AUDIO

Freaky FAST FOOD NAMES

A HOT dog is made from dog meat; a hamburger has ham. Are these correct facts?

Absolutely not! But what they have in common is that they were first eaten in Europe (歐洲). Take the hot dog: Frankfurters (法蘭克福香腸) were eaten over 500 years ago in Frankfurt (法蘭克福), Germany (德國). They were thin and long, and looked like the **dachshund dog** breed. When Germans (德國人) came to the US (美國) in the 19th century, they sold these 'little dog' sausages in buns on the streets of New York (紐約) and at sports games. Sellers would yell, "Get your dachshund sausages hot!"

Germans also brought the hamburger to the US. The Hamburg (漢堡) beef steak was popular in the German city of Hamburg. When Germans moved to the US, they opened restaurants and sold this food. Later, a cook sold it to working class people by putting the hamburger steak between two slices of bread. It **took off** and became the classic American food we know today. ℮

Pun

'Soft drinks ban goes flat'

A SOFT drink has bubbles that make it fizzy. When there are no bubbles, it is not fizzy anymore. We describe this as going 'flat'. But this word has other meanings, like in the pun above. A **pun** can have two different meanings for one word, but still makes sense and is sometimes funny too.

In 1993, the New York City government proposed that all restaurants, cinemas, etc, in the city must not sell large soft drinks. It wanted to stop citizens from drinking too many sugary drinks. The **ban** was about to be **enforced** but a New York court stopped the order after many people objected to it.

So, the ban went flat, meaning it goes dead and will not be enforced anymore. We can also say batteries have gone flat if they have no **electrical power**.

PODCAST

Let's find out how to pronounce 'Hamburger' and 'Strawberry'

VOCABULARY

1. **dachshund dog (n phr)** 臘腸狗
2. **take off (ph v)** 開始 (成功)
3. **pun (n)** 雙關語 (一字多義)
4. **ban (n)** 禁止
5. **enforce (v)** 強制執行
6. **electrical power (n phr)** 電力

- Photo: Roblox Corporation

The Roblox metaverse

AUDIO **VIDEO**

🔊 Many people are now talking about the **metaverse**. The gaming company Roblox Corporation has already provided one so that gamers can go inside and create their own worlds for people to enter and have fun.

THE metaverse has **virtual** worlds that we can interact with as if we are actually there, even though they are not real. For example, companies could one day hold meetings with thousands of people represented by holograms, just like in *The Matrix* and other science fiction movies. It will also involve **augmented reality**, so you would wear **headsets** and use objects in the real world to interact with the virtual one.

In the case of *Roblox*, over 40 million users regularly go to this metaverse with 67 percent of players under 16 years old. It is a place where you can play games, but you can also watch a show, go to a party or visit a mall with friends. Children love *Roblox* because the built-in developer tools let them create games that are free to play. You also build a new **identity** by customising your own **avatar** with hair and clothes so you can be whoever you wish.

But children must be careful every time they enter the *Roblox* metaverse. Because everyone can create a new identity, you can be interacting with someone who you may think is a 'cool' person but it could be an adult pretending to be a teenager. As the metaverse becomes more populated, the potential dangers will increase. **e**

✏️ **VOCABULARY**
1. metaverse (n) 元宇宙
2. virtual (adj) 虛擬的
3. augmented reality (n phr) 擴增實景 (虛擬實景的延伸技術)
4. headset (n) 耳機
5. identity (n) 身份
6. avatar (n) 虛擬化身

People

BRUCE LEE

- Illustration: Yuen Chan

Martial artist, actor, philosopher

HONG Kong's most famous son is Bruce Lee (李小龍) . Not only was he the first Chinese film star to take the lead role in a Hollywood (荷里活) movie in 1973, but he was also a pioneering martial artist, author, teacher and poet.

His Wing Chun (詠春) teacher was the legendary Ip Man (葉問), but he **grew frustrated with** the rigid kung fu styles. So, he created his own open-minded style – Jeet Kune Do (截拳道) (the way of the intercepting fist) – and it greatly influenced Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) that is popular today.

You can learn about his short but fulfilled life at the exhibition 'A Man Beyond the Ordinary: Bruce Lee ' (平凡・不平凡李小龍) in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (香港文化博物館).

> " Knowledge will give you power, but character respect. "

Literature

Harry Potter fun facts

THIS year is the 25th anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone,* the first in the series, being published in the UK (英國). Here are some amazing facts about this book and the famous boy wizard:

– Its author, JK Rowling, was on a train to London (倫敦) that was delayed for four hours. During that time, she created the image of Harry Potter and all the ideas of the book in her head.

– She was a single mother and lived on government handouts while writing the first novel. She wrote it in cafes because they were warmer than her flat.

– The book was rejected by many publishing companies.

– The book's publisher did not think boys would buy a book by a woman, so Rowling agreed to be known as 'JK' instead of her name, Joanna (the 'K' stands for her grandmother's name, Katherine).

> " JK Rowling and Harry Potter share the same birthday! "

- Photo: Unsplash

Culture

Hangul saves literacy

ANNYEONGHASEYO! In case you did not know, this means 'hello' in Korean (韓文) and is written in the Korean script as 안녕하세요.

Korean pop culture fans will know some words and phrases because they listen to BTS or **binge-watch** Korean dramas such as *Snowdrop* that has Jisoo from Blackpink. But did you know Chinese characters (Hanja) were used for many centuries in Korea but were only replaced by the Korean alphabet around 500 years ago?

Only the upper class could take lesson in Hanja; everyone else could not read or write. King Sejong (世宗大王) , the ruler at that time, **took pity** on his subjects so he created a writing system based on nature. He thought that a circle symbolised the Sun (sky) and vertical lines and horizontal lines **stood for** mankind and the Earth.

> " Koreans are one year older when born! "

PHRASES

1. grow frustrated with（對⋯感到灰心）
2. binge watching（不分晝夜地狂看；一口氣看）
3. take pity（對⋯產生憐憫）
4. stand for（代表）

Blue tears sparkle

- Photo: 同一星空下 (York Tam)

The waters at coastlines were glowing with a blue light. But despite its brilliance, it was caused partly by pollution and can harm marine life.

A BLUE light show lit up the **coastlines** of Sai Kung (西貢) on the east side of Hong Kong earlier this year. It was not created by electricity – it was made by tiny **organisms** in the water.

This spectacular glow, also called 'sea sparkles', was visible at High Island Reservoir East Dam (萬宜水庫東壩), Pak Lap Wan (白腊灣), and Po Pin Chau (破邊洲) in Sai Kung at night time. People known as 'tear chasers' flocked to these locations at around 3am to marvel at this **phenomenon** that lasted for a couple of hours.

Blue tears elsewhere

THIS blue bioluminescence rarely occurs in Hong Kong, but it has happened at other coastlines in East and Southeast Asia. It has been seen at the coast of Fujian province (福建省) and also in the waters near Malaysia (馬來西亞).
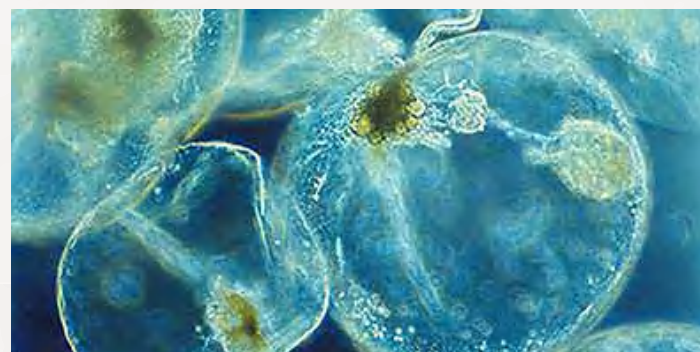
I wonder why?

Why does it occur?

IT might seem like a natural wonder but blue tears are not as wonderful as they look. This twinkling blue glow is caused by tiny little things called Red Noctiluca Scintillans. They react with the waters polluted by chemicals (pesticides and fertilisers) that came from farms.

The reaction **gives off** a glow but also makes **algae** grow. When this algae blooms, more oxygen is **used up** in the water and many living things in the waters die, upsetting the ecosystem.

- photo: Internet

Synonyms

'Sparkle', 'brilliance', 'twinkling'

'SPARKLE' is used here to describe bright, flashing lights that are emitted from the water. The words 'brilliance' and 'twinkling' used here also have a similar meaning. Another word that could be used is 'glittering'. We usually say 'glittering jewels'.

REVIEW QUIZ

Let's test your knowledge!

Download the complete exercises (PDF) at quest.hkej.com

VOCABULARY

1. **coastline (n)** 海岸線
2. **organism (n)** 生物
3. **phenomenon (n)** 現象
4. **give off (ph v)** 發出
5. **algae (n)** 藻類
6. **use up (ph v)** 用光