rather than only Cantonese roast pork.

排骨

paai4 gwat1

pork chop; pork cutlet; spare ribs; (coll.) skinny person

pork chop · pork cutlet · spare ribs · (coll.) skinny person

排骨 (PAAI4 GWAT1)

Core meaning: In Cantonese, 排骨 most commonly means **pork ribs / spare ribs**, especially in food and restaurant contexts.

MAIN SENSES

- **Spare ribs; pork ribs:** The most useful everyday meaning. Common in dish names such as 糖醋排骨 and 豉汁蒸排骨.
- **Pork chop; pork cutlet:** Can refer more broadly to a cut of pork, but for a Western-style pork chop, Cantonese often uses 豬扒. In many Cantonese dishes, 排骨 usually points to ribs rather than a flat cutlet.
- **Skinny person:** A colloquial, teasing or insulting use, like calling someone “skin and bones.” Use carefully; it can sound rude.

COMMON USAGE NOTES

- **Food context:** Usually literal and neutral: ribs, spare ribs, or a ribs dish.
- **Person context:** Figurative and informal. Calling someone 排骨 comments on their body shape and is not polite in formal or respectful speech.
- **Useful pattern:** 蒸排骨 means “steamed spare ribs”; 燒排骨 means “roasted spare ribs.”

EXAMPLES

- 糖醋排骨
tong4 cou3 paai4 gwat1
Sweet-and-sour spare ribs.

鳳爪

fung6 zaau2

(cuisine) chicken foot

鳳爪

Jyutping: fung6 zaau2

Meaning: cooked chicken feet served as a Chinese dish, especially at dim sum. The literal meaning is "phoenix claws," a more appealing culinary name for chicken feet.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 鳳爪 usually refers to chicken feet prepared as food, rather than the feet of a living chicken.
- It is a standard dish name on restaurant and dim sum menus. A common preparation is 豉汁蒸鳳爪 (si6 zap1 zing1 fung6 zaau2), "chicken feet steamed in black bean sauce."
- 雞腳 (gai1 goek3) is the ordinary literal term for "chicken foot." In a culinary context, 鳳爪 sounds more appetizing and menu-like.
- Although 鳳 means "phoenix," the dish contains chicken, not phoenix or another type of bird.

EXAMPLES

- 如果飲茶嘅話，嗰個雞腳唔叫雞腳，叫鳳爪。

jyu4 gwo2 jam2 caa4 ge3 waa6, go2 go3 gai1 goek3 m4 giu3 gai1 goek3, giu3 fung6 zaau2.

When you have dim sum, chicken feet are not called 雞腳; they are called 鳳爪.

羊肉

joeng4 juk6

mutton; goat meat

mutton · goat meat

羊肉

Jyutping: joeng4 juk6

Meaning: meat from a sheep or goat. Depending on the context, 羊肉 may be translated as [mutton](#), [lamb](#), or [goat meat](#).

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 羊肉 is the ordinary, neutral term used in conversation, recipes, restaurants, and food descriptions.
- The word does not normally specify the animal's age. English may distinguish [lamb](#) from [mutton](#), but Cantonese often uses 羊肉 for both.
- It may also refer to goat meat. When the distinction matters, speakers can say 山羊肉 (saan1 joeng4 juk6, goat meat), 綿羊肉 (min4 joeng4 juk6, sheep meat), or 羊羔肉 (joeng4 gou1 juk6, lamb).
- 臊 (sou1) describes the strong, sometimes unpleasant smell or flavor commonly associated with sheep or goat meat.

EXAMPLES

- 啲羊肉好臊啊。
di1 joeng4 juk6 hou2 sou1 aa3.
The mutton has a strong, unpleasant smell and taste.

香腸

hoeng1 coeng4*2

sausage

香腸 — SAUSAGE

- **Jyutping:** hoeng1 coeng4*2
- **Spoken pronunciation:** hoeng1 coeng2
- **Meaning:** A sausage or sausages in general.

USAGE NOTES

- 香腸 is the standard everyday term for a sausage. It can refer to the food generally or to an individual sausage, depending on context.
- The notation **coeng4*2** marks a changed tone: the underlying tone is tone 4, but the word is normally pronounced **coeng2** here.
- When counting individual sausages, the common measure word is 條 tiu4: 一條香腸 means "one sausage."

EXAMPLES

- 冇香腸點整熱狗啊？
mou5 hoeng1 coeng2 dim2 zing2 jit6 gau2 aa3?
How can you make a hot dog without a sausage?
- 我早餐食咗兩條香腸。
ngo5 zou2 caan1 sik6 zo2 loeng5 tiu4 hoeng1 coeng2.
I ate two sausages for breakfast.
- 你想食煎蛋定香腸？
nei5 soeng2 sik6 zin1 daan2 ding6 hoeng1 coeng2?
Would you like fried eggs or sausages?

燒鵝

siu1 ngo4

roast goose

燒鵝 — ROAST GOOSE

Jyutping: siu1 ngo4

Meaning: Cantonese-style roast goose, especially the prepared dish sold at a roast-meat shop or served with rice or noodles.

USAGE NOTES

- 燒鵝飯 means "rice with roast goose."
- 燒鵝髀 means "roast goose leg."
- 燒鵝瀨粉 means "lai fun noodles with roast goose."
- Use the classifier 隻 when referring to a whole goose: 一隻燒鵝.
- In 落街斬隻燒鵝做餸, 斬 refers idiomatically to buying roast meat and having the shop chop it into serving pieces.
- The supplied examples contain alternate tone transcriptions for 鵝, including ngo2 and ngo6. The reference card's dictionary pronunciation is ngo4.

EXAMPLES

- 唔該，我想要一碟燒鵝飯。

m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 dip6 siu1 ngo4 faan6.

Please, I'd like a plate of rice with roast goose.

- 今晚落街斬隻燒鵝做餸。

gam1 maan5 lok6 gaai1 zaam2 zek3 siu1 ngo4 zou6 sung3.

Let's go out and buy a roast goose to have with dinner tonight.

皮蛋

pei4 daan6

century egg; preserved egg

皮蛋 — PEI4 DAAN6

Meaning: century egg; preserved egg. It is an egg preserved through a traditional curing process, giving it a dark, translucent white and a rich, creamy yolk.

PRONUNCIATION AND USAGE

- The dictionary pronunciation is **pei4 daan6**.
- In everyday speech and compounds, **pei4 daan2** is also commonly heard, with a changed tone on 蛋.
- It is a neutral, everyday food term used in conversation, recipes, restaurant menus, and product names.
- A particularly common compound is 皮蛋瘦肉粥 (**pei4 daan2 sau3 yuk6 zuk1**), "congee with century egg and lean pork."

EXAMPLES

- 我早餐鍾意食皮蛋瘦肉粥。
ngo5 zou2 caan1 zung1 ji3 sik6 pei4 daan2 sau3 yuk6 zuk1
I like having century egg and lean pork congee for breakfast.
- 我阿婆話皮蛋要有雪花先至係正嘢。
ngo5 aa3 po4 waa6 pei4 daan2 jiu3 jau5 syut3 faa1 sin1 zi3 hai6 zeng3 je5
My grandmother says that century eggs with snowflake-like patterns are the really good ones.
- 切開隻皮蛋，再拌豆腐食。
cit3 hoi1 zek3 pei4 daan2, zoi3 bun6 dau6 fu6 sik6
Cut open the century egg, then mix it with tofu.

雞腳

gai1 goek3

(food) (of dim sum) Chicken feet

雞腳 GAI1 GOEK3

Meaning: chicken feet, especially when prepared as food. Cantonese does not normally mark singular and plural, so 雞腳 can mean either “a chicken foot” or “chicken feet,” depending on context.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 雞腳 is the ordinary, literal name for chicken feet.
- On a dim sum menu, chicken feet are commonly called 鳳爪 (fung6 zaau2), literally “phoenix claws.” This sounds more appetizing and menu-like.
- Common preparations include 鮑汁雞腳 (baau1 zap1 gai1 goek3), “chicken feet in abalone sauce,” and 豉汁蒸鳳爪 (si6 zap1 zing1 fung6 zaau2), “steamed chicken feet in black-bean sauce.”
- The supplied phrase 香雞腳 (hoeng1 gai1 goek3) is humorous descriptive wordplay about an extremely thin leg—thin like an incense stick. It is not the main food sense of 雞腳 and may sound teasing when applied to a person.

EXAMPLES

- 如果飲茶嘅話，嗰個雞腳唔叫雞腳，叫鳳爪。

jyu4 gwo2 jam2 caa4 ge3 waa6, go2 go3 gai1 goek3 m4 giu3 gai1 goek3, giu3 fung6 zaau2.

At dim sum, those chicken feet are not called “chicken feet”; they are called “phoenix claws.”

魚

jyu4*2

fish; 尾wěi [尾]; a surname; KangXi radical 195

fish · 尾wěi [尾] · a surname · KangXi radical 195 · a reptile · to fish · used in the names of various aquatic animals that are not fish (including abalone 鮑魚|鲍鱼[bao4 yu2], alligators and crocodiles 鱷魚|鳄鱼[e4 yu2] and octopi 章魚|章鱼[zhang1 yu2])

- **Meaning:** fish
- **Jyutping:** jyu4
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Mandarin simplified form:** 鱼
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 魚 can mean a fish as an animal or fish as food. For one whole fish, the common measure word is 條.

COMMON WORDS

- 魚蛋 jyu4 daan2 — fish ball
- 魚湯 jyu4 tong1 — fish soup
- 魚骨 jyu4 gwat1 — fish bone
- 金魚 gam1 jyu4 — goldfish
- 鹹魚 haam4 jyu4 — salted fish

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 呢條魚好新鮮。
ni1 tiu4 jyu4 hou2 san1 sin1.
This fish is very fresh.

蝦

{haa1 haa4*1}

(slang) 1. bully; 2. intimidate; shrimp; prawn; to bully

(slang) 1. bully; 2. intimidate · shrimp · prawn · to bully · to pick on someone · frogs · toads

- **Basic meaning:** shrimp; prawn.
- **Part of speech:** noun, and also a colloquial verb in Cantonese.
- **Common verb meaning:** to bully, pick on, or take advantage of someone.

CORE USAGE

- 蝦 usually means “shrimp” or “prawn” in food contexts.

Example: 呢碟蝦好新鮮。

Jyutping: ni1 dip6 haa1 hou2 san1 sin1

Meaning: This plate of shrimp is very fresh.

- In spoken Cantonese, 蝦 can also mean “to bully” or “to pick on someone,” especially someone weaker or easier to pressure.

Example: 唔好蝦細路仔。

Jyutping: m4 hou2 haa1 sai3 lou6 zai2

Meaning: Don't bully little kids.

魷魚

jau4 jyu4*2

squid

- **Meaning:** squid; an edible sea animal commonly grilled, stir-fried, dried, or served in hotpot.
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Common measure words:** 條 tiu4 for a whole squid, 碟 dip6 for a plate, and 串 cyun3 for a skewer.
- **Useful note:** 炒魷魚 literally means "stir-fry squid," but in Cantonese slang it means "to fire someone" or "to get fired."

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我今晚想食燒魷魚。

ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 sik6 siu1 jau4 jyu4.

I want to eat grilled squid tonight.

Explanation: 燒魷魚 means "grilled squid," a common street-food or restaurant dish.

- 呢碟魷魚好新鮮，又爽又甜。

ni1 dip6 jau4 jyu4 hou2 san1 sin1, jau6 song2 jau6 tim4.

This plate of squid is very fresh, firm, and sweet.

Explanation: 爽 describes a pleasant firm, springy texture, often used for seafood.

蟹

haai5

(stock terminology) undervalued (stocks); crab; the vagina; a wallet

(stock terminology) undervalued (stocks) · crab · the vagina · a wallet

- **Jyutping:** haai5
- **Meaning:** crab
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Common classifier:** 隻 zek3, as in 一隻蟹 jat1 zek3 haai5, "one crab".

CORE USAGE

- 蟹 usually means the animal or seafood: crab.
- In food contexts, it can refer to crab as a dish, not just a living crab.
- Use 隻 when counting whole crabs: 兩隻蟹, "two crabs".

USEFUL WORDS

- 蟹肉 haai5 yuk6 — crab meat
- 蟹黃 haai5 wong4 — crab roe
- 蟹鉗 haai5 kim4 — crab claw / pincer
- 蟹腳 haai5 goek3 — crab legs
- 蒸蟹 zing1 haai5 — steamed crab
- 炒蟹 caau2 haai5 — stir-fried crab
- 大閘蟹 daai6 zaap6 haai5 — hairy crab / mitten crab

魚蛋

jyu4 daan6*2

(food) fish balls; fish ball; fish eggs; roe

(food) fish balls · fish ball · fish eggs; roe

- **Meaning:** fish ball; fish balls
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Literal meaning:** "fish egg," but in everyday Cantonese it usually means processed fish balls, not fish roe.
- **Common context:** A popular Hong Kong street food, often served on skewers, in curry sauce, or in noodle soup.

COMMON PHRASES

- **咖喱魚蛋** (gaa3 lei1 jyu4 daan2) —
curry fish balls
- **街邊魚蛋** (gaai1 bin1 jyu4 daan2) —
street-side fish balls
- **魚蛋粉** (jyu4 daan2 fan2) —
fish ball rice-noodle soup
- **一串魚蛋** (jat1 cyun3 jyu4 daan2) —
one skewer of fish balls
- **一粒魚蛋** (jat1 nap1 jyu4 daan2) —
one fish ball

海鮮

hoi2 sin1

seafood

- **Meaning:** seafood; edible sea animals such as fish, shrimp, crab, lobster, squid, clams, oysters, and other shellfish.
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 海鮮 is usually used as a general category, like English "seafood." It does not need a plural form.
- **Common phrase:** 食海鮮 means "to eat seafood."

EXAMPLES

- 今晚我哋去食海鮮。
Gam1 maan5 ngo5 dei6 heoi3 sik6 hoi2 sin1.
Tonight we're going to eat seafood.
- 呢間酒樓嘅海鮮好新鮮。
Ni1 gaan1 zau2 lau4 ge3 hoi2 sin1 hou2 san1 sin1.
The seafood at this restaurant is very fresh.
- 我對海鮮敏感，所以唔食蝦蟹。
Ngo5 deoi3 hoi2 sin1 man5 gam2, so2 ji5 m4 sik6 haa1 haai5.
I'm allergic to seafood, so I don't eat shrimp or crab.
- 街市有好多新鮮海鮮賣。
Gaa1 si5 jau5 hou2 do1 san1 sin1 hoi2 sin1 maa1.
There is a lot of fresh seafood for sale at the market.

八爪魚

baat3 zaau2 jyu4

octopus

八爪魚 (BAAT3 ZAAU2 JYU4)

- **Meaning:** octopus.
- **Usage:** A common Cantonese word for the sea animal, especially in everyday speech, food, and simple factual descriptions.
- **Classifier:** Usually 隻 for a whole octopus as an animal: 一隻八爪魚 = one octopus.
- **Nuance:** It can also be used in comparisons for someone or something that clings tightly or grabs with many "arms," as in 好似隻大八爪魚 = like a big octopus.

CORE EXAMPLES

- 你有冇食過八爪魚？
nei5 jau5 mou5 sik6 gwo3 baat3 zaau2 jyu4?
Have you ever eaten octopus?
- 八爪魚啲腳有好多吸盤。
baat3 zaau2 jyu4 di1 goek3 jau5 hou2 do1 kap1 pun4.
An octopus's arms have many suction cups.
- 八爪魚通常淨係得幾個月壽命。
baat3 zaau2 jyu4 tung1 soeng4 zing6 hai6 dak1 gei2 go3 jyut6 sau6 ming6.
Octopuses usually live for only a few months.
- 嚴格嚟講，八爪魚八隻觸手中只有兩隻用嚟行路。
jim4 gaak3 lai4 gong2, baat3 zaau2 jyu4 baat3 zek3 zuk1 sau2 zung1 zi2 jau5 loeng5 zek3 jung6 lai4 haang4 lou6.
Strictly speaking, of an octopus's eight arms, only two are used for walking.

青口

ceng1 hau2

mussel

青口 (CENG1 HAU2)

- **Main meaning:** a mussel, especially when talking about seafood, cooking, menus, or buying shellfish.
- **Usage:** Common in everyday Cantonese. It is a neutral food word, not especially formal or literary.
- **Measure words:** Use 隻 for individual mussels, e.g. 一隻青口 "one mussel," or 碟 for a plate, e.g. 一碟青口 "a plate of mussels."

IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

- 青口 as one word means **mussel**.
- In 面青口唇白 (min6 ceng1 hau2 seon4 baak6), the meaning is not "mussel." It breaks naturally as 面青 "face looks pale/greenish" + 口唇白 "lips are white," meaning someone looks sick or unwell.

EXAMPLES

- 白酒煮青口。
baak6 zau2 zyu2 ceng1 hau2
Mussels cooked in white wine.
- 我想叫一碟蒜蓉青口。
ngo5 soeng2 giu3 jat1 dip6 syun3 jung4 ceng1 hau2
I'd like to order a plate of garlic mussels.
- 呢啲青口好新鮮。
ni1 di1 ceng1 hau2 hou2 san1 sin1
These mussels are very fresh.

蠔

hou4

oyster

蠔 (HOU4)

Meaning: oyster.

USAGE

- 蠔 is the standard Cantonese word for an oyster.
- For individual oysters, the common measure word is 隻 (zek3): 一隻蠔 (jat1 zek3 hou4), "one oyster."
- It frequently appears in food names and compounds, such as 生蠔 ("fresh or raw oyster"), 蠔豉 ("dried oyster"), and 蠔油 ("oyster sauce").
- The character also appears in some place names. For example, 蠔涌 (hou4 cung1) is Ho Chung in Sai Kung; its name literally means "oyster stream."

COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- 生蠔 (saang1 hou4) — fresh oyster; often understood as an oyster served raw when used on a menu.
- 蠔豉 (hou4 si2) — dried oyster, a preserved ingredient used in Cantonese cooking.
- 蠔油 (hou4 jau4) — oyster sauce.
- 蠔油菜芯 (hou4 jau4 coi3 sam1) — choy sum with oyster sauce.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 蠔豉係海味之一。

hou4 si2 hai6 hoi2 mei2 zi1 jat1

Dried oysters are one kind of dried seafood.

吞拿魚

tan1 naa4 jyu2

(loanword) tuna

吞拿魚

Jyutping: tan1 naa4 jyu2

Meaning: tuna; a tuna fish. 吞拿 is a phonetic loanword representing "tuna," while 魚 means "fish." This is the usual everyday term in Cantonese, especially in Hong Kong.

USAGE NOTES

- 吞拿魚 can refer to tuna as food or to the living fish; context normally makes the meaning clear.
- For tuna as food, it commonly appears in phrases such as 吞拿魚壽司 ("tuna sushi") and 吞拿魚三文治 ("tuna sandwich").
- When counting individual fish, use the classifier 條 (tiu4): 一條吞拿魚 means "one tuna."
- The word is neutral and suitable for both casual conversation and ordinary writing.

EXAMPLES

- 日本人鐘意食吞拿魚。
 jat6 bun2 jan4 zung1 ji3 sik6 tan1 naa4 jyu2
 Japanese people like eating tuna.
- 我想要一件吞拿魚壽司。
 ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 gin6 tan1 naa4 jyu2 sau6 si1
 I would like a piece of tuna sushi.

龍蝦

lung4 haa1

lobster

龍蝦 LUNG4 HAA1

Meaning: lobster.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 龍蝦 is the ordinary Cantonese noun for a lobster, especially when discussing seafood, cooking, or restaurant dishes.
- Use 隻 as the classifier for an individual lobster: 一隻龍蝦 jat1 zek3 lung4 haa1, "one lobster."
- Although 蝦 alone usually means "shrimp" or "prawn," 龍蝦 specifically means "lobster."
- The word is neutral in register and natural in both conversation and writing.

COMMON COMBINATIONS

- 龍蝦伊麵 lung4 haa1 ji1 min6 — lobster e-fu noodles
- 芝士焗龍蝦 zi1 si2 guk6 lung4 haa1 — lobster baked with cheese
- 清蒸龍蝦 cing1 zing1 lung4 haa1 — steamed lobster
- 龍蝦肉 lung4 haa1 juk6 — lobster meat

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 呢間餐廳嘅海鮮好正，尤其是龍蝦。
nei1 gaan1 caan1 teng1 ge6 hoi2 sin1 hou2 zeng3, jau4 kei4 si6 lung4 haa1
The seafood at this restaurant is excellent, especially the lobster.

帶子

daai3 zi2

scallop; belt; band; ribbon; strap; girdle; (coll.) audio or video tape; Farrer's scallop (*Chlamys farreri*)

scallop · belt; band; ribbon; strap; girdle · (coll.) audio or video tape · Farrer's scallop (*Chlamys farreri*) · comb pen shell (*Atrina pectinata*)

帶子 **DAAI3 ZI2**

帶子 has several meanings. In Hong Kong, its most familiar everyday meaning is **scallop**, especially the edible scallop meat served in restaurants.

MAIN SENSES

- **Scallop:** Common on menus and in conversations about seafood. It often refers specifically to the large, round adductor muscle rather than the whole shellfish.
- **Belt, band, ribbon, strap, or girdle:** A general name for a long, narrow strip used for tying, fastening, carrying, or decoration. In everyday Cantonese, a more specific word such as **皮帶** "belt," **肩帶** "shoulder strap," or **絲帶** "ribbon" is often clearer.
- **Audio or video tape:** A colloquial, now somewhat dated use associated with cassette tapes and videotapes. **錄音帶** "audio tape" and **錄影帶** "videotape" are less ambiguous.
- **Shellfish names:** In zoological or seafood terminology, **帶子** may refer to Farrer's scallop (*Chlamys farreri*) or the comb pen shell (*Atrina pectinata*). Ordinary restaurant usage does not necessarily identify the exact species.

三文魚

saam1 man4 jyu4*2

salmon (loanword)

三文魚

Jyutping: saam1 man4 jyu4*2 (commonly pronounced **saam1 man4 jyu2**)

Meaning: salmon.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 三文魚 is the standard everyday Cantonese word for salmon, especially on menus, in supermarkets, and when discussing Japanese food.
- It is a phonetic loanword rather than a literal reference to "three," "writing," and "fish." Learners should treat the whole expression as one word.
- The notation **jyu4*2** indicates a changed tone: 魚 has a dictionary tone of **jyu4**, but in this word it is commonly pronounced **jyu2**.
- The word is neutral in register and suitable for both conversation and writing.

COMMON COMBINATIONS

- 熏三文魚 fan1 saam1 man4 jyu2 — smoked salmon
- 三文魚壽司 saam1 man4 jyu2 sau6 si1 — salmon sushi
- 火炙三文魚 fo2 zek3 saam1 man4 jyu2 — flame-seared salmon
- 三文魚刺身 saam1 man4 jyu2 ci3 san1 — salmon sashimi

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想要一客三文魚刺身。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 haak3 saam1 man4 jyu2 ci3 san1.
I'd like an order of salmon sashimi.

飲茶

jam2 caa4

(verb) drink tea; to have tea and refreshments; to have dim sum lunch (Cantonese)

(verb) drink tea · to have tea and refreshments · to have dim sum lunch (Cantonese)

- **Meaning:** Literally “to drink tea,” but in Cantonese it most often means “to go for dim sum” or “to have a tea-and-dim-sum meal,” especially at a Chinese restaurant.
- **Jyutping:** jam2 caa4
- **Common English translation:** have dim sum; go for yum cha; drink tea
- **Usage note:** In Hong Kong Cantonese, 飲茶 usually implies eating dim sum with tea, not just drinking tea by itself.

EXAMPLES

- 我哋星期日去飲茶啦。

ngo5 dei6 sing1 kei4 jat6 heoi3 jam2 caa4 laa1

Let's go for dim sum on Sunday.

- 阿嫲最鍾意同屋企人飲茶。

aa3 maa4 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 tung4 uk1 kei2 jan4 jam2 caa4

Grandma likes having yum cha with the family the most.

- 飲茶嗰陣，我通常叫蝦餃、燒賣同叉燒包。

jam2 caa4 go2 zan6, ngo5 tung1 soeng4 giu3 haa1 gaau2, siu1 maai2 tung4
caa1 siu1 baau1

When I have dim sum, I usually order shrimp dumplings, siu mai, and char siu buns.

蛋撻

daan6 taat3

(food) egg tart

- **Meaning:** egg tart; a small baked pastry filled with sweet egg custard.
- **Jyutping:** daan6 taat1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Notes:** Common in Hong Kong bakeries, cha chaan tengs, and dim sum restaurants. 蛋 means "egg," and 撻 represents "tart." The simplified form is 蛋挞.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想買兩個蛋撻，唔該。
ngo5 soeng2 maai5 loeng5 go3 daan6 taat1, m4 goi1.
I'd like to buy two egg tarts, please.
Explanation: 個 is the common classifier for individual egg tarts. 唔該 is polite and natural when ordering or asking for service.
- 呢間餅店啲蛋撻好香，個皮又鬆化。
ni1 gaan1 beng2 dim3 di1 daan6 taat1 hou2 hoeng1, go3 pei4 jau6 sung1 faa3.
The egg tarts at this bakery smell great, and the crust is flaky.
Explanation: 啲蛋撻 means "the egg tarts" in a general or plural sense. 鬆化 describes a light, crumbly, flaky texture.
- 蛋撻要趁熱食先至好食。
daan6 taat1 jiu3 can3 jit6 sik6 sin1 zi3 hou2 sik6.
Egg tarts taste best when eaten hot.
Explanation: 趁熱食 means "eat while hot." 先至 adds the sense of "only then," emphasizing the best condition for eating it.

打邊爐

daa2 bin1lou4

(Cantonese) to eat hot pot; hot pot

(Cantonese) to eat hot pot · hot pot

- **Jyutping:** daa2 bin1 lou4
- **Meaning:** to have hot pot; to gather around a shared pot of soup and cook food at the table.
- **Part of speech:** verb phrase
- **Mandarin equivalent:** 吃火鍋 / 吃火锅

EXPLANATION

- 打邊爐 is the natural Cantonese way to say “have hot pot.”
- It usually describes a social meal with friends or family, especially in cold weather.
- Do not translate it literally as “hit the stove.” In Cantonese, 打 is often used in activity phrases, and 邊爐 refers to a hot pot setup.

EXAMPLES

- 我哋今晚去打邊爐啦。
ngo5 dei6 gam1 maan5 heoi3 daa2 bin1 lou4 laa1
Let's go have hot pot tonight.
- 天氣咁凍，最啱打邊爐。
tin1 hei3 gam3 dung3, zeoi3 ngaam1 daa2 bin1 lou4
The weather is so cold; it's perfect for hot pot.

點心

dim2 sam1

light refreshments; pastry; dim sum (in Cantonese cooking); dessert

light refreshments · pastry · dim sum (in Cantonese cooking) · dessert

- **Core meaning:** [dim sum](#); small Cantonese dishes served in bamboo steamers or small plates, commonly eaten during 飲茶 ([jam2 caa4](#), "yum cha / drinking tea").
- **Natural English translation:** "dim sum," "small dishes," or "Cantonese tea-house snacks," depending on context.
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 點心 usually refers to the food itself, while 飲茶 refers to the meal/activity of going to a tea restaurant to eat dim sum.

COMMON EXAMPLES

- 我哋星期日去飲茶食點心。
[ngo5 dei6 sing1 kei4 jat6 heoi3 jam2 caa4 sik6 dim2 sam1](#).
We're going for yum cha and dim sum on Sunday.
- 呢間茶樓啲點心好新鮮。
[ni1 gaan1 caa4 lau2 di1 dim2 sam1 hou2 san1 sin1](#).
The dim sum at this tea restaurant is very fresh.
- 你最鍾意食邊款點心？
[nei5 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 sik6 bin1 fun2 dim2 sam1?](#)
Which kind of dim sum do you like eating the most?
- 蝦餃同燒賣都係好常見嘅點心。
[haa1 gaau2 tung4 siu1 maai2 dou1 hai6 hou2 soeng4 gin3 ge3 dim2 sam1](#).
Har gow and siu mai are both very common types of dim sum.

蝦餃

haa1 gaau2

prawn dumplings

- **Jyutping:** haa1 gaau2
- **Meaning:** har gow; a Cantonese shrimp dumpling, usually served at dim sum. It is typically made with a translucent wheat-starch wrapper and a shrimp filling.
- **Usage note:** 蝦餃 is strongly associated with 飲茶 and dim sum restaurants. It usually refers to the dish, not just any shrimp-filled dumpling.

EXAMPLES

- 我想叫一籠蝦餃。
ngo5 soeng2 giu3 jat1 lung4 haa1 gaau2.
I want to order one basket of har gow.
- 呢間酒樓嘅蝦餃皮薄餡靚。
ni1 gaan1 zau2 lau4 ge3 haa1 gaau2 pei4 bok6 haam6 leng3.
The har gow at this restaurant has thin wrappers and good filling.
- 蝦餃要趁熱食，凍咗就冇咁好味。
haa1 gaau2 jiu3 can3 jit6 sik6, dung3 zo2 zau6 mou5 gam3 hou2 mei6.
Har gow should be eaten while hot; once it gets cold, it is not as tasty.
- 我哋飲茶通常會叫燒賣同蝦餃。
ngo5 dei6 jam2 caa4 tung1 soeng4 wui5 giu3 siu1 maa2 tung4 haa1 gaau2.
When we go for yum cha, we usually order siu mai and har gow.
- 呢籠蝦餃入面有成隻蝦，好彈牙。
ni1 lung4 haa1 gaau2 jap6 min6 jau5 seng4 zek3 haa1, hou2 daan6 ngaa4.
This basket of har gow has whole shrimp inside; it has a nice springy texture.

燒賣

siu1 maai6

shumai (shao mai) steamed dumpling

燒賣

- **Meaning:** siu mai / shumai, a steamed dumpling commonly served at dim sum.
- **Jyutping:** [siu1 maai6](#) in the dictionary entry; many natural examples use [siu1 maai2](#), a common spoken pronunciation for the dim sum item.
- **Usage:** used as a noun. It can refer to siu mai generally, or to a portion/order of siu mai in a restaurant.
- **Register:** neutral and everyday. Very common in dim sum, tea restaurant, and Hong Kong food contexts.

COMMON PATTERNS

- 一籠燒賣 [jat1 lung4 siu1 maai2](#) — one bamboo steamer basket of siu mai
- 兩籠燒賣 [loeng5 lung4 siu1 maai2](#) — two baskets of siu mai
- 魚肉燒賣 [jyu4 juk6 siu1 maai2](#) — fish-meat siu mai
- 點心 [dim2 sam1](#) — dim sum; 燒賣 is one of the classic items

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 嚟多兩籠燒賣！
[lai4 do1 loeng5 lung4 siu1 maai2!](#)
Bring two more baskets of siu mai, please!
- 燒賣係我嘅至愛點心。
[siu1 maai2 hai6 ngo5 ge3 zi3 oi3 dim2 sam1.](#)
Siu mai is my favorite dim sum.

菠蘿包

bo1 lo4 baau1

a pineapple bun, where the top of it is made to resemble a pineapple; pineapple bun, a sweet bun popular esp. in Hong Kong (typically does not contain pineapple – the name comes from the rough top crust which resembles pineapple skin)

a pineapple bun, where the top of it is made to resemble a pineapple · pineapple bun, a sweet bun popular esp. in Hong Kong (typically does not contain pineapple – the name comes from the rough top crust which resembles pineapple skin)

菠蘿包

Jyutping: bo1 lo4 baau1

MEANING

- **Pineapple bun:** a sweet Hong Kong-style bun with a cracked, golden crust on top.
- **Important:** it usually does **not** contain pineapple. The name comes from the crust, which looks a little like pineapple skin.

USAGE NOTES

- **Register:** neutral and everyday. Common in bakeries, cafés, and especially 茶餐廳.
- **Classifier:** usually 個, as in 一個菠蘿包.
- **Related word:** 菠蘿油 is a pineapple bun served with a thick slice of butter inside.

煎堆

zin1 deoi1

(n.) Jin deui, a deep-fried Chinese pastry - glutinous rice ball coated with white sesame

煎堆 ZIN1 DEOI1

Meaning: a deep-fried Chinese pastry: a chewy glutinous rice ball coated with white sesame seeds. It is especially associated with Cantonese Lunar New Year food.

USAGE NOTES

- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Common verbs:** 食煎堆 sik6 zin1 deoi1 "eat jin deui", 買煎堆 maai5 zin1 deoi1 "buy jin deui", 整煎堆 zing2 zin1 deoi1 "make jin deui".
- **Common measure word:** 個, as in 一個煎堆 jat1 go3 zin1 deoi1 "one jin deui".
- **Nuance:** The word is ordinary and food-related, but it often carries a festive, auspicious feeling because 煎堆 is commonly eaten around Lunar New Year.

AUSPICIOUS SAYINGS

- 煎堆轆轆，金銀滿屋。 zin1 deoi1 luk1 luk1, gam1 ngan4 mun5 uk1.
"Round jin deui rolling along; gold and silver fill the house." This is a New Year blessing linking the round pastry with wealth and fullness.
- 年晚煎堆，人有我有。 nin4 maan5 zin1 deoi1, jan4 jau5 ngo5 jau5.
"New Year's Eve jin deui: other people have it, so I have it too." This refers to 煎堆 as a common seasonal food that many households prepare or buy.

腸粉

coeng4 fan2

rice noodle roll, a roll made from sheets of rice flour dough, steamed and stuffed with meat, vegetables etc

腸粉

- **Meaning:** rice noodle roll; thin sheets of steamed rice-flour batter rolled up, sometimes plain and sometimes filled with meat, shrimp, or vegetables.
- **Jyutping:** coeng4 fan2 in the dictionary entry. The examples also show the common food-name pronunciation coeng2 fan2.
- **Usage:** A very common Cantonese food word, especially in dim sum, breakfast, and street-food contexts. It is casual and everyday, not formal.
- **Classifier:** 碟 is common when ordering or talking about a serving: 一碟腸粉 "a plate of rice noodle rolls."

NOTES FOR LEARNERS

- 腸粉 usually means the food, not literal "intestine powder." The character 腸 relates to the rolled, tube-like shape.
- 豬腸粉 refers to plain rice noodle rolls without fillings. It does not normally mean that pork intestine is inside.
- 布拉腸粉 means handmade rice noodle rolls, usually made by stretching or steaming the rice-flour sheet by hand.
- At yum cha or in a Chinese restaurant, you can say 叫碟腸粉, meaning "order a plate of rice noodle rolls."

咸水角

haam4 seoi2 gok3

pork and vegetable deep fried puff

咸水角 HAAM4 SEOI2 GOK3

Meaning: a savoury deep-fried glutinous rice puff or dumpling, usually filled with minced pork and vegetables. It is a common Cantonese dim sum item.

KEY USAGE NOTES

- **Food noun:** 咸水角 refers to the whole fried dim sum item, not just the filling.
- **Typical context:** ordering, describing, or asking about dim sum food.
- **Register:** neutral and everyday; suitable in restaurants and casual conversation.
- **Classifier:** commonly used with 個 go3 for one piece, or 碟 dip6 for a plate/order.
- **Note:** Do not translate it literally from the characters. In normal usage, it means this specific fried dim sum puff.

EXAMPLES

- 媽咪，咸水角入面一粒粒嗰啲係乜嘢嚟㗎？
maa1 mi4, haam4 seoi2 gok3 jap6 min6 jat1 nap1 nap1 go2 di1 hai6 mat1 je5 lai4 gaa3?
Mum, what are those little bits inside the ham sui gok?
- 我想叫一碟咸水角。
ngo5 soeng2 giu3 jat1 dip6 haam4 seoi2 gok3.
I'd like to order a plate of ham sui gok.

乾炒牛河

gon1 caau2 ngau4 ho4

stir-fried beef rice noodle

乾炒牛河

Jyutping: gon1 caau2 ngau4 ho2 / gon1 caau2 ngau4 ho4

Meaning: dry-fried beef flat rice noodles; beef chow fun.

EXPLANATION

- 乾炒 means “dry-fried”: the noodles are stir-fried, usually with soy sauce, without a soupy or saucy gravy.
- 牛 means “beef.”
- 河 is short for 河粉, flat rice noodles.
- This is a common Cantonese restaurant and cha chaan teng dish name. It is neutral in register and very natural on menus or when ordering food.
- The supplied card data lists **ho4** in the dictionary entry, while the examples consistently use **ho2**. For this cheatsheet, **gon1 caau2 ngau4 ho2** is the pronunciation shown in the example sentences.

USAGE NOTES

- Use 一碟乾炒牛河 for “one plate of beef chow fun.”
- When ordering, 唔該 makes the request polite and natural.
- 乾炒牛河 refers to the dish as a whole, not simply “beef” plus “noodles” separately.

EXAMPLES

- 乾炒牛河。
gon1 caau2 ngau4 ho2.
Beef chow fun.

糯米雞

no6 mai5 gai1

a common Chinese dim sum dish made from sticky rice, Chinese mushrooms, chicken, Chinese pork sausage etc. wrapped and steamed in a lotus leaf

糯米雞 (NO6 MAI5 GAI1)

- **Meaning:** a Cantonese dim sum dish made with sticky rice, chicken, Chinese mushrooms, Chinese sausage, and other fillings, wrapped in a lotus leaf and steamed.
- **Usage:** This is a food name, used in everyday Cantonese when ordering dim sum or talking about tea restaurants and dim sum restaurants.
- **Nuance:** Although 雞 means “chicken,” 糯米雞 refers to the whole sticky-rice parcel, not just chicken. It is usually filling and savory.
- **Related word:** 珍珠雞 is commonly understood as a smaller or mini version of 糯米雞.

EXAMPLES

- 我想叫一個糯米雞。
ngo5 soeng2 giu3 jat1 go3 no6 mai5 gai1.
I want to order a lo mai gai.
- 呢間茶樓嘅糯米雞好足料，有冬菇同臘腸。
ni1 gaan1 caa4 lau4 ge3 no6 mai5 gai1 hou2 zuk1 liu6, jau5 dung1 gu1 tung4 laap6 coeng2.
The lo mai gai at this dim sum restaurant is generously filled, with mushrooms and Chinese sausage.

雞蛋仔

gai1 daan6 zai2

egg puff

雞蛋仔

Jyutping: gai1 daan6 zai2

Meaning: egg puff; egg waffle

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 雞蛋仔 is the everyday Cantonese name for the popular Hong Kong snack made of connected, round, egg-shaped bubbles.
- **Egg puff** and **egg waffle** are two English names for the same snack here; they are not separate senses.
- The word may refer to the snack generally or to a serving of it. A common quantity expression is 一底雞蛋仔 (jat1 dai2 gai1 daan6 zai2), meaning "one sheet" or "one serving of egg waffles."
- 仔 is part of the established name. It gives the expression a familiar Cantonese flavor and should not be interpreted literally as "a small egg" in normal usage.
- This is a neutral, everyday food term, especially associated with Hong Kong street-food stalls.

EXAMPLES

- 我要一底新鮮出爐嘅雞蛋仔。

ngo5 jiu3 jat1 dai2 san1 sin1 ceot1 lou4 ge3 gai1 daan6 zai2

I'd like one serving of freshly made egg waffles.

菠蘿油

bo1 lo4 jau4

pineapple bun with butter; pineapple bun 菠蘿包|菠萝包 [bo1 lo2 bao1] with a slice of butter inserted

pineapple bun with butter · pineapple bun 菠蘿包|菠萝包[bo1 lo2 bao1] with a slice of butter inserted

菠蘿油

Jyutping: bo1 lo4 jau4

MEANING

- **A pineapple bun with a thick slice of butter inside.** It is essentially a 菠蘿包 (pineapple bun) served with butter.
- Despite its name, it does not normally contain pineapple. The bun is named for its sweet, cracked topping, which resembles pineapple skin.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 菠蘿油 is an everyday Hong Kong Cantonese food term commonly heard in 茶餐廳 (Hong Kong-style cafés).
- The usual measure word is 個: 一個菠蘿油 means "one pineapple bun with butter."
- It is best understood as a shortened food name: 菠蘿包夾牛油, "a pineapple bun filled with butter." Here, 油 refers to the butter rather than cooking oil.
- On a menu, 菠蘿包 is the plain bun, while 菠蘿油 specifically includes a slice of butter.

叉燒包

caa1 siu1 baau1

steamed bun stuffed with skewer-roasted pork

叉燒包

Jyutping: caa1 siu1 baau1

Meaning: a steamed bun filled with sweet and savory Cantonese barbecued pork, or [char siu](#). It is a common dim sum dish.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 叉燒 (caa1 siu1) means Cantonese barbecued pork, traditionally roasted on skewers.
- 包 (baau1) means a bun. Here it refers to the soft, steamed exterior surrounding the pork filling.
- The word is an everyday, neutral noun used in restaurants, bakeries, and casual conversation.
- The usual classifier is 個 (go3): 兩個叉燒包 means "two char siu buns." At dim sum, 一籠 (jat1 lung4), "one steamer basket," is also common.
- An unmodified 叉燒包 usually means the steamed dim sum version. A baked version may be called 焗叉燒包 (guk6 caa1 siu1 baau1) or 叉燒餐包 (caa1 siu1 caan1 baau1).

EXAMPLES

- 我想要兩個叉燒包，唔該。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 loeng5 go3 caa1 siu1 baau1, m4 goi1.
I would like two char siu buns, please.

流沙包

lau4 saa1 baau1

an egg custard bun with a runny centre; salted egg custard bun; lava bun (steamed bun with a sweet runny egg custard filling, a popular dim sum)

an egg custard bun with a runny centre · salted egg custard bun; lava bun (steamed bun with a sweet runny egg custard filling, a popular dim sum)

流沙包 LAU4 SAA1 BAAU1

Meaning: a steamed bun filled with sweet, rich, runny custard, usually made with salted egg yolk. Common English names include [salted egg custard bun](#) and [lava bun](#).

USAGE AND NUANCE

- **流沙** describes the warm filling flowing out like “lava.” It does not mean that the bun contains sand.
- **流沙包** is a popular dim sum dish. The filling is normally both sweet and slightly salty, with a strong salted-egg-yolk flavor.
- Do not automatically confuse it with **奶黃包** [naai5 wong4 baau1](#), a custard bun whose filling is often thicker and may not contain salted egg yolk.
- The word is neutral and natural in both speech and writing. Use **個** for one bun and **籠** for a steamer basket: **一個流沙包** or **一籠流沙包**.
- **流沙包** is usually served hot, so speakers often say **趁熱食**—“eat it while it is hot.”

蘿蔔糕

lo4 baak6 gou1

radish cake (a type of dim sum, commonly called "turnip cake")

蘿蔔糕

Jyutping: lo4 baak6 gou1

Meaning: radish cake, commonly called [turnip cake](#) in English. It is a savory Cantonese cake made primarily with shredded Chinese radish (daikon) and rice flour. It is often served as dim sum and is especially popular during Chinese New Year.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 蘿蔔 (lo4 baak6) means "radish" or "Chinese radish."
- 糕 (gou1) refers broadly to a cake or pudding-like food; here it does not mean a sweet Western-style cake.
- 蘿蔔糕 is usually understood as a savory dish, often containing ingredients such as Chinese sausage (臘腸) and served pan-fried in slices.
- The word is neutral and natural in both conversation and writing.
- Useful measure words include 底 (dai2) for a whole cake, 件 (gin6) for a piece, and 盤 (pun4) for a tray or plate.

EXAMPLES

- 兩盤蘿蔔糕。
loeng5 pun4 lo4 baak6 gou1
Two trays of turnip cake.

煲仔飯

bou1 zai2 faan6

a dish where rice is cooked in the clay pot

煲仔飯

Jyutping: bou1 zai2 faan6

Meaning: clay-pot rice—a dish in which rice is cooked in a clay pot, usually with meat or other toppings. The cooking method often produces a prized layer of browned, crispy rice at the bottom.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 煲仔飯 is the standard Cantonese name for the dish and is used in both everyday conversation and restaurant menus.
- It is a neutral, common food term rather than a formal expression.
- Natural English translations include [clay-pot rice](#) and [Cantonese clay-pot rice](#).
- The crispy rice crust is called 飯焦 (faan6 ziu1). It forms at the bottom of the pot and is often considered one of the best parts of the dish.
- 一煲煲仔飯 (jat1 bou1 bou1 zai2 faan6) means “one pot of clay-pot rice,” while 一個煲仔飯 (jat1 go3 bou1 zai2 faan6) is also common when ordering one serving.

EXAMPLES

- 呢個煲仔飯好和味！

ni1 go3 bou1 zai2 faan6 hou2 wo4 mei6!

This clay-pot rice is really delicious!

和味 describes food as tasty or appetizing.

奶黃包

naai5 wong4 baau1

custard bun

奶黃包

Jyutping: naai5 wong4 baau1

Meaning: custard bun—a soft, steamed Chinese bun filled with sweet, creamy egg custard.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 奶黃 refers to the sweet yellow custard filling, while 包 means “bun.”
- 奶黃包 is commonly served as a dim sum dish or sweet snack.
- The usual classifier is 個 (go3); 一籠 (jat1 lung4) means “one steamer basket.”
- The term is neutral and suitable in both everyday conversation and restaurant settings.
- Do not automatically equate it with 流沙包 (lau4 saa1 baau1), which normally has a runnier “molten” filling, often made with salted egg yolk.

EXAMPLES

- 奶黃包好高卡路里㗎。
naai5 wong4 baau1 hou2 gou1 kaa1 lou6 lei5 gaa3.
Custard buns are high in calories.
- 我想要一籠奶黃包。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 lung4 naai5 wong4 baau1.
I'd like one basket of custard buns.

春卷

ceon1 gyun2

egg roll; spring roll

egg roll · spring roll

春卷 CEON1 GYUN2

Meaning: spring roll; egg roll

- 春卷 is a savoury filled wrapper that is rolled and usually deep-fried until crisp.
- **Spring roll** is the usual English translation. **Egg roll** is sometimes used in North American English for a similar, often larger roll with a thicker wrapper.
- The word is neutral and commonly used in everyday conversation, restaurant menus, and descriptions of dim sum or snacks.
- 炸春卷 (zaa3 ceon1 gyun2) explicitly means "fried spring rolls." A common measure word is 條 (tiu4): 一條春卷, "one spring roll."

WORD BREAKDOWN

- 春 (ceon1) — spring, the season
- 卷 (gyun2) — a roll or something rolled up

Although the parts literally suggest a "spring roll," 春卷 is the established name of the food and should be learned as a complete expression.

NATURAL EXAMPLES

- 好多人鍾意食山竹牛肉、春卷點噏汁。

hou2 do1 jan4 zung1 ji3 sik6 saan1 zuk1 ngau4 juk6, ceon1 gyun2 dim2 gip1 zap1.

Many people like dipping steamed beef balls or spring rolls in Worcestershire sauce.

橙

caang4*2 caang4

(fruit) orange; orange tree; an alternative form of 凳, stool

(fruit) orange · orange tree · an alternative form of 凳, stool

- **Meaning:** orange; an orange fruit.
- **Also used in:** 橙色 (caang2 sik1), meaning "orange" as a color.
- **Measure word:** usually 個 (go3), as in 一個橙 "one orange."
- **Common related words:**
 - 橙汁 (caang2 zap1) — orange juice
 - 橙皮 (caang2 pei4) — orange peel
 - 橙色 (caang2 sik1) — the color orange

EXAMPLES

- 呢個橙好甜。

ni1 go3 caang2 hou2 tim4.

This orange is very sweet.

Use 呢個 for "this one," and 好甜 to describe sweet fruit.

- 我想買三個橙。

ngo5 soeng2 maai5 saam1 go3 caang2.

I want to buy three oranges.

三個橙 uses the measure word 個, which is natural for counting oranges.

蘋果

ping4 gwo2

Apple (American tech company)

- **Meaning:** apple; the fruit. In the right context, it can also mean Apple, the technology company.
- **Jyutping:** ping4 gwo2
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Classifier:** 個, as in 一個蘋果 — one apple.

USAGE NOTES

- 蘋果 normally refers to the fruit unless the sentence is clearly about phones, computers, apps, or the company.
- Common combinations include 紅蘋果 red apple, 青蘋果 green apple, 蘋果汁 apple juice, and 蘋果批 apple pie.
- For eating fruit, Cantonese commonly uses 食: 食蘋果 means "to eat an apple."

EXAMPLES

- 我每日食一個蘋果。
 - **Jyutping:** ngo5 mui5 jat6 sik6 jat1 go3 ping4 gwo2.
 - **Meaning:** I eat an apple every day.
 - **Note:** 每日 means "every day," and 一個 is the natural way to count one apple.

生果

saang1 gwo2

(food) fruits

- **Jyutping:** saang1 gwo2
- **Meaning:** fruit; fruits
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Mandarin equivalent:** 水果
- **Usage:** A very common Hong Kong Cantonese word for fruit. It can refer to fruit in general or to multiple kinds/pieces of fruit.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我每日都食生果。
ngo5 mui5 jat6 dou1 sik6 saang1 gwo2
I eat fruit every day.
- 你鍾意食咩生果？
nei5 zung1 ji3 sik6 me1 saang1 gwo2?
What fruit do you like eating?
- 呢啲生果好新鮮。
ni1 di1 saang1 gwo2 hou2 san1 sin1
These fruits are very fresh.
- 媽媽喺街市買咗好多生果。
maa4 maa1 hai2 gaai1 si5 maa5 zo2 hou2 do1 saang1 gwo2
Mom bought a lot of fruit at the market.
- 雪櫃入面仲有冇生果？
syut3 gwai6 jap6 min6 zung6 jau5 mou5 saang1 gwo2?
Is there still any fruit in the fridge?

檸檬

ning4 mung1

(slang) refuse; lemon

(slang) refuse · lemon

- **Meaning:** lemon
- **Jyutping:** ning4 mung1
- **Common Hong Kong pronunciation:** ling4 mung1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Useful measure words:** 一個檸檬 = one lemon; 一片檸檬 = one slice of lemon

EXAMPLES

- 我想要一杯凍檸茶，少甜。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 bui1 dung3 ling4 caa4, siu2 tim4.
I would like an iced lemon tea, less sweet.
- 呢個檸檬好酸。
ni1 go3 ling4 mung1 hou2 syun1.
This lemon is very sour.
- 你可唔可以加一片檸檬？
nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gaa1 jat1 pin3 ling4 mung1?
Can you add a slice of lemon?
- 檸檬水好清新，夏天飲好舒服。
ling4 mung1 sei2 hou2 cing1 san1, haa6 tin1 jam2 hou2 syu1 fuk6.
Lemon water is very refreshing; it feels nice to drink in summer.
- 我用檸檬汁整沙律醬。
ngo5 jung6 ling4 mung1 zap1 zing2 saa1 leot6 zoeng3.
I use lemon juice to make salad dressing.

水果

seoi2 gwo2

fruit

- **Meaning:** fruit; fruits
- **Jyutping:** seoi2 gwo2
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage note:** 水果 is standard and widely understood. In everyday spoken Cantonese, people also commonly say 生果 sang1 gwo2.

EXAMPLES

- 我每日都食水果。
ngo5 mui5 jat6 dou1 sik6 seoi2 gwo2.
I eat fruit every day.
Explanation: A simple daily-habit sentence. 食水果 means "to eat fruit."
- 呢度啲水果好新鮮。
ni1 dou6 di1 seoi2 gwo2 hou2 san1 sin1.
The fruit here is very fresh.
Explanation: 啲 marks a plural or general amount, like "the/some fruit." 新鮮 means "fresh."
- 你鍾意食咩水果？
nei5 zung1 ji3 sik6 me1 seoi2 gwo2?
What fruit do you like to eat?
Explanation: 咩 means "what." This is a natural question for preferences.

西瓜

sai1 gwaa1

watermelon

- **Meaning:** watermelon
- **Jyutping:** sai1 gwaa1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage note:** Use 個 for a whole watermelon, 片 for slices, and 杯 for watermelon juice.

EXAMPLES

- 呢個西瓜好甜。

nei1 go3 sai1 gwaa1 hou2 tim4

This watermelon is very sweet.

Explanation: 呢個 means "this one," and 好甜 means "very sweet." This is a simple sentence for describing fruit quality.

- 我想買一個西瓜。

ngo5 soeng2 maai5 jat1 go3 sai1 gwaa1

I want to buy a watermelon.

Explanation: 一個西瓜 means "one watermelon." The classifier 個 is natural for a whole watermelon.

- 可唔可以切幾片西瓜畀我？

ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 cit3 gei2 pin3 sai1 gwaa1 bei2 ngo5

Could you cut a few slices of watermelon for me?

Explanation: 可唔可以 is a polite "could you," 切 means "cut," and 幾片 means "a few slices."

香蕉

hoeng1 ziu1

banana

- **Jyutping:** hoeng1 ziu1
- **Meaning:** banana
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Common classifiers:** 一條香蕉 or 一隻香蕉, meaning "one banana." 條 emphasizes the long shape; 隻 treats it as one food item.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想食香蕉。
ngo5 soeng2 sik6 hoeng1 ziu1
I want to eat a banana.
- 呢條香蕉好熟。
ni1 tiu4 hoeng1 ziu1 hou2 suk6
This banana is very ripe.
- 呢啲香蕉未熟，仲有啲青。
ni1 di1 hoeng1 ziu1 mei6 suk6, zung6 jau5 di1 ceng1
These bananas are not ripe yet; they are still a bit green.
- 香蕉皮好跔，小心啲。
hoeng1 ziu1 pei4 hou2 sin2, siu2 sam1 di1
Banana peels are slippery, so be careful.
- 佢每日朝早都食一條香蕉。
keoi5 mui5 jat6 ziu1 zou2 dou1 sik6 jat1 tiu4 hoeng1 ziu1
He eats one banana every morning.

荔枝

lai6 zi1

litchi or lychee fruit (Litchi chinensis Sonn.)

- **Meaning:** lychee, a small tropical fruit with rough red skin, juicy white flesh, and a hard seed.
- **Jyutping:** lai6 zi1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Classifier:** 粒, as in 一粒荔枝, meaning "one lychee."

USAGE NOTES

- 荔枝 refers to both the fruit in general and individual lychees.
- In Cantonese, people usually say 食荔枝, meaning "to eat lychees."
- Common related words include 荔枝殼 "lychee skin," 荔枝肉 "lychee flesh," and 荔枝核 "lychee seed."

EXAMPLES

- 我好鍾意食荔枝。
ngo5 hou2 zung1 ji3 sik6 lai6 zi1
I really like eating lychees.
- 呢啲荔枝好甜。
ni1 di1 lai6 zi1 hou2 tim4
These lychees are very sweet.
- 幫我剝幾粒荔枝吖。
bong1 ngo5 mok1 gei2 nap1 lai6 zi1 aa1
Peel a few lychees for me, please.

梨

lei4

pear; opera

pear · opera

- **Meaning:** pear
- **Cantonese pronunciation:** lei4
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 梨 refers to the fruit “pear.” It is often used by itself, but it also appears in compounds such as 雪梨, a common type of pear used in drinks, soups, and desserts.

EXAMPLES

- 我鍾意食梨。
ngo5 zung1 ji3 sik6 lei4
I like eating pears.
- 呢個梨好甜。
nei1 go3 lei4 hou2 tim4
This pear is very sweet.
- 我買咗三個梨。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 saam1 go3 lei4
I bought three pears.
- 你要唔要食個梨？
nei5 jiu3 m4 jiu3 sik6 go3 lei4
Do you want to eat a pear?
- 雪梨可以用嚟煲湯。
syut3 lei4 ho2 ji5 jung6 lai4 bou1 tong1
Snow pears can be used for making soup.

士多啤梨

si6 do1 be1 lei4

(HK) (loanword) strawberry

- **Meaning:** strawberry.
- **Jyutping:** si6 do1 be1 lei2
- **Usage:** Common spoken Cantonese, especially in Hong Kong. The more formal written word is 草莓 cou2 mui4, but 士多啤梨 sounds more natural in everyday Cantonese speech.
- **Classifier:** usually 粒 for individual strawberries, or 盒 for a box.

EXAMPLES

- 我鍾意食士多啤梨。
ngo5 zung1 ji3 sik6 si6 do1 be1 lei2
I like eating strawberries.
- 呢啲士多啤梨好甜。
ni1 di1 si6 do1 be1 lei2 hou2 tim4
These strawberries are very sweet.
- 我買咗一盒士多啤梨。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 hap6 si6 do1 be1 lei2
I bought a box of strawberries.
- 呢粒士多啤梨有啲酸。
ni1 lap1 si6 do1 be1 lei2 jau5 di1 syun1
This strawberry is a little sour.
- 可唔可以加多啲士多啤梨？
ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gaa1 do1 di1 si6 do1 be1 lei2
Can you add more strawberries?

菠蘿

bo1 lo4

pineapple

- **Jyutping:** bo1 lo4
- **Meaning:** pineapple
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage:** The normal Cantonese word for a pineapple, used for the fruit itself and in food names such as 菠蘿包 "pineapple bun".

EXAMPLES

- 呢個菠蘿好甜。
ni1 go3 bo1 lo4 hou2 tim4.
This pineapple is very sweet.
- 我想買一個菠蘿。
ngo5 soeng2 maai5 jat1 go3 bo1 lo4.
I want to buy a pineapple.
- 你要唔要食菠蘿？
nei5 jiu3 m4 jiu3 sik6 bo1 lo4?
Do you want to eat pineapple?
- 呢杯菠蘿汁好新鮮。
ni1 bui1 bo1 lo4 zap1 hou2 san1 sin1.
This glass of pineapple juice is very fresh.
- 我鍾意食菠蘿炒飯。
ngo5 zung1 ji3 sik6 bo1 lo4 caau2 faan6.
I like eating pineapple fried rice.

榴槤

lau4 lin4

durian

- **Meaning:** durian; the large tropical fruit with a strong smell and rich, creamy flesh.
- **Jyutping:** lau4 lin4
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Common phrases:**
 - 食榴槤 — to eat durian
 - 榴槤味 — durian smell/flavour
 - 榴槤肉 — durian flesh
 - 開榴槤 — to open a durian
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, people often talk about 榴槤 as either very fragrant or very smelly, depending on personal taste. You may hear both 好香 and 好臭 used naturally.

EXAMPLES

- 我好鍾意食榴槤。
ngo5 hou2 zung1 ji3 sik6 lau4 lin4.
I really like eating durian.
- 你聞唔聞到陣榴槤味？
nei5 man4 m4 man4 dou2 zan6 lau4 lin4 mei6?
Can you smell that durian smell?

葡萄

pou4 tou4

grape

- **Meaning:** grape; grapes.
- **Jyutping:** pou4 tou4
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage note:** In everyday Hong Kong Cantonese, 提子 is very common for grapes you eat. 葡萄 is still correct and is especially common in writing and in compounds such as 葡萄酒 wine, 葡萄乾 raisins, and 葡萄糖 glucose.

EXAMPLES

- 我買咗一串葡萄。

ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 cyun3 pou4 tou4.

I bought a bunch of grapes.

一串 means "one bunch/cluster," the natural measure word for grapes still attached together.

- 呢啲葡萄好甜。

ni1 di1 pou4 tou4 hou2 tim4.

These grapes are very sweet.

呢啲 means "these," and 好甜 means "very sweet."

- 你鍾唔鍾意食葡萄？

nei5 zung1 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 pou4 tou4?

Do you like eating grapes?

鍾唔鍾意 is the yes/no question form of "like."

提子

tai4 zi2

to capture stones (in Go); grape; raisin

to capture stones (in Go) · grape · raisin

- **Jyutping:** tai4 zi2
- **Meaning:** grape; grapes, especially fresh grapes.
- **Usage:** Very common in Hong Kong Cantonese. In Mandarin, the usual word is 葡萄.
- **Note:** 提子 usually means fresh grapes. Raisins are 提子乾 or 葡萄乾.

COMMON PHRASES

- 一粒提子 — one grape
- 一串提子 — a bunch of grapes
- 青提 — green grapes
- 紅提 — red grapes
- 黑提 — black grapes
- 提子乾 — raisins

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我買咗一串提子。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 cyun3 tai4 zi2
I bought a bunch of grapes.
- 呢啲提子好甜。
ni1 di1 tai4 zi2 hou2 tim4
These grapes are very sweet.

芒果

mong4*1 gwo2

(loanword) mango

芒果

Meaning: mango; a loanword used for the fruit and mango-flavoured foods or drinks.

Jyutping: commonly [mong1 gwo2](#). The reference pronunciation [mong4*1 gwo2](#) marks a tone-changed reading: 芒 surfaces as tone 1 in this word.

USAGE NOTES

- 芒果 is a normal everyday Cantonese noun. It is not formal or literary.
- It can refer to the fruit itself, or act like a modifier meaning “mango” in food names.
- In Cantonese food culture, people may say 食芒果好濕熱, meaning mango is considered “heaty” in traditional body-balance terms. This is a cultural usage, not a literal weather description.

COMMON COMBINATIONS

- 芒果汁 [mong1 gwo2 zap1](#) — mango juice
- 芒果乾 [mong1 gwo2 gon1](#) — dried mango
- 芒果布甸 [mong1 gwo2 bou3 din1](#) — mango pudding
- 芒果糯米糍 [mong1 gwo2 no6 mai5 ci4](#) — mango glutinous rice dumpling

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想買兩個芒果。
[ngo5 soeng2 maai5 loeng5 go3 mong1 gwo2](#).
I want to buy two mangoes.

木瓜

muk6 gwaa1

papaya (*Carica papaya*); genus *Chaenomeles* of shrubs in the family Rosaceae; Chinese flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*)

papaya (*Carica papaya*) · genus *Chaenomeles* of shrubs in the family Rosaceae · Chinese flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*)

木瓜 (MUK6 GWAA1)

Core meaning: 木瓜 most commonly means **papaya** in everyday Cantonese.

- **Papaya:** The normal food meaning, used for the fruit, drinks, desserts, and soups.
- **Chinese flowering quince / *Chaenomeles*:** A more botanical or dictionary sense. In ordinary conversation, listeners will usually assume “papaya” unless the context is about plants, herbs, or taxonomy.
- **Slang nuance:** In expressions such as 木瓜鮮奶, it can literally mean “papaya milk,” but it may also be used as a crude or sexualized joke about large breasts. Avoid using it about a person unless that tone is intended.

USAGE NOTES

- 木瓜 is neutral and common when talking about food.
- In Cantonese food culture, papaya may be described as 涼 (loeng4), meaning “cooling” in the traditional food-nature sense, not physically cold.
- Common combinations include 木瓜糖水 “papaya sweet soup” and 木瓜鮮奶 “papaya milk.”

車厘子

ce1 lei4 zi2

(loanword) sweet cherry

車厘子

Jyutping: ce1 lei4 zi2

Meaning: sweet cherry; the familiar small, round red or dark-red fruit.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 車厘子 is a loanword based on the English word [cherry](#).
- It is the usual everyday term in Hong Kong Cantonese, especially when discussing fresh cherries in shops, markets, recipes, or meals.
- 櫻桃 (jing1 tou4) also means "cherry," but it is more common in written Chinese and can refer more broadly to cherries or cherry plants.
- Use 粒 for individual cherries, 盒 for a box, and 磅 when buying them by weight.

EXAMPLES

- 你有冇買車厘子呀？—冇，個舖頭嗰度冇得買。
 nei5 jau5 mou5 maai5 ce1 lei4 zi2 aa3? — mou5, go3 pou3 tau4 go2 dou6 mou5 dak1 maai5.
 "Did you buy any cherries?" "No, they weren't available at that shop."
- 我買咗一盒車厘子。
 ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 hap6 ce1 lei4 zi2.
 I bought a box of cherries.
- 呢啲車厘子又甜又多汁。
 ni1 di1 ce1 lei4 zi2 jau6 tim4 jau6 do1 zap1.
 These cherries are sweet and juicy.

提子乾

tai4 zi2 gon1

noun; raisins

提子乾

Jyutping: tai4 zi2 gon1

Meaning: raisins; dried grapes

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 提子 means "grape," while 乾 means "dry" or "dried."
- 提子乾 is an everyday Hong Kong Cantonese noun. It can refer to raisins generally or to individual raisins.
- Common classifiers include 粒 for individual raisins and 包 for a packet: 一粒提子乾 and 一包提子乾.
- 葡萄乾 (pou4 tou4 gon1) has the same meaning and is common in writing and Mandarin-influenced contexts. In casual Hong Kong Cantonese, 提子乾 is especially natural.
- The supplied fragment 葡提子乾 is not a standard standalone expression. Use 提子乾 or 葡萄乾 for "raisins."

EXAMPLES

- 我整燕麥曲奇嗰陣會加啲提子乾。
ngo5 zing2 jin3 mak6 kuk1 kei4 go2 zan6 wui5 gaa1 di1 tai4 zi2 gon1
I add some raisins when I make oatmeal cookies.
- 呢款麵包入面有提子乾同合桃。
ni1 fun2 min6 baau1 jap6 min6 jau5 tai4 zi2 gon1 tung4 hap6 tou4
This type of bread contains raisins and walnuts.

菜

coi3

(slang) symbolic character of lazy or girl; dish (type of food); vegetable; cuisine

(slang) symbolic character of lazy or girl · dish (type of food) · vegetable · cuisine · 道 dào [道] · (coll.) (one's) type · a prostitute · a sexually attractive girl · young woman · a girlfriend · an ox · beef · vegetable; greens · (of one's skills etc) weak; poor

- **Core meaning:** vegetable; vegetables; greens.

In everyday Cantonese, 菜 often refers to vegetables as food, especially leafy greens.

- **Extended meaning:** dish; cooked food item; cuisine.

When talking about restaurant food or styles of cooking, 菜 can mean a dish or a type of cuisine.

COMMON WORDS

- 青菜 (ceng1 coi3) — green vegetables; leafy greens
- 蔬菜 (so1 coi3) — vegetables; a more formal word
- 菜心 (coi3 sam1) — choy sum
- 白菜 (baak6 coi3) — bok choy; Chinese cabbage
- 生菜 (saang1 coi3) — lettuce
- 菜單 (coi3 daan1) — menu
- 菜式 (coi3 sik1) — dish; style of dish
- 粵菜 (jyut6 coi3) — Cantonese cuisine
- 點菜 (dim2 coi3) — to order dishes

芹

kan4

Chinese celery

- **Meaning:** celery; a celery-like herb or vegetable.
In Cantonese, 芹 is usually not used alone in everyday speech. It most often appears in compound words such as 芹菜, 西芹, and 唐芹.
- **Common word:** 芹菜 kan4 coi3 — celery.
- **Note:** Do not confuse 芹菜 with 芫茜 jyun4 sai1, which means cilantro / coriander.

USEFUL CANTONESE WORDS

- 芹菜 kan4 coi3 — celery
- 西芹 sai1 kan4 — Western celery; thick-stalk celery
- 唐芹 tong4 kan4 — Chinese celery; thinner, stronger-tasting celery
- 水芹 seoi2 kan4 — water celery

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我唔鍾意芹菜陣味。
ngo5 m4 zung1 ji3 kan4 coi3 zan6 mei6
I don't like the smell of celery.
- 炒牛肉可以落少少西芹。
caau2 ngau4 yuk6 ho2 ji5 lok6 siu2 siu2 sai1 kan4
You can add a little celery when stir-frying beef.

豆腐

dau6 fu6

tofu; bean curd

tofu · bean curd

- **Jyutping:** dau6 fu6
- **Meaning:** tofu; bean curd.
- **Usage:** A common food word in Cantonese. It can refer to soft tofu, firm tofu, fried tofu, or tofu used in soups, stir-fries, and steamed dishes.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我今晚想食麻婆豆腐。
ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 sik6 maa4 po4 dau6 fu6
I want to eat mapo tofu tonight.
Note: 食 means "to eat," and 麻婆豆腐 is the common name for mapo tofu.
- 呢舊豆腐好滑。
ni1 gau6 dau6 fu6 hou2 waat6
This piece of tofu is very smooth.
Note: 舊 is a natural Cantonese measure word for a piece or block of tofu.
- 你要唔要加啲炸豆腐？
nei5 jiu3 m4 jiu3 gaa1 di1 zaa3 dau6 fu6
Do you want to add some fried tofu?
Note: 要唔要 is the Cantonese "do you want?" question pattern.
- 豆腐可以煎、蒸、煮湯。
dau6 fu6 ho2 ji5 zin1, zing1, zyu2 tong1
Tofu can be pan-fried, steamed, or cooked in soup.
Note: This sentence is useful for describing cooking methods.



dau2

legume; pulse; bean; pea (variant of 豆[dou4]); (old) stemmed cup or bowl

legume; pulse; bean; pea (variant of 豆[dou4]) · (old) stemmed cup or bowl

Core meaning: bean, pea, or seed from a legume plant. In Cantonese, 豆 is also used in many food words for bean-based ingredients and small bean-like items.

- 一粒豆 jat1 nap1 dau6 — one bean
Use 粒 as the common measure word because beans are small, round items.
- 紅豆 hung4 dau6 — red bean
Often used in desserts, soups, and sweet fillings.
- 綠豆 luk6 dau6 — mung bean / green bean
Common in sweet soups and drinks.
- 黃豆 wong4 dau6 — soybean
The bean used to make tofu, soy milk, and many soy products.
- 咖啡豆 gaa3 fe1 dau6 — coffee bean
Here 豆 means a small seed or bean-like item, not necessarily a legume.
- 豆腐 dau6 fu6 — tofu
Literally bean curd; made from soybeans.
- 豆漿 dau6 zoeng1 — soy milk
A drink made from soybeans.



goeng1

ginger

- **Meaning:** 薑 means "ginger," especially the edible root used in cooking, tea, soups, and marinades.
- **Pronunciation:** Jyutping: **goeng1**, with a high level tone.
- **Note:** In Traditional Chinese, 薑 is the usual character for ginger. 姜 is often a surname, and is also the Simplified Chinese form for ginger.

COMMON WORDS

- 薑片 (goeng1 pin2) — ginger slices
- 薑汁 (goeng1 zap1) — ginger juice
- 薑茶 (goeng1 caa4) — ginger tea
- 薑蔥 (goeng1 cung1) — ginger and scallion, a very common Cantonese flavor combination
- 老薑 (lou5 goeng1) — mature ginger, usually stronger and spicier

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我煲湯會落幾片薑。

Jyutping: ngo5 bou1 tong1 wui5 lok6 gei2 pin2 goeng1.

Meaning: I add a few slices of ginger when making soup.

Explanation: 落 means "to add" or "to put in" when talking about ingredients.

薯仔

syu4 zai2

(n.) potato; (slang) schmuck; (slang) someone with an out-of-date fashion style

- **Meaning:** potato
- **Jyutping:** syu4 zai2
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Register:** everyday Cantonese, especially common in Hong Kong
- **Literal sense:** "small tuber" or "little potato"; 仔 often makes nouns sound smaller or more casual.

USAGE NOTES

- 薯仔 is the normal Cantonese word for "potato" in daily speech.
- In Mandarin, "potato" is usually 土豆 or 馬鈴薯, but in Cantonese conversation 薯仔 is much more natural.
- 薯仔 can refer to the ingredient in general, one potato, or potatoes as a category. Context usually makes the number clear.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我買咗幾個薯仔。

ngo5 maai5 zo2 gei2 go3 syu4 zai2

I bought a few potatoes.

Explanation: 幾個 means "a few" and uses the classifier 個 for individual potatoes.

洋葱

joeng4 cung1

onion (Allium cepa); bulb onion

onion (Allium cepa) · bulb onion

- **Meaning:** onion
- **Jyutping:** joeng4 cung1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Traditional:** 洋葱
- **Simplified:** 洋葱

USAGE NOTES

- 洋葱 refers to the bulb vegetable "onion," commonly used in cooking.
- It can describe raw onion, cooked onion, onion slices, or onion flavor.
- In restaurant Cantonese, 走洋葱 means "without onion" or "leave out the onion."

EXAMPLES

- 我唔鍾意食生洋葱，覺得好辣。
ngo5 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 saang1 joeng4 cung1, gok3 dak1 hou2 laat6.
I don't like eating raw onion; I find it too sharp or spicy.
- 炒牛肉之前，可以先爆香洋葱。
caau2 ngau4 yuk6 zi1 cin4, ho2 ji5 sin1 baau3 hoeng1 joeng4 cung1.
Before stir-frying beef, you can first fry the onion until fragrant.
- 呢個湯有好多洋葱，所以味道好甜。
ni1 go3 tong1 jau5 hou2 do1 joeng4 cung1, so2 ji5 mei6 dou6 hou2 tim4.
This soup has a lot of onion, so the flavor is quite sweet.

白菜

baak6 coi3

Chinese cabbage, esp. napa cabbage (*Brassica rapa* subsp. *pekinensis*); sometimes used to refer to bok choy (*Brassica rapa* subsp. *chinensis*)

Chinese cabbage, esp. napa cabbage (*Brassica rapa* subsp. *pekinensis*) · sometimes used to refer to bok choy (*Brassica rapa* subsp. *chinensis*)

- **Meaning:** Chinese cabbage; bok choy / pak choy, depending on context.
- **Literal meaning:** “white vegetable” — 白 means “white” and 菜 means “vegetable.”
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 白菜 commonly refers to a leafy Chinese vegetable. For napa cabbage, people often say 大白菜 daai6 baak6 coi3. Ordinary round cabbage is usually 椰菜 je4 coi3.

EXAMPLES

- 我買咗一斤白菜。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 gan1 baak6 coi3.
I bought one catty of bok choy / Chinese cabbage.
- 今晚炒白菜食。
gam1 maan5 caau2 baak6 coi3 sik6.
We're having stir-fried bok choy tonight.
- 啲白菜好新鮮，葉都好青。
di1 baak6 coi3 hou2 san1 sin1, jip6 dou1 hou2 ceng1.
The bok choy is very fresh; the leaves are nice and green.

生菜

saang1 coi3

lettuce; raw fresh vegetables; greens

lettuce · raw fresh vegetables · greens

- **Jyutping:** saang1 coi3
- **Meaning:** lettuce
- **Literal sense:** 生 means "raw" or "fresh," and 菜 means "vegetable." In normal Cantonese, 生菜 specifically refers to lettuce, not just any raw vegetable.
- **Common measure words:** 一棵生菜 means "one head of lettuce"; 一片生菜 means "one lettuce leaf."

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想買一棵生菜。
ngo5 soeng2 maai5 jat1 fo1 saang1 coi3.
I want to buy a head of lettuce.
- 生菜要洗乾淨先食。
saang1 coi3 jiu3 sai2 gon1 zeng6 sin1 sik6.
Lettuce should be washed clean before eating.
- 呢個漢堡有好多生菜。
ni1 go3 hon3 bou2 jau5 hou2 do1 saang1 coi3.
This burger has a lot of lettuce.
- 可唔可以走生菜？
ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 zau2 saang1 coi3?
Can I have it without lettuce?

蔬菜

so1 coi3

vegetables

- **Jyutping:** so1 coi3
- **Meaning:** vegetables; edible plants eaten as food.
- **Usage note:** 蔬菜 is clear and correct, but it sounds a little formal. In everyday Cantonese, people often just say 菜 when the context is obvious.

EXAMPLES

- 我每日都食蔬菜。
ngo5 mui5 jat6 dou1 sik6 so1 coi3
I eat vegetables every day.
- 食多啲蔬菜對身體好。
sik6 do1 di1 so1 coi3 deoi3 san1 tai2 hou2
Eating more vegetables is good for your health.
- 呢個街市有好多新鮮蔬菜。
ni1 go3 gaai1 si5 jau5 hou2 do1 san1 sin1 so1 coi3
This market has a lot of fresh vegetables.
- 西蘭花、白菜同菠菜都係常見嘅蔬菜。
sai1 laan4 faa1, baak6 coi3 tung4 bo1 coi3 dou1 hai6 soeng4 gin3 ge3 so1 coi3
Broccoli, bok choy, and spinach are all common vegetables.
- 你鍾唔鍾意食綠葉蔬菜？
nei5 zung1 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 luk6 jip6 so1 coi3?
Do you like eating leafy vegetables?

NATURAL CANTONESE ALTERNATIVES

- 菜 coi3 — vegetables; also “dish/food” depending on context.

蕃茄

faan4 ke2

tomato

蕃茄

Meaning: tomato.

Jyutping: faan4 ke2. In everyday Cantonese, you may also hear faan1 ke2; the examples all point to the same meaning, "tomato."

USAGE NOTES

- 蕃茄 is a neutral, everyday word for tomatoes as food, an ingredient, or a plant.
- It appears often in food words, such as 蕃茄汁 faan4 ke2 zap1, meaning "tomato juice" or "tomato sauce," depending on context.
- Use 啲蕃茄 for "some tomatoes" or "the tomatoes" in casual speech.
- Common cooking combinations include 蕃茄薯仔 "tomato and potato" and 蕃茄湯 "tomato soup."

EXAMPLES

- 蕃茄汁
faan4 ke2 zap1
Tomato juice.
- 啲蕃茄好新鮮㗎。
di1 faan1 ke2 hou2 san1 sin1 wo3
The tomatoes are really fresh.
- 肉醬意粉啲汁用蕃茄整㗎。
juk6 zoeng3 ji3 fan2 di1 zap1 jung6 faan4 ke2 zing2 gaa2
The sauce for the spaghetti bolognese is made with tomatoes.

青瓜

ceng1 gwaa1

(dialect) cucumber

青瓜 CENG1 GWAA1

- **Meaning:** cucumber.
- **Usage:** A common everyday Cantonese word, especially in Hong Kong Cantonese. In more Mandarin-oriented written Chinese, you may also see 黃瓜, but 青瓜 is natural in Cantonese speech and casual writing.
- **Nuance:** Although the characters literally suggest “green melon,” the word simply means “cucumber.” The examples use it both as a food item and as a comparison for thickness.
- **Common classifier:** 條 tiu4 for one whole cucumber, because it is long and narrow.

EXAMPLES

- 老闆，我要條青瓜。
lou5 baan2, ngo5 jiu3 tiu4 ceng1 gwaa1.
Boss, I'd like a cucumber.
- 青瓜用嚟整沙律一流。
ceng1 gwaa1 jung6 lai4 zing2 saa1 leot2 jat1 lau4.
Cucumber is excellent for making salad.
- 我食緊青瓜。
ngo5 sik6 gan2 ceng1 gwaa1.
I'm eating cucumber.
- 嗰碌棍好似青瓜咁粗。
go2 luk1 gwan3 hou2 ci5 ceng1 gwaa1 gam3 cou1.
That stick is as thick as a cucumber.

西蘭花

sai1 laan4 faa1

broccoli

西蘭花 SAI1 LAAN4 FAA1

Meaning: broccoli.

- **Core sense:** 西蘭花 means the vegetable "broccoli." It is a normal, everyday Cantonese word used in both speech and writing.
- **Pronunciation:** sai1 laan4 faa1. The three syllables are pronounced separately and the word functions as one fixed noun.
- **Usage:** It can refer to broccoli in general, a whole head of broccoli, or cooked pieces/florets depending on context.
- **Common measure words:** 棵 is natural for a whole head or plant of broccoli, as in 一棵西蘭花 "one head of broccoli." For an unspecified amount, Cantonese often uses 啲, as in 啲西蘭花 "some broccoli."
- **Nuance:** The word is neutral and practical. It often appears with cooking verbs such as 炒 "stir-fry," 灼 "blanch," 蒸 "steam," and 滾一滾 "boil/blanch briefly."

EXAMPLES

- 西蘭花好有益㗎！
sai1 laan4 faa1 hou2 jau5 jik1 gaa3!
Broccoli is very healthy.
- 我今晚想炒西蘭花。
ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 caau2 sai1 laan4 faa1.
I want to stir-fry broccoli tonight.

菜心

coi3 sam1

choy sum; Chinese flowering cabbage; stem of any Chinese cabbage

choy sum · Chinese flowering cabbage · stem of any Chinese cabbage

菜心 COI3 SAM1

Meaning: choy sum; Chinese flowering cabbage; the tender stem or “heart” of a Chinese cabbage.

MAIN USES

- **Everyday meaning:** In Hong Kong Cantonese, 菜心 most commonly means [choy sum](#), a leafy green vegetable with tender stems and sometimes yellow flowers.
- **Food context:** It is often boiled, stir-fried, or added to soup. Common dishes include 白灼菜心 and 蒜蓉炒菜心.
- **Broader dictionary sense:** It can also refer to the tender central stem or heart of a Chinese cabbage, but learners will usually meet it as the vegetable [choy sum](#).
- **Register:** Neutral and everyday. Used in homes, markets, restaurants, and menus.

EXAMPLE FROM THE CARD

- 我老竇懶煲老火湯，通常滾個菜心魚蛋湯就算。
ngo5 lou5 dau6 laan5 bou1 lou5 fo2 tong1, tung1 soeng4 gwan2 go3 coi3 sam1 jyu4 daan2 tong1 zau6 syun3.
My dad is too lazy to simmer a long-boiled soup, so he usually just makes a quick choy-sum and fishball soup.

通菜

tung1 coi3

water spinach; ipomoea aquatica

通菜 TUNG1 COI3

- **Meaning:** water spinach; *Ipomoea aquatica*.
- **Usage:** A very common Cantonese food word for the leafy green often stir-fried in restaurants or at home.
- **Register:** Everyday spoken and written Cantonese. In menus, it often appears in dish names such as 腐乳炒通菜 or 馬拉盞炒通菜.
- **Note:** In 通菜街 tung1 coi3 gai1, the word is part of the proper noun "Tung Choi Street." That example is a place name, not a separate meaning of the vegetable word.

COMMON PATTERNS

- 炒通菜 caau2 tung1 coi3 — stir-fried water spinach
- 腐乳炒通菜 fu6 jyu5 caau2 tung1 coi3 — water spinach stir-fried with fermented bean curd
- 馬拉盞炒通菜 maa5 lai1 zaan2 caau2 tung1 coi3 — water spinach stir-fried with belacan
- 一碟通菜 jat1 dip6 tung1 coi3 — a plate of water spinach

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想食腐乳炒通菜。
ngo5 soeng2 sik6 fu6 jyu5 caau2 tung1 coi3.
I'd like to eat water spinach stir-fried with fermented bean curd.

蒜

syun3

garlic

蒜 SYUN3 — GARLIC

蒜 means **garlic**. In everyday Cantonese, 蒜頭 syun3 tau4 commonly refers to garlic or a whole bulb of garlic, while 蒜 often appears in compound words and cooking instructions.

COMMON WORDS AND PHRASES

- 蒜頭 syun3 tau4 — garlic; a bulb of garlic
- 一粒蒜 jat1 nap1 syun3 — a clove of garlic
- 蒜蓉 syun3 jung4 — finely minced or crushed garlic, especially as a cooking ingredient
- 蒜泥 syun3 nai4 — garlic mashed into a paste
- 大蒜 daai6 syun3 — garlic; a more formal or literary term than everyday 蒜頭
- 蒜泥白肉 syun3 nai4 baak6 juk6 — sliced boiled pork served with a garlic-based sauce

USAGE NOTES

- 蒜蓉 and 蒜泥 are related but not identical: 蒜蓉 is normally minced or crushed garlic, whereas 蒜泥 suggests a smoother, paste-like consistency.
- The classifier 粒 nap1 is used for an individual clove: 兩粒蒜 means "two cloves of garlic."
- In cooking, 爆一爆 means to fry something briefly over fairly high heat so that it releases its aroma.

辣椒

laat6 ziu1

hot pepper; chili

hot pepper · chili

辣椒

Jyutping: laat6 ziu1

Meaning: a hot pepper or chili pepper. It refers to the pepper itself and, by extension, the chili used to make foods spicy. Although [capsicum](#) can be a broad botanical term in English, 辣椒 normally suggests a hot chili in everyday Cantonese. Sweet bell peppers are more specifically called 甜椒 or 燈籠椒.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 辣 means “spicy” or “hot,” while 椒 refers to a pepper.
- 辣椒 is a neutral, everyday noun suitable for both conversation and writing.
- It commonly appears before another noun to describe a chili-based product.
- Do not confuse 辣椒, the chili pepper, with 辣, the adjective meaning “spicy.” For example, 呢隻辣椒好辣 means “This chili is very spicy.”

COMMON COMBINATIONS

- 辣椒醬 [laat6 ziu1 zoeng3](#) — chili sauce
- 辣椒粉 [laat6 ziu1 fan2](#) — chili powder
- 辣椒油 [laat6 ziu1 jau4](#) — chili oil
- 辣椒仔 [laat6 ziu1 zai2](#) — literally “little chili”; in Hong Kong, this is also a familiar name for Tabasco sauce, so the intended meaning depends on context.

菠菜

bo1 coi3

spinach; (slang) gambling; gambler (alternative term for 博彩[bo2 cai3])

spinach · (slang) gambling; gambler (alternative term for 博彩[bo2 cai3])

菠菜 BO1 COI3

Primary meaning: spinach.

- 菠菜 is the ordinary Cantonese word for the leafy green vegetable spinach.
- It is neutral in register and is common in recipes, restaurant menus, grocery shopping, and discussions about nutrition.
- Common combinations include 芝士菠菜 (spinach and cheese), 炒菠菜 (stir-fried spinach), and 菠菜湯 (spinach soup).

EXAMPLES: SPINACH

- 菠菜係補血嘅食物。

bo1 coi3 hai6 bou2 hyut3 ge3 sik6 mat6.

Spinach is considered a food that is good for the blood.

- 呢間餐廳最近推出咗芝士菠菜蛋批做新菜式。

ni1 gaan1 caan1 teng1 zeoi3 gan6 teoi1 ceot1 zo2 zi1 si2 bo1 coi3 daan2 pai1 zou6 san1 coi3 sik1.

This restaurant recently introduced a spinach-and-cheese quiche as a new dish.

- 我今晚想用蒜蓉炒菠菜。

ngo5 gam1 maan5 soeng2 jung6 syun3 jung4 caau2 bo1 coi3.

I want to stir-fry spinach with minced garlic tonight.

矮瓜

ai2 gwaa1

eggplant (Cantonese)

矮瓜

Jyutping: ai2 gwaa1

Meaning: eggplant; aubergine.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- 矮瓜 is a common Cantonese word for the vegetable called [eggplant](#) in American English and [aubergine](#) in British English.
- It is an everyday term suitable for conversations about shopping, cooking, and food.
- 茄子 (ke2 zi2) is another name for the same vegetable. It is common in writing and is also the usual Mandarin term.
- Treat 矮瓜 as a fixed word: its meaning should not be guessed by translating the individual characters literally.
- Long eggplants can be counted with 條 (tiu4), a classifier used for long, narrow objects.

EXAMPLES

- 矮瓜又叫茄子。
ai2 gwaa1 jau6 giu3 ke2 zi2.
Eggplant is also called 茄子.
- 媽媽買咗兩條矮瓜返嚟煮。
maa4 maa1 maa5 zo2 loeng5 tiu4 ai2 gwaa1 faan1 lai4 zyu2.
Mum bought two eggplants to cook at home.

椰菜

je4 coi3

cabbage; broccoli; cauliflower

椰菜

Jyutping: je4 coi3

Main meaning: cabbage. The supplied dictionary also groups broccoli and cauliflower under this term, but everyday Hong Kong Cantonese normally uses more specific names for those vegetables.

MEANINGS AND USAGE

- **Cabbage:** This is the usual meaning of 椰菜 when the word appears by itself.
- **Broccoli:** Broccoli belongs to the same family of vegetables, but it is normally called 西蘭花 (sai1 laan4 faa1) in everyday Cantonese.
- **Cauliflower:** The usual specific term is 椰菜花 (je4 coi3 faa1). Using the full name avoids confusion with ordinary cabbage.

USAGE NOTES

- 椰菜 is a neutral, everyday word suitable for conversation, recipes, menus, and shopping.
- Classifiers commonly used with it include 個 (go3) for a whole cabbage and 棵 (fo2) when treating it as a plant.
- For clarity, say 西蘭花 for broccoli and 椰菜花 for cauliflower rather than relying on the broader dictionary grouping.

芥蘭

gaai3 laan4

Chinese kale; Chinese broccoli

芥蘭 — CHINESE KALE / CHINESE BROCCOLI

Jyutping: gaai3 laan4. In casual speech, the second syllable may also be pronounced laan2, as in the supplied examples.

MEANING AND USAGE

- 芥蘭 is a leafy green vegetable with thick stems and small florets. In English, it is called **Chinese kale** or **Chinese broccoli**.
- It is common in Cantonese cooking and is often stir-fried with garlic, beef, or oyster sauce.
- Useful food phrases include 炒芥蘭 (caau2 gaai3 laan4, "stir-fried Chinese kale"), 芥蘭炒牛肉 ("Chinese kale stir-fried with beef"), and 蠔油芥蘭 ("Chinese kale with oyster sauce").

COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSION: 炒芥蘭

In informal Hong Kong Cantonese, especially when discussing football, 炒芥蘭 can humorously describe two players crashing their shins or lower legs together. This is distinct from its literal culinary meaning, "to stir-fry Chinese kale." The context normally makes the intended sense clear.

EXAMPLES

- 芥蘭炒牛肉係一道好常見嘅廣東菜。
gaai3 laan4 caau2 ngau4 juk6 hai6 jat1 dou6 hou2 soeng4 gin3 ge3 gwong2 dung1 coi3.
Chinese kale stir-fried with beef is a very common Cantonese dish.

紅蘿蔔

hung4 lo4 baak6

carrot; red radish

carrot · red radish

紅蘿蔔

Jyutping: hung4 lo4 baak6

Main meaning: carrot. The supplied dictionary also lists [red radish](#), but the examples overwhelmingly use 紅蘿蔔 for the familiar orange carrot. If the exact vegetable matters, rely on context or clarify explicitly.

USAGE NOTES

- **Register:** neutral and widely used in both everyday conversation and writing.
- **Common measure word:** 條 [tiu4](#), as in 一條紅蘿蔔, "one carrot."
- **Common combinations:** 紅蘿蔔汁 "carrot juice," 紅蘿蔔湯 "carrot soup," and 炒紅蘿蔔 "stir-fried carrots."
- **Useful contrast:** 白蘿蔔 [baak6 lo4 baak6](#) means "white radish" or "daikon," whereas 紅蘿蔔 normally means "carrot."
- **Number:** Cantonese nouns do not normally change form for the plural, so 紅蘿蔔 can mean either "carrot" or "carrots," depending on context.

EXAMPLES

- 有啲人好唔鍾意食紅蘿蔔。

[jau5 di1 jan4 hou2 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 hung4 lo4 baak6](#)

Some people really do not like eating carrots.

水

seoi2

(slang) 1. money; (of person); who; 2. whom 3. someone; (of shipments) classifier for number of shipments; water; river

(slang) 1. money; (of person) · who; 2. whom 3. someone; (of shipments) classifier for number of shipments · water · river · liquid · beverage · additional charges or income · (of clothes) classifier for number of washes · lotion · juice · a surname · KangXi radical 85 · a way to make money · low quality · poor · Shui ethnic group · (after a name) ... River · to swim (used mostly in 會水|会水 [hui4 shui3] and 水性[shui3 xing4]) · (coll.) lacking in substance; shoddy · (bound form) additional cost; extra income

- **Basic meaning:** water.
Used for drinking water, water in rivers or rain, and liquids in everyday speech.
- **Part of speech:** noun.
In Cantonese, 水 is very common in daily conversation and combines easily with other words.
- **Jyutping:** seoi2
The tone rises, similar to Cantonese tone 2.

COMMON PHRASES

- 飲水 (jam2 seoi2) — to drink water
- 凍水 (dung3 seoi2) — cold water
- 熱水 (jit6 seoi2) — hot water
- 滾水 (gwan2 seoi2) — boiling water
- 杯水 (bui1 seoi2) — a glass or cup of water

酒

zau2

wine (esp. rice wine); liquor; spirits; alcoholic beverage

wine (esp. rice wine) · liquor · spirits · alcoholic beverage

Core meaning: alcohol; alcoholic drink. In Cantonese, 酒 is a broad word that can refer to wine, beer, spirits, or alcohol in general.

- 飲酒 (jam2 zau2) — to drink alcohol
- 啤酒 (be1 zau2) — beer
- 紅酒 (hung4 zau2) — red wine
- 白酒 (baak6 zau2) — white wine; also Chinese spirits depending on context
- 酒吧 (zau2 baa1) — bar
- 酒樓 (zau2 lau4) — Cantonese restaurant, often for dim sum or banquets
- 酒店 (zau2 dim3) — hotel in Hong Kong Cantonese
- 醉酒 (zeoi3 zau2) — drunk; intoxicated
- 戒酒 (gaai3 zau2) — to quit drinking alcohol

USAGE NOTES

- 酒 by itself usually means “alcohol” or “liquor” broadly, not only “wine.”
- Use 飲酒 for “drink alcohol.” In everyday Cantonese, 飲 is the natural verb for drinking.
- Common measure words include 杯 for a glass, 支 or 樽 for a bottle, and 罐 for a can of beer.

茶

caa4

tea; tea plant

tea · tea plant

- **Meaning:** 茶 means “tea.” It can refer to the drink, tea leaves, or tea-related food culture.
- **Pronunciation:** caa4, with a low falling tone.
- **Common use:** In Cantonese, 茶 appears in everyday words such as 飲茶, 奶茶, 茶餐廳, and 茶葉.

USEFUL WORDS

- 飲茶 (jam2 caa4) — to drink tea; also means going for dim sum.
- 奶茶 (naai5 caa4) — milk tea, especially Hong Kong-style milk tea.
- 茶餐廳 (caa4 caan1 teng1) — Hong Kong-style café.
- 茶葉 (caa4 jip6) — tea leaves.
- 凍茶 (dung3 caa4) — iced tea.
- 熱茶 (jit6 caa4) — hot tea.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想飲杯茶。

ngo5 soeng2 jam2 bui1 caa4.

I want to drink a cup of tea.

杯 is the measure word for one cup or glass of tea.

咖啡

gaa3 fe1

(loanword) coffee

- **Meaning:** coffee
- **Jyutping:** gaa3 fe1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage:** Refers to coffee as a drink or coffee beans/powder, depending on context.

COMMON PHRASES

- 一杯咖啡 — jat1 bui1 gaa3 fe1 — a cup of coffee
- 凍咖啡 — dung3 gaa3 fe1 — iced coffee
- 熱咖啡 — jit6 gaa3 fe1 — hot coffee
- 咖啡店 — gaa3 fe1 dim3 — coffee shop / cafe
- 飲咖啡 — jam2 gaa3 fe1 — to drink coffee / have coffee

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想飲杯咖啡。

ngo5 soeng2 jam2 bui1 gaa3 fe1.

I want to have a cup of coffee.

飲杯 literally means "drink a cup," and is a natural casual way to say "have a cup of."

啤酒

be1 zau2

beer (loanword)

- **Meaning:** beer
- **Jyutping:** be1 zau2
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage:** Refers to beer in general. In casual Cantonese, people may also shorten it to 啤, especially in compounds like 生啤 "draft beer".

COMMON PHRASES

- 一杯啤酒 — a glass of beer
- 一支啤酒 — a bottle of beer
- 一罐啤酒 — a can of beer
- 凍啤酒 — cold beer
- 生啤 — draft beer
- 黑啤 — dark beer / stout

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想要一杯啤酒。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 bui1 be1 zau2
I'd like a glass of beer.
- 你飲唔飲啤酒？
nei5 jam2 m4 jam2 be1 zau2?
Do you drink beer?

牛奶

ngau4 naai5

cow's milk

- **Jyutping:** ngau4 naai5
- **Meaning:** cow's milk; dairy milk.
- **Usage note:** In everyday Cantonese, people often say 奶 for "milk" when the context is clear. Use 牛奶 when you want to specify cow's milk, especially to distinguish it from soy milk, oat milk, or other drinks.

EXAMPLES

- 我朝朝都飲一杯牛奶。
ngo5 ziu1 ziu1 dou1 jam2 jat1 bui1 ngau4 naai5
I drink a cup of milk every morning.
Note: 朝朝 means "every morning." 一杯 is "one cup/glass."
- 呢盒牛奶過咗期，唔好飲。
ni1 hap6 ngau4 naai5 gwo3 zo2 kei4, m4 hou2 jam2
This carton of milk is expired. Don't drink it.
Note: 盒 is a common measure word for a carton or box. 過咗期 means "has expired."
- 可唔可以幫我買樽牛奶？
ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 bong1 ngo5 maa5 zeon1 ngau4 naai5?
Could you buy me a bottle of milk?
Note: 樽 is used for bottles. 可唔可以 is a polite way to ask "can you?"

奶

naai5

breast; milk; to breastfeed; to nurse

breast · milk · to breastfeed · to nurse · grandma · mother

- **Main meaning:** milk; dairy milk.
In Cantonese, 奶 most commonly refers to milk as a drink or ingredient.
- **Common compounds:**
 - 牛奶 ngau4 naai5 — cow's milk
 - 奶茶 naai5 caa4 — milk tea
 - 奶粉 naai5 fan2 — milk powder / baby formula
 - 朱古力奶 zyu1 gu1 lik1 naai5 — chocolate milk

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想飲杯奶茶。
ngo5 soeng2 jam2 bui1 naai5 caa4.
I want to drink a cup of milk tea.

Note: 杯 is the measure word for a cup or glass of something.

- 呢樽牛奶過咗期。
ni1 zeon1 ngau4 naai5 gwo3 zo2 kei4.
This bottle of milk has expired.

Note: 過咗期 means "past the expiration date."

奶茶

naai5 caa4

milk tea

- **Jyutping:** naai5 caa4
- **Meaning:** milk tea; in Hong Kong Cantonese, usually Hong Kong-style milk tea made with strong black tea and milk.
- **Literal meaning:** 奶 = milk; 茶 = tea.
- **Classifier:** 一杯奶茶 = one cup/glass of milk tea.

USEFUL NOTES

- 熱奶茶 jit6 naai5 caa4 = hot milk tea.
- 凍奶茶 dung3 naai5 caa4 = iced milk tea.
- 港式奶茶 gong2 sik1 naai5 caa4 = Hong Kong-style milk tea.
- 茶走 caa4 zau2 = milk tea with condensed milk instead of regular milk and sugar.
- 少甜 siu2 tim4 = less sweet; useful when ordering.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我要一杯凍奶茶。
ngo5 jiu3 jat1 bui1 dung3 naai5 caa4
I'd like one iced milk tea.
- 唔該，一杯熱奶茶，少甜。
m4 goi1, jat1 bui1 jit6 naai5 caa4, siu2 tim4
Please, one hot milk tea, less sweet.

汽水

hei3 sei2

soda pop; carbonated soft drink

- **Meaning:** carbonated soft drink; soda; fizzy drink. In Cantonese, 汽水 usually refers to sweet, fizzy drinks such as cola, lemonade, or orange soda.
- **Literal sense:** 汽 means "gas/steam," and 水 means "water," so the word literally suggests "gassy water."
- **Common measure words:**
 - 一罐汽水 (jat1 gun3 hei3 sei2) — a can of soda
 - 一支汽水 (jat1 zi1 hei3 sei2) — a bottle of soda
 - 一杯汽水 (jat1 bui1 hei3 sei2) — a glass of soda

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想飲汽水。
ngo5 soeng2 jam2 hei3 sei2.
I want to drink soda.
- 你想飲咩汽水？
nei5 soeng2 jam2 me1 hei3 sei2?
What kind of soda do you want?
- 雪櫃入面有幾罐汽水。
syut3 gwai6 jap6 min6 jau5 gei2 gun3 hei3 sei2.
There are a few cans of soda in the fridge.
- 唔好飲咁多汽水，太多糖喇。
m4 hou2 jam2 gam3 do1 hei3 sei2, tai3 do1 tong4 laa3.
Don't drink so much soda; it has too much sugar.

鴛鴦

jyun1 joeng1 , jin1 joeng1

(Hong Kong style beverage) Yuanyang or coffee with tea; (bird species of China) mandarin duck (Aix galericulata); (fig.) affectionate couple; happily married couple

(Hong Kong style beverage) Yuanyang or coffee with tea · (bird species of China) mandarin duck (Aix galericulata) · (fig.) affectionate couple; happily married couple

- **Jyutping:** jyun1 joeng1
- **Core meaning:** mandarin ducks; by extension, a loving or inseparable couple.
- **Hong Kong Cantonese meaning:** a drink made by mixing milk tea and coffee, usually served in 茶餐廳.
- **Extended use:** a mixed or paired combination of two different things, such as 鴛鴦襪 "mismatched socks" or 鴛鴦鍋 "two-flavour hot pot".

COMMON MEANINGS

- **1. Mandarin ducks / romantic pair**
鴛鴦 originally refers to a pair of mandarin ducks, traditionally associated with couples who stay together.
- **2. Hong Kong milk-tea-coffee drink**
In everyday Hong Kong Cantonese, 鴛鴦 very often means the drink that mixes 奶茶 and 咖啡.
- **3. Mixed pair**
It can describe two different things put together as a pair, especially when they contrast.

可樂

ho2 lok6

amusing; entertaining; (loanword) cola

amusing · entertaining · (loanword) cola

- **Meaning:** cola; a cola soft drink.
- **Jyutping:** ho2 lok6
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage:** Generic word for cola. For Coca-Cola specifically, Cantonese often uses 可口可樂.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想飲可樂。
ngo5 soeng2 jam2 ho2 lok6
I want to drink cola.
- 你要唔要凍可樂？
nei5 jiu3 m4 jiu3 dung3 ho2 lok6?
Do you want a cold cola?
- 呢罐可樂幾錢？
ni1 gun3 ho2 lok6 gei2 cin2?
How much is this can of cola?
- 可樂太甜，唔好飲咁多。
ho2 lok6 taai3 tim4, m4 hou2 jam2 gam3 do1.
Cola is too sweet; don't drink so much.

橙汁

caang4*2 zap1

orange juice

- **Meaning:** orange juice.
- **Word type:** noun.
- **Breakdown:** 橙 means "orange," and 汁 means "juice" or "liquid extracted from food."
- **Usage note:** Use a measure word when ordering or counting it, most commonly 杯 for "glass/cup": 一杯橙汁 means "a glass of orange juice."

COMMON PHRASES

- 一杯橙汁 jat1 bui1 caang2 zap1 — a glass of orange juice
- 凍橙汁 dung3 caang2 zap1 — cold or iced orange juice
- 鮮榨橙汁 sin1 zaa3 caang2 zap1 — freshly squeezed orange juice
- 少冰橙汁 siu2 bing1 caang2 zap1 — orange juice with less ice

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想要一杯橙汁。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 bui1 caang2 zap1.
I would like a glass of orange juice.
- 呢杯橙汁好新鮮。
ni1 bui1 caang2 zap1 hou2 san1 sin1.
This glass of orange juice is very fresh.
- 早餐我通常飲橙汁。
zou2 caan1 ngo5 tung1 soeng4 jam2 caang2 zap1.
I usually drink orange juice for breakfast.

檸茶

ning4 caa4

lemon tea

- **Jyutping:** ning4 caa4
- **Meaning:** lemon tea; short for 檸檬茶.
- **Usage:** Common in Hong Kong Cantonese, especially when ordering drinks at a cha chaan teng. It usually means black tea with lemon, served hot or iced.
- **Common orders:** 凍檸茶 means iced lemon tea; 熱檸茶 means hot lemon tea.

EXAMPLES

- 我要一杯凍檸茶，少甜。
ngó5 jiu3 jat1 bui1 dung3 ning4 caa4, siu2 tim4.
I'd like one iced lemon tea, less sweet.
- 熱檸茶可以暖一暖個喉嚨。
jit6 ning4 caa4 ho2 ji5 nyun5 jat1 nyun5 go3 hau4 lung4.
Hot lemon tea can warm and soothe the throat.
- 杯檸茶太甜，可唔可以加多啲檸檬？
bui1 ning4 caa4 taai3 tim4, ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gaa1 do1 di1 ning4 mung1?
This lemon tea is too sweet. Could you add more lemon?
- 佢食茶餐廳通常都叫檸茶。
keoi5 sik6 caa4 caan1 teng1 tung1 soeng4 dou1 giu3 ning4 caa4.
When eating at a cha chaan teng, they usually order lemon tea.

LEARNING NOTES

- 檸茶 is casual and very natural in spoken Cantonese.

豆漿

dau6 zoeng1

soy milk

- **Jyutping:** dau6 zoeng1
- **Meaning:** soy milk; a drink made from soybeans.
- **Usage:** A common everyday drink in Cantonese-speaking places, often served hot or cold with breakfast or snacks.

EXAMPLES

- 我早餐飲咗一杯熱豆漿。
ngo5 zou2 caan1 jam2 zo2 jat1 bui1 jit6 dau6 zoeng1
I drank a cup of hot soy milk for breakfast.
- 呢枝凍豆漿好香，好易入口。
ni1 zi1 dung3 dau6 zoeng1 hou2 hoeng1, hou2 ji6 jap6 hau2
This bottle of cold soy milk is fragrant and very easy to drink.
- 如果你唔飲牛奶，可以試下豆漿。
jyu4 gwo2 nei5 m4 jam2 ngau4 naai5, ho2 ji5 si3 haa5 dau6 zoeng1
If you do not drink cow's milk, you can try soy milk.

NOTES

- 豆 means "bean" or "soybean" here.
- 漿 means a thick liquid or milk-like liquid.
- 熱豆漿 means "hot soy milk"; 凍豆漿 means "cold soy milk."

芝士

zi1 si6*2

(loanword) cheese

- **Meaning:** cheese.
- **Jyutping:** zi1 si6
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Usage:** A common Cantonese loanword from English "cheese," especially used for Western food, snacks, burgers, sandwiches, pizza, and desserts.

COMMON PHRASES

- 芝士漢堡 zi1 si6 hon3 bou2 — cheeseburger
- 芝士蛋糕 zi1 si6 daan6 gou1 — cheesecake
- 芝士薄餅 zi1 si6 bok6 beng2 — cheese pizza
- 忌廉芝士 gei6 lim4 zi1 si6 — cream cheese

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想要多啲芝士。
ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 do1 di1 zi1 si6
I want more cheese.
- 呢個三文治有芝士同火腿。
ni1 go3 saam1 man4 zi6 jau5 zi1 si6 tung4 fo2 teoi2
This sandwich has cheese and ham.
- 可唔可以走芝士？
ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 zau2 zi1 si6
Can you make it without cheese?

果汁

gwo2 zap1

fruit juice

- **Meaning:** fruit juice; juice made from fruit.
- **Usage:** Used for juice in general, especially when talking about fruit juice as a drink.
- **Common examples:** 橙汁 means orange juice, 蘋果汁 means apple juice, 西瓜汁 means watermelon juice.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想飲杯果汁。
ngo5 soeng2 jam2 bui1 gwo2 zap1
I want to drink a glass of juice.
- 你要橙汁定蘋果汁？
nei5 jiu3 caang2 zap1 ding6 ping4 gwo2 zap1?
Do you want orange juice or apple juice?
- 呢支果汁好甜，可能加咗好多糖。
ni1 zi1 gwo2 zap1 hou2 tim4, ho2 nang4 gaa1 zo2 hou2 do1 tong4
This bottle of juice is very sweet; maybe a lot of sugar was added.
- 早餐我通常飲果汁，唔飲汽水。
zou2 caan1 ngo5 tung1 soeng4 jam2 gwo2 zap1, m4 jam2 hei3 sei2
For breakfast, I usually drink juice, not soda.
- 果汁要凍嘅，唔該。
gwo2 zap1 jiu3 dung3 ge3, m4 goi1
I'd like the juice cold, please.

牛油

ngau4 jau4

butter; beef tallow

butter · beef tallow

- **Jyutping:** ngau4 jau4
- **Meaning:** butter.
- **Use:** In Cantonese, 牛油 is the normal word for butter, especially in food contexts such as toast, bread, baking, and cooking.
- **Literal meaning:** “cow oil,” but it should be understood as **butter**, not oil.

COMMON PHRASES

- 牛油多士 — buttered toast
- 搽牛油 — to spread butter
- 加牛油 — to add butter
- 溶牛油 — to melt butter

EXAMPLES

- 呢塊多士搽咗牛油。
ni1 faai3 do1 si2 caa4 zo2 ngau4 jau4.
This piece of toast has butter spread on it.
- 唔該幫我加少少牛油。
m4 goi1 bong1 ngo5 gaa1 siu2 siu2 ngau4 jau4.
Please add a little butter for me.
- 呢個麵包有冇牛油？
ni1 go3 min6 baau1 jau5 mou5 ngau4 jau4?
Does this bread have butter?

蛋糕

daan6 gou1

cake

- **Jyutping:** daan6 gou1
- **Meaning:** cake; a sweet baked dessert, especially the kind eaten for birthdays, celebrations, or afternoon tea.
- **Literal meaning:** 蛋 means “egg” and 糕 means “cake” or “pastry.”
- **Measure words:** Use 個 for a whole cake, as in 一個蛋糕; use 件 for a slice or piece, as in 一件蛋糕.
- **Common phrases:**
 - 生日蛋糕 — birthday cake
 - 芝士蛋糕 — cheesecake
 - 朱古力蛋糕 — chocolate cake
 - 整蛋糕 — to make a cake
 - 切蛋糕 — to cut a cake

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我想買個蛋糕慶祝生日。

Jyutping: ngo5 soeng2 maai5 go3 daan6 gou1 hing3 zuk1 saang1 jat6.

Meaning: I want to buy a cake to celebrate the birthday.

Note: 個 is used here because the speaker means a whole cake.

朱古力

zyu1 gu1 lik1

chocolate (loanword)

- **Meaning:** chocolate; also used for chocolate drinks and chocolate-flavoured foods.
- **Jyutping:** zyu1 gu1 lik1
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Register:** normal everyday Cantonese, especially common in Hong Kong. In Mandarin or standard written Chinese, you will often see 巧克力 instead.
- **Useful classifiers:** 一粒朱古力 for one small chocolate, 一塊朱古力 for one piece, 一排朱古力 for one bar, 一盒朱古力 for one box, and 一杯熱朱古力 for a cup of hot chocolate.

COMMON PHRASES

- 黑朱古力 — dark chocolate.
- 牛奶朱古力 — milk chocolate.
- 白朱古力 — white chocolate.
- 熱朱古力 — hot chocolate.
- 凍朱古力 — iced chocolate.
- 朱古力蛋糕 — chocolate cake.
- 朱古力味 — chocolate-flavoured.

餅

beng2

round flat cake; cookie; cake; pastry

round flat cake · cookie · cake · pastry · biscuits · ten thousands dollars

- **Core meaning:** "cake," "biscuit," "cookie," "pastry," or a flat, round food made from flour or dough. The exact English word depends on the type of 餅.
- **Cantonese pronunciation:** beng2
- **Mandarin comparison:** 餅 is bǐng in Mandarin, but Cantonese uses **beng2**.
- **Usage note:** On its own, 餅 is quite general. Cantonese usually adds another word before or after it to specify the type, such as 月餅 "mooncake" or 餅乾 "biscuit/cookie."

COMMON WORDS WITH 餅

- 月餅 jyut6 beng2 — mooncake
Usually eaten during Mid-Autumn Festival.
- 餅乾 beng2 gon1 — biscuit; cookie; cracker
A dry, crunchy snack. In Hong Kong Cantonese, this is the normal word for "cookie" or "biscuit."
- 蛋餅 daan6 beng2 — egg pancake; egg-based pastry
The exact food can vary by region or shop.
- 薄餅 bok6 beng2 — pizza; thin pancake
In Hong Kong Cantonese, 薄餅 commonly means "pizza."
- 老婆餅 lou5 po4 beng2 — wife cake; sweetheart cake
A traditional Cantonese pastry with a sweet filling.

糖

{tong4 tong2}

sugar; carbohydrate; sweets; candy

sugar · carbohydrate · sweets · candy · 块kuài [块]

- **Jyutping:** tong4
- **Meaning:** sugar; candy; sweets; a sugar-related ingredient or substance.
- **Usage note:** 糖 is a noun. Use 甜 for the adjective "sweet." For example, 呢杯茶好甜 means "this tea is very sweet," while 呢杯茶落咗好多糖 means "a lot of sugar was added to this tea."

COMMON USES

- 加糖 gaa1 tong4 — to add sugar
- 少糖 siu2 tong4 — less sugar
- 走糖 zau2 tong4 — no sugar, especially when ordering drinks
- 糖果 tong4 gwo2 — candy; sweets
- 糖水 tong4 sei2 — sweet dessert soup
- 白糖 baak6 tong4 — white sugar
- 冰糖 bing1 tong4 — rock sugar
- 糖尿病 tong4 niu6 beng6 — diabetes

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 我杯奶茶要少糖。
ngo5 bui1 naai5 caa4 jiu3 siu2 tong4.

"I want my milk tea with less sugar."

Explanation: 少糖 is a very common drink-ordering phrase.

雪糕

syut3 gou1

ice cream bar; ice cream popsicle

- **Meaning:** ice cream
- **Jyutping:** syut3 gou1
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage:** Common in Hong Kong Cantonese. In Mandarin, people more often say 冰淇淋 or 冰激凌.

EXAMPLES

- 我想食雪糕。
ngo5 soeng2 sik6 syut3 gou1
I want to eat ice cream.
- 你鍾意咩味嘅雪糕？
nei5 zung1 ji3 me1 mei6 ge3 syut3 gou1?
What flavor of ice cream do you like?
- 呢間舖頭嘅芒果雪糕好滑。
ni1 gaan1 pou3 tau4 ge3 mong1 gwo2 syut3 gou1 hou2 waat6.
The mango ice cream at this shop is very smooth.
- 天氣咁熱，不如買杯雪糕啦。
tin1 hei3 gam3 jit6, bat1 jyu4 maai5 bui1 syut3 gou1 laa1.
It's so hot; let's buy a cup of ice cream.

NOTES

- 食雪糕 means "to eat ice cream." Cantonese usually uses 食 for eating snacks and desserts.

甜品

tim4 ban2

dessert

- **Jyutping:** tim4 ban2
- **Meaning:** dessert; a sweet dish, usually eaten after a meal or as a snack.
- **Usage note:** In Cantonese, 甜品 is the general word for desserts. It can include cakes, puddings, shaved ice, mango desserts, and sweet soups.
- **Related word:** 糖水 refers more specifically to Cantonese-style sweet soups or dessert soups, such as red bean soup or black sesame soup.

EXAMPLES

- 我哋食完飯去食甜品㗎。
Ngo5 dei6 sik6 jyun4 faan6 heoi3 sik6 tim4 ban2 aa1.
Let's go have dessert after dinner.
- 呢間甜品舖嘅芒果布甸好出名。
Ni1 gaan1 tim4 ban2 pou3 ge3 mong4 gwo2 bou3 din6 hou2 ceot1 meng2.
This dessert shop is famous for its mango pudding.
- 你鍾意食熱甜品定凍甜品？
Nei5 zung1 ji3 sik6 jit6 tim4 ban2 ding6 dung3 tim4 ban2?
Do you like hot desserts or cold desserts?
- 今晚嘅甜品係芝麻糊。
Gam1 maan5 ge3 tim4 ban2 hai6 zi1 maa4 wu4.
Tonight's dessert is black sesame soup.

曲奇

kuk1 kei4

cookie (loanword via Cantonese 曲奇 kuk1 kei4)

- **Jyutping:** kuk1 kei4
- **Meaning:** cookie; sweet biscuit.
- **Usage:** A common Hong Kong Cantonese word, borrowed from English "cookie." It usually refers to sweet baked cookies, especially Western-style ones.
- **Related form:** 曲奇餅 means the same thing, but 曲奇 alone is very common in everyday speech.
- **Classifiers:** use 塊 for one cookie, 盒 for a box, 包 for a packet, and 罐 for a tin.

EXAMPLES

- 我買咗一盒曲奇畀你。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 hap6 kuk1 kei4 bei2 nei5
I bought you a box of cookies.
- 呢塊曲奇好脆，牛油味好香。
nei1 faai3 kuk1 kei4 hou2 ceoi3, ngau4 jau2 mei6 hou2 hoeng1
This cookie is very crispy and has a nice buttery smell.
- 你想食朱古力粒曲奇定燕麥曲奇？
nei5 soeng2 sik6 zyu1 gu1 lik1 nap1 kuk1 kei4 ding6 jin3 mak6 kuk1 kei4
Do you want chocolate chip cookies or oatmeal cookies?
- 食少啲曲奇啦，好甜㗎。
sik6 siu2 di1 kuk1 kei4 laa1, hou2 tim4 gaa3
Eat fewer cookies. They're very sweet.

糖水

tong4 seoi2

(noun) dessert; syrup; sweetened water; tong sui (sweet soup)

(noun) dessert · syrup · sweetened water · tong sui (sweet soup)

- **Meaning:** Cantonese sweet soup or dessert, often served in a bowl and eaten after a meal.
- **Literal meaning:** "sugar water," but in everyday Cantonese it usually means traditional sweet dessert soups such as red bean soup, black sesame soup, tofu pudding-style desserts, or sweet soups with sago, taro, coconut milk, fruit, or herbal ingredients.
- **Usage note:** Cantonese speakers commonly say 食糖水 ("eat/have sweet soup") rather than only "drink," even when the dessert is liquid.

COMMON PHRASES

- 食糖水 (sik6 tong4 seoi2): to have sweet soup / dessert
- 去食糖水 (heoi3 sik6 tong4 seoi2): to go out for dessert
- 糖水舖 (tong4 seoi2 pou3): dessert shop specializing in Cantonese sweet soups
- 一碗糖水 (jat1 wun2 tong4 seoi2): a bowl of sweet soup

EXAMPLES

- 我哋食完飯去食糖水啦。
ngo5 dei6 sik6 jyun4 faan6 heoi3 sik6 tong4 seoi2 laa1.
After dinner, let's go have Cantonese dessert.

月餅

jyut6 beng2

mooncake (esp. for the Mid-Autumn Festival)

- **Meaning:** "mooncake," a rich Chinese pastry traditionally eaten and given as a gift during the Mid-Autumn Festival, 中秋節 (zung1 cau1 zit3).
- **Literal meaning:** 月 means "moon," and 餅 means "cake," "pastry," or "biscuit."
- **Common measure words:** 個 for one mooncake, and 盒 for a box of mooncakes.
- **Typical use:** Cantonese speakers often talk about eating, buying, or giving mooncakes around 中秋節.

USEFUL PHRASES

- 食月餅 sik6 jyut6 beng2 — to eat mooncakes
- 買月餅 maai5 jyut6 beng2 — to buy mooncakes
- 送月餅 sung3 jyut6 beng2 — to give mooncakes as a gift
- 一個月餅 jat1 go3 jyut6 beng2 — one mooncake
- 一盒月餅 jat1 hap6 jyut6 beng2 — one box of mooncakes

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 中秋節我哋會食月餅。
zung1 cau1 zit3 ngo5 dei6 wui5 sik6 jyut6 beng2.
At Mid-Autumn Festival, we eat mooncakes.
- 我買咗一盒月餅畀屋企人。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 jat1 hap6 jyut6 beng2 bei2 uk1 kei2 jan4.
I bought a box of mooncakes for my family.

餅乾

beng2 gon1

biscuit; cracker; cookie

- **Jyutping:** beng2 gon1
- **Meaning:** biscuit, cookie, cracker
- **Part of speech:** noun
- **Usage:** In Cantonese, 餅乾 is a general word for small dry baked snacks. In Hong Kong English, this often maps to "biscuits"; in American English, it may mean "cookies" or "crackers," depending on the type.
- **Related words:** 曲奇 means "cookie," especially Western-style cookies; 梳打餅 means "soda cracker."

EXAMPLES

- 我想食餅乾。
ngo5 soeng2 sik6 beng2 gon1.
I want to eat some biscuits/cookies.
- 呢包餅乾好脆。
ni1 baau1 beng2 gon1 hou2 ceoi3.
This packet of biscuits is very crispy.
- 唔好食咁多餅乾。
m4 hou2 sik6 gam3 do1 beng2 gon1.
Don't eat so many biscuits/cookies.
- 我買咗朱古力餅乾畀細佬。
ngo5 maai5 zo2 zyu1 gu1 lik1 beng2 gon1 bei2 sai3 lou2.
I bought chocolate cookies for my younger brother.

紅豆沙

hung4 dau2 saa1

red bean sweet soup (dessert); red bean paste

red bean sweet soup (dessert) · red bean paste

紅豆沙 (HUNG4 DAU2 SAA1)

Meaning: red bean sweet soup; red bean paste.

USAGE NOTES

- **Main everyday meaning:** a Cantonese dessert soup made with red beans, often served as a type of 糖水 (tong4 sei2), "sweet soup."
- **Other sense:** it can also mean **red bean paste**, especially when talking about fillings or dessert ingredients.
- **Register:** neutral and everyday. It is common in restaurants, dessert shops, home cooking, and banquet contexts.
- **Verb choice:** Cantonese speakers may say 飲紅豆沙 ("drink red bean sweet soup") or 食紅豆沙 ("eat/have red bean sweet soup"), because it is a thick dessert soup.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 紅豆沙。
hung4 dau2 saa1
Red bean sweet soup.
- 果皮攞嚟煲紅豆沙好好飲。
gwo2 pei4 lo2 lai4 bou1 hung4 dau2 saa1 hou2 hou2 jam2
Dried tangerine peel is great for making red bean sweet soup; it tastes really good.

布甸

bou3 din1

(noun) (food) pudding (loanword)

布甸 (BOU3 DIN1)

Meaning: pudding; a sweet dessert pudding. It is a common Hong Kong Cantonese loanword from English [pudding](#).

- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Register:** neutral and very common in everyday speech, menus, bakeries, dessert shops, and home cooking.
- **Classifier:** usually 個 for one pudding, or 杯 if it is served in a cup.
- **Common pattern:** ingredient or flavor + 布甸, such as 芒果布甸 "mango pudding" and 木薯布甸 "tapioca pudding."

USAGE NOTES

- 布甸 usually refers to a soft, sweet dessert, often chilled or custard-like.
- In Hong Kong Cantonese, it is often used for specific dessert names, so the exact English translation depends on the dish: 焦糖布甸 can be translated as "caramel pudding" or "crème brûlée," depending on the style.
- 布甸狗 is a fixed name meaning "Pom Pom Purin," the character whose name literally relates to "pudding dog." It is not a food item.

EXAMPLES

- 芒果布甸
mong1 gwo2 bou3 din1
Mango pudding.

豆腐花

dau6 fu6 faa1

(dessert) silken tofu dessert; sweet tofu pudding; jellied tofu; soft bean curd

(dessert) silken tofu dessert; sweet tofu pudding · jellied tofu · soft bean curd

豆腐花 (DAU6 FU6 FAA1)

Meaning: a soft, silky tofu dessert, usually translated as **sweet tofu pudding**, **silken tofu dessert**, **jellied tofu**, or **soft bean curd**.

SENSES AND USAGE

- **Sweet tofu pudding / silken tofu dessert:** the main everyday meaning. In Cantonese, 豆腐花 normally refers to the dessert, not ordinary firm tofu.
- **Jellied tofu / soft bean curd:** these describe the texture. The dessert is very soft, smooth, and delicate, often served in a bowl.
- **Register:** neutral and common in speech, restaurants, dessert shops, and food writing.
- **Common classifiers:** use 碗 for a bowl, as in 一碗豆腐花 ("a bowl of tofu pudding").
- **Typical context:** it may be served hot or cold, often with syrup or brown sugar. Words like 白滑 ("white and smooth") describe its ideal texture.

EXAMPLES

- 我要一碗熱嘅豆腐花。
ngo5 jiu3 jat1 wun2 jit6 ge3 dau6 fu6 faa1.
I would like a bowl of hot tofu pudding.
- 白滑豆腐花
baak6 waat6 dau6 fu6 faa1
white, smooth tofu pudding

楊枝甘露

joeng4 zi1 gam1 lou6

mango sago pudding with pomelo

楊枝甘露

Jyutping: joeng4 zi1 gam1 lou6

MEANING

- 楊枝甘露 means **mango pomelo sago**: a sweet Cantonese-style dessert made with mango, sago pearls, and pomelo.
- It is often served chilled and may be slightly soup-like, so English translations such as "mango sago pudding with pomelo" or "mango pomelo sago dessert" are both natural.

USAGE NOTES

- This is a fixed food name, not something learners should translate character by character.
- It is a neutral, everyday term used in restaurants, dessert shops, menus, and casual conversation.
- Common verbs include 食 "to eat," 叫 "to order," and 整 "to make."
- Common measure words include 碗 for a bowl and 份 for one serving/order.

EXAMPLES

- 今晚餐飯由楊枝甘露守尾門。

gam1 maan1 caan1 faan6 jau4 joeng4 zi1 gam1 lou6 sau2 mei5 mun4.

The last item in tonight's dinner is mango pomelo sago.

芝麻糊

zi1 maa4 wu4

sesame paste

芝麻糊

Jyutping: zi1 maa4 wu4 (sesame paste); often zi1 maa4 wu2 when referring to the Cantonese dessert

- **Sesame paste:** A thick paste made from ground sesame seeds. In this sense, 糊 is pronounced wu4.
- **Black sesame dessert soup:** In Hong Kong and southern China, 芝麻糊 commonly means a warm, smooth, sweet soup made from ground black sesame. In this usage, it is often pronounced zi1 maa4 wu2.

USAGE AND NUANCE

- In everyday Hong Kong Cantonese, the dessert is usually the intended meaning, especially in a 糖水舖 (tong4 sei2 pou2, "Cantonese dessert shop").
- Although English menus may call it "black sesame paste," "black sesame soup" or "black sesame dessert soup" describes the dish more clearly.
- The word is neutral and natural in both conversation and writing. Context normally makes it clear whether it means an ingredient paste or the prepared dessert.

EXAMPLES

- 放工我要去糖水舖食芝麻糊。
fong3 gung1 ngo5 jiu3 heoi3 tong4 sei2 pou2 sik6 zi1 maa4 wu2.
I want to have black sesame soup at a dessert shop after work.

油

jau4

oil; fat; grease; petroleum

oil · fat · grease · petroleum · to apply tung oil, paint or varnish · oily · greasy · glib · cunning · lard · paints

- **Core meaning:** oil, grease, fat, or fuel.
 - Used for cooking oil, engine oil, petrol/gasoline, and oily substances in general.
- **As a verb:** to paint, brush on, coat, or apply something.
 - Often used with paint, oil, cream, or color.
- **Common feeling:** practical, everyday Cantonese word used in kitchens, cars, repairs, and descriptions of food texture.

COMMON WORDS AND PHRASES

- 油 jau4 — oil; grease; fuel
- 生油 saang1 jau4 — cooking oil
- 豉油 si6 jau4 — soy sauce
- 汽油 hei3 jau4 — petrol; gasoline
- 入油 jap6 jau4 — to refuel; fill up with petrol
- 油站 jau4 zaam6 — petrol station; gas station
- 油漆 jau4 cat1 — paint
- 油腻 jau4 nei6 — greasy; oily; rich and heavy
- 油炸 jau4 zaa3 — deep-fried

鹽

jim4

salt; to treat with salt

salt · to treat with salt

- **Meaning:** salt; table salt; salt used in cooking, food, or salt water.
- **Part of speech:** noun.
- **Common Cantonese use:** 鹽 is used for ordinary cooking salt, and also appears in compounds such as 鹽水 "salt water" and 鹽焗雞 "salt-baked chicken."

USEFUL PHRASES

- 食鹽 sik6 jim4 — table salt; edible salt.
- 落鹽 lok6 jim4 — to add salt while cooking.
- 鹽水 jim4 seoi2 — salt water; saline water.
- 粗鹽 cou1 jim4 — coarse salt.
- 幼鹽 jau3 jim4 — fine salt.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 呢個餸唔夠味，加少少鹽啦。
ni1 go3 sung3 m4 gau3 mei6, gaa1 siu2 siu2 jim4 laa1.
This dish is not flavorful enough; add a little salt.
- 煮湯嗰陣唔好落太多鹽。
zyu2 tong1 go2 zan6 m4 hou2 lok6 taai3 do1 jim4.
When making soup, do not add too much salt.

咖喱

gaa3 lei1

(loanword) curry

- **Meaning:** curry; curry-flavored food or sauce.
- **Jyutping:** gaa3 lei1
- **Part of speech:** noun; also used before another noun to mean "curry-flavored," as in 咖喱雞 "curry chicken."
- **Note:** This is a loanword. In Cantonese, it commonly appears in food names such as 咖喱魚蛋, 咖喱牛腩, and 咖喱汁.

EXAMPLES

- 你鍾唔鍾意食咖喱魚蛋？

nei5 zung1 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 gaa3 lei1 jyu4 daan2?

Do you like eating curry fish balls?

Explanation: 咖喱魚蛋 is a very common Hong Kong street-food item. Here, 咖喱 describes the flavor of the fish balls.

- 我想要一碗咖喱牛腩飯。

ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 jat1 wun2 gaa3 lei1 ngau4 naam5 faan6.

I'd like a bowl of curry beef brisket rice.

Explanation: This is a natural restaurant-ordering sentence. 一碗 is used because the rice dish is served in a bowl.

豉油

si6 jau4/4*2

soy sauce (chiefly in Cantonese and Hakka areas)

- **Meaning:** soy sauce.
- **Usage:** a very common Cantonese word for the salty, dark seasoning used in cooking or as a dipping sauce.
- **Note:** Cantonese speakers often say 落豉油 for “add soy sauce.”

EXAMPLES

- 我想加少少豉油。
ngo5 soeng2 gaa1 siu2 siu2 si6 jau4.
I want to add a little soy sauce.
- 呢碟菜唔使落咁多豉油。
ni1 dip6 coi3 m4 sai2 lok6 gam3 do1 si6 jau4.
This plate of vegetables does not need that much soy sauce.
- 豉油撈飯好香，不過唔好食得太鹹。
si6 jau4 lou1 faan6 hou2 hoeng1, bat1 gwo3 m4 hou2 sik6 dak1 taai3 haam4.
Rice mixed with soy sauce smells great, but do not eat it too salty.
- 阿媽今晚煮豉油雞。
aa3 maa1 gam1 maan5 zyu2 si6 jau4 gai1.
Mum is cooking soy sauce chicken tonight.
- 食雲吞麵嗰陣，我鍾意點少少豉油。
sik6 wan4 tan1 min6 go2 zan6, ngo5 zung1 ji3 dim2 siu2 siu2 si6 jau4.
When eating wonton noodles, I like to dip them in a little soy sauce.

醋

cou3

vinegar; jealousy (in love rivalry)

vinegar · jealousy (in love rivalry)

- **Main meaning:** vinegar; a sour liquid used in cooking, dipping sauces, and seasoning.
- **Extended meaning:** jealousy, especially in romantic contexts, as in 呷醋 (haap3 cou3), "to feel jealous."

COMMON CANTONESE USES

- 白醋 (baak6 cou3): white vinegar.
- 黑醋 (hak1 cou3): black vinegar.
- 米醋 (mai5 cou3): rice vinegar.
- 落醋 (lok6 cou3): to add vinegar.
- 呷醋 (haap3 cou3): to be jealous.
- 醋意 (cou3 ji3): feelings of jealousy.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- 食雲吞麵可以加少少醋。
sik6 wan4 tan1 min6 ho2 ji5 gaa1 siu2 siu2 cou3
You can add a little vinegar when eating wonton noodles.
- 呢支係黑醋，味道比較濃。
ni1 zi1 hai6 hak1 cou3, mei6 dou6 bei2 gaau3 nung4
This bottle is black vinegar; the flavor is stronger.

蜜糖

mat6 tong4

(noun) (food) honey

蜜糖 (MAT6 TONG4)

Main meaning: honey; the sweet food made by bees.

USAGE NOTES

- 蜜糖 is a common everyday Cantonese word for honey.
- It is used for food, drinks, and honey-flavoured items: 蜜糖水 means "honey water."
- In affectionate speech, honey can be used metaphorically for sweetness, as in 蜜糖埕, literally "honey jar," meaning someone very dear or sweet.

EXAMPLES

- 喉嚨痛就飲杯蜜糖啦。
hau4 lung4 tung3 zau6 jam2 bui1 mat6 tong4 laa1.
Drink some honey water if you have a sore throat.
- 食鬆餅落啲蜜糖好好味。
sik6 sung1 beng2 lok6 di1 mat6 tong4 hou2 hou2 mei6.
Muffins taste really good with some honey added.
- 蜜糖水可以止咳同埋舒緩喉嚨痛。
mat6 tong4 seoi2 ho2 ji5 zi2 kat1 tung4 maa1 syu1 wun4 hau4 lung4 tung3.
Honey water can help stop coughing and soothe a sore throat.
- 呢兩個蜜糖冬甩幾多錢呀？
ni1 loeng5 go3 mat6 tong4 dung1 lat1 gei2 do1 cin4 aa3?
How much are these two honey doughnuts?

胡椒

wu4 ziu1

pepper

胡椒 (WU4 ZIU1)

Meaning: pepper; the peppercorn spice used for seasoning food.

CORE USAGE

- 胡椒 usually refers to pepper as a spice, especially black or white pepper depending on context.
- 胡椒粉 means ground pepper or pepper powder. This is the most common phrase when asking for pepper at the table.
- 胡椒噴霧 means pepper spray. This is a related but non-food use of the same word.
- This is a neutral everyday word, common in recipes, restaurants, menus, and news reports.
- Do not confuse 胡椒 with 辣椒, which means chili pepper, or 青椒, which means green bell pepper.

USEFUL PATTERNS

- 啲胡椒粉 di1 wu4 ziu1 fan2: some ground pepper
- 落胡椒 lok6 wu4 ziu1: to add pepper
- 黑胡椒 hak1 wu4 ziu1: black pepper
- 白胡椒 baak6 wu4 ziu1: white pepper
- 胡椒噴霧 wu4 ziu1 pan3 mou6: pepper spray

茄汁

ke2 zap1

tomato sauce

茄汁 (KE2 ZAP1)

Main meaning: tomato sauce or ketchup, especially the sweet red condiment used for dipping food.

KEY POINTS

- 茄汁 in everyday Cantonese usually means **ketchup**, especially in contexts like fries, meatballs, burgers, or passing a bottle at the table.
- It can also mean **tomato sauce** more generally, especially as a sauce used in food.
- Do not confuse 茄汁 with 蕃茄汁 (faan4 ke2 zap1), which usually means **tomato juice** as a drink.
- The word is neutral and common in speech. For dipping, 點茄汁 is very natural; 蘸茄汁 is understandable but a little more written or formal.

USAGE NOTES

- 樽茄汁 means “a bottle of ketchup.”
- 點茄汁 means “to dip in ketchup.”
- 茄汁 often refers to the condiment, not literally “tomato liquid.”

EXAMPLES

- 麻煩你遞樽茄汁畀我。
maa4 faan4 nei5 dai6 zeon1 ke2 zap1 bei2 ngo5.
Could you pass me the bottle of ketchup?

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caa1 siu1 baau1	叉燒包	87	gai1	雞	38	jam2 je5	飲嘢	9
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How to read an entry

- **Page number = entry number.** The category sits top-right, next to **#1,234**, the word's rank in the full frequency list.
- **The Chinese is clickable** wherever the word has its own entry in this guide, so a character you do not know is one tap from its page. Linked text is not marked in any way — just tap it.
- The **blue** reading is jyutping; the digit is the tone (1 high level → 6 low level).
- The large line under the word is its core meaning; the grey line lists the individual senses it covers.
- Word notes explain structure, nuance and usage, then give example sentences with jyutping and a translation.
- “From the corpus” holds attested sentences from the source datasets rather than generated ones.
- Categories run roughly in the order you would meet them: meals and ordering first, then ingredients, then sweets.

Important: the explanatory word notes are AI-generated.

They may contain mistakes or miss important nuance. Check anything important with a teacher or a trusted dictionary. Dictionary definitions and source-attributed corpus examples come from the datasets listed below.

Word list and frequency ranking come from *Most Common Cantonese Words (Frequency List)*, published as a Google Sheet. Every rank number printed in this guide is a word's rank in that list:

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ArxEFo46PTrDyDDhWyu3wB0epxqTyd8WBaprnwTEPm4

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