

飲 齋 食 德

香港素有美食天堂之稱，食肆林立，譽馳遐邇。同事間或會應邀為飲食機構題辭，以下臚列一些通用的例子，以供參考：

除了珍饈之外，有些食肆以品茗聞名，有些則以佳釀著稱。為求意切，擬寫題辭時宜按其特色下筆。適用於酒家和茶館的題辭臚列如下：

食為民天	食在香港	口福之家
豐膳樂飲	和膳樂民	珍饈饗民
廣弘食德	飲齋食德	甘潤食林
美食薈萃	佳膳紛陳	滋味養生
餐挹百家	有口皆碑	近悅遠來
福客常臨	嘉客盈門	貴客雲集
高朋滿座	座無虛席	勝友如雲
食道之樂	適口充腸	水陸奇珍
天廚妙饌	御膳天廚	嘉肴美饌
飽啖珍饈	珍饈馨逸	饌馥馳名
廣嘗百味	百味競新	百味精研
珍饈百味	庖廚薈萃	食指大動
味美芳香	口齒留香	百味留香
一室香生	飄香十里	色香味全
調和鼎鼐	五味調和	烹調巧味

開懷暢飲(酒)	痛飲快談(酒)	詩酒歡娛(酒)
解愁添興(酒)	回頭醉步(酒)	無醉不歸(酒)
飛觴暢飲(酒)	飛觴醉月(酒)	觴酌流行(酒)
玉盞流霞(酒)	金樽灑滿(酒)	太白遺風(酒)
茶香飄遠(茶)	茶香千里(茶)	金甌雪泛(茶)
名茗會友(茶)	煮茗談心(茶)	名山特產(茶)
石鼎煎香(茶)	松濤烹雪(茶)	秀挹三清 ¹ (茶)
武夷九曲 ² (茶)	北苑春芽 ³ (茶)	泉烹雀舌 ⁴ (茶)
盧陸遺風 ⁵ (茶)	陸羽高風(茶)	陸羽座香(茶)

有酒無肴，似有所欠。兩者俱備時，則可題“醇酒佳肴”或“甘醪美饌”。

- 1 三清指湯清、氣清、心清。
- 2 福建武夷山盛產名茶，九曲是當地名溪。
- 3 北苑是宋代名茶產地。
- 4 雀舌是以嫩芽焙製的上等茶。
- 5 “盧”指唐人盧仝，精於品茗，以《走筆謝孟諫議寄新茶》一詩(俗稱“茶歌”)聞名。“陸”指唐人陸羽，有茶仙之譽，所著的《茶經》傳頌於世。



The Sound of Silence

To those who grew up with folk songs in the 1960s, the duo Simon and Garfunkel (Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel) should be a well-known name. People of that generation may even be able to hum the tune of *The Sound of Silence* from beginning to end.

The Sound of Silence is an all-time favourite that has touched the hearts of many and brought the duo fame and success. First released in 1964, it was later adopted as the theme song of the Oscar-winning movie *The Graduate*. Apart from the catchy melody, its success is also attributable to the poetic language of Simon.

Though its meaning is sometimes associated with the Vietnam War or the assassination of John F. Kennedy, breakdown in communication is generally believed to be the central theme of the song. Alienation among city dwellers had resulted in lack of communication, as people began to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to social problems, their lips became sealed and their voices no longer heard.

The meaning of *The Sound of Silence* is worth pondering on. The title itself is paradoxical — how can there be sound when there is silence?

The Sound of Silence is written in the first person. It is “darkness”, personified as an old friend, that the “I” talks to, and there is an undertone of loneliness. Out of fear or maybe dismay, “I” is held back from sharing his thoughts with others and “darkness” is chosen to be his listener instead. What will become of society when everybody talks only to “darkness”? The result is, as Simon and Garfunkel sing:

We talk and yet we are not speaking; we hear and yet we are not listening. This is the case because we are not opening our hearts. Despite his disappointment with people’s inability or reluctance to speak their minds, “I” does not give up. He attempts to wake others up with his words so that silence will not spread like a disease. However, his call is powerless, just like “silent raindrops” that get no response and echo only in the “wells of silence”. Nevertheless, there is a glimpse of hope at the end:

The words of the prophets
Are written on the subway walls and tenement halls
And whispered in the sound of silence

At least the anonymous graffiti left by the “prophets” are making a noise and whispers can be heard in the sound of silence. It is not utter silence any more.

Full of ambiguities, the lyrics of *The Sound of Silence* carry deep meanings. Since poetic language is always open to interpretation, it might not be easy or possible at all to decipher every line. Still, the message that it conveys is apparent: if we reach out and share our thoughts with others, the cancerous growth of silence can be checked. Though considered an oldie, *The Sound of Silence* still enjoys immense popularity nowadays, partly because people are fond of nostalgia. But more important is that the words of wisdom of Simon have their relevance even in this cyber age. Like the advent of television, the penetration of computers into our everyday life as we spend more time in the virtual world has widened the gap between ourselves and friends and family.

People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices never share
And no one dared disturb the sound of silence

