

INTRODUCTION TO SINGAPORE

Singapore Cultural Appreciation



SINGAPOREAN IDENTITY

The defining traits of
Singapore and Singaporeans



TO BE SINGAPOREAN



Multiracial and
multireligious society



Local food and
delicacies



World class services



Singlish

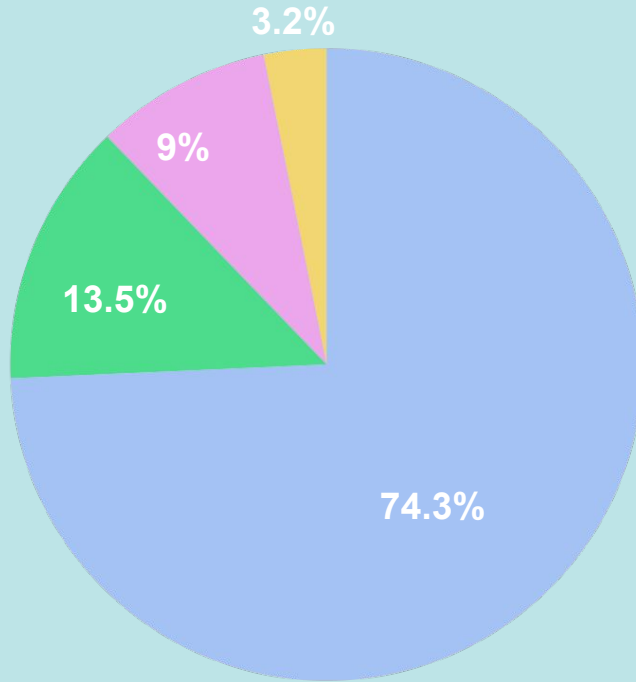


01

ABOUT THE PEOPLE



POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUPS



- Chinese
- Malay
- Indian
- Others



RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Main religions:

Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islamism,
Hinduism

Peaceful coexistence

- Hindu Sri Krishnan Temple and Buddhist Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple at Waterloo Street



CULTURAL PRACTICES

Greetings

"Have you eaten?" "Jiak ba buay?" "Makan already?"



Greetings vary among different ethnic groups

- Handshakes may be inappropriate between people of different genders for some Malay and Indian Singaporeans



CULTURAL PRACTICES

Naming Conventions

Chinese: [Family name] [Given name]
李 小明

Malay: [Given name(s)] bin/binte [Father's name]
Razak bin Osman

Indian: [Given name] S/O or D/O [Father's name]
Priya D/O Anandarajah



CULTURAL PRACTICES

Festivals



CULTURAL PRACTICES

Myths and Taboo

Chinese: Black is associated with death; 4 considered unlucky

Malay: Avoid touching the head as the head is regarded as sacred

Indian: Common to add an extra dollar to an entire sum of gift money (for example, \$101 or \$51) for luck

SOCIAL NORMS

Queuing Culture

Kiasu : Fear of losing out

- Especially on food

Queuing for
bubble tea!



Gong cha



SOCIAL NORMS

Chope-ing



SOCIAL NORMS

Calling “Auntie” and “Uncle”

To address an elder

- Shows respect

“Hello Auntie, one fishball
noodle, dabao”

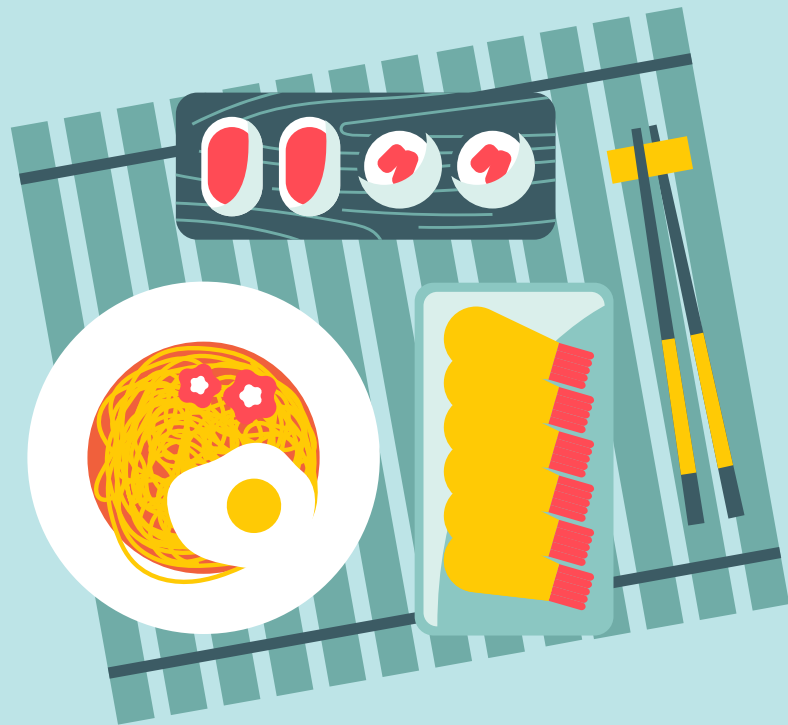


“Uncle, I want to go to
Orchard Road”

02

ABOUT THE FOOD

Let's eat! 大家吃! Jom makan!
சாப்பிடு





FOOD CULTURE

Reflects our multiracial makeup

- Influences from different cultures
- Immigrant society



Singapore's hawker culture added to Unesco list of intangible cultural heritage



Unesco's 24-member committee unanimously accepted Singapore's application. PHOTO: ST FILE

Singapore Food Brands





03

SINGLISH

Bojio!

Shiok!



SINGLISH 101

What is Singlish?

- A unique Singaporean slang based on English, incorporating elements of Chinese, Malay, and Tamil





uncle, makan already?

??!

aiya, chin chai la

SINGLISH 101

You can speak Singlish anot?



SINGLISH 101: Commonly Used Terms

Alamak

Alamak! I forgot my phone!



Bojio

Why yall go GBTB bojio me?



Shiok

Drinking coke in this weather is so shiok!



Sabo

Don't sabo me to present answers, I couldn't solve this week's problem sets.



SINGLISH 101: Commonly Used Terms

Paiseh

Paiseh, I will be late by 30 minutes.



Kiasu

Kiasu parents like to enroll their children in multiple tuition classes.



Blur like sotong

That guy is always getting into trouble.
He blur like sotong!



Catch no ball

Can you explain it to me again? I catch no ball.



Chope

This place is always very crowded.
Be sure to chope a seat first!



The background features a stylized city skyline at the bottom with various teal and dark blue rectangular buildings. The sky is a light blue gradient, framed by a thick red border on the left and right sides. Three sets of white, semi-circular clouds are positioned in the sky: one on the upper left, one on the upper right, and one on the lower right.

THE POWER OF **‘CAN’**

Can hor

Can lor

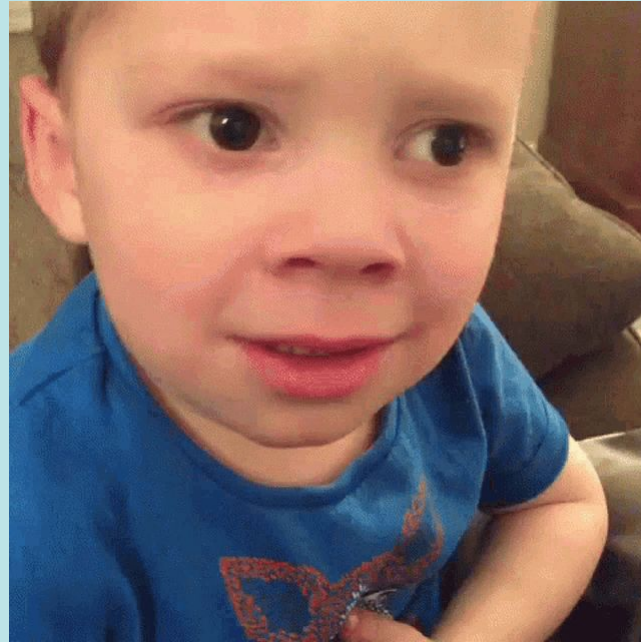
Can meh

Can what

Can ah

Can lah

Can leh



Too *cheem* (complicated/complex)? Catch no ball?

Can hor? (Are you certain?)

Can lor (Yes, I think so)

Hey, I park my car here for a while,
can hor?

Can lor, I think red colour lots
can park before 7pm.

Can meh? (I don't quite believe you)

Can what (I'm sure. Why don't you believe me?)

The essay word count is 2000 words.
Your essay got 2400 words, can
meh?

Can what, word count got 20%
allowance.

Can ah? (Are you sure you are able to do this?)

Can lah (Yes, I am able to do this)

You one person tank the group
project, can ah?

Can lah, I am used to this
anyway.

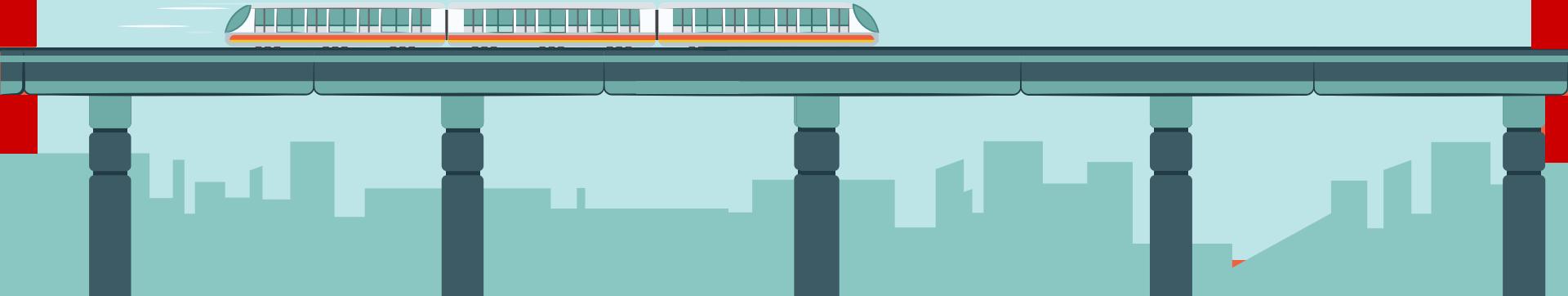
Can leh (No problem for me/I do not face this issue)

Eh, my phone can't connect to the school's WiFi.

That's odd. My one can leh.

“Can understand?”

“Can lah!”

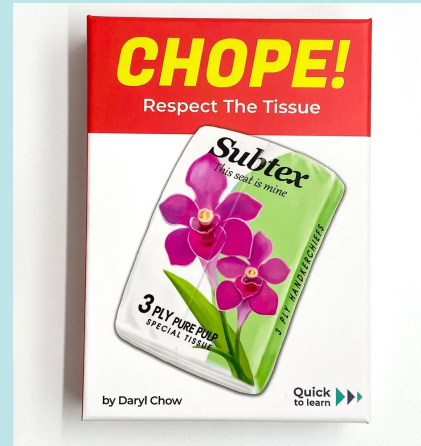
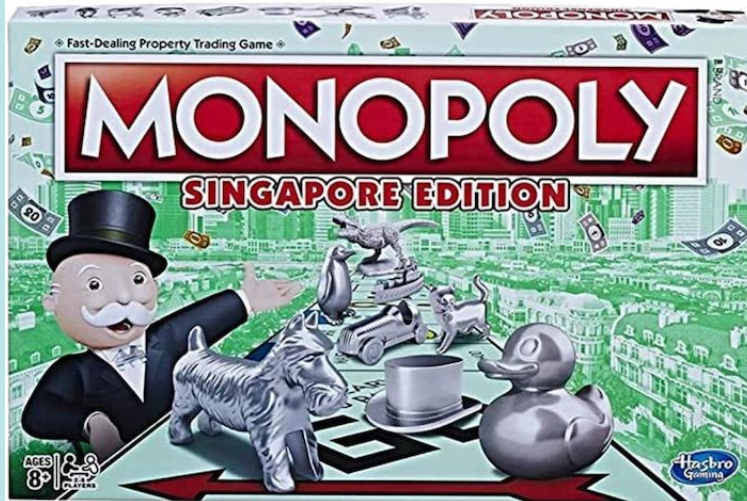


04

GAMES



MODERN GAMES



THE SINGAPOREAN DREAM





THANK YOU!