

# talking points



HK today

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## What makes you a Hongkonger?

The "Chinglish" - a mixture of Cantonese and English - that I use sometimes when texting my friends or talking to them face-to-face. For example, Hongkongers often pronounce the word "game" as "gam", and "coupon" might be pronounced "quipon". Hongkongers say "open the television" instead of "turn on the television", "let's go and see see" instead of "let's go and take a look", "have a dog there" instead of "there is a dog", and so on.

Chinglish is a common language used by Hongkongers nowadays. I bet my native English-speaking teachers and classmates have no clue when they see our texts or hear us!

**Andrew Wan, 13, Law Ting Pong Secondary School**

Chinese is my second language and I consider myself more a Hongkonger than an American or an Indian. I have tonnes of local friends and I love Chinese food. What's more, I celebrate traditional Chinese festivals more than Indian festivals. Last but not least, for me, Eason Chan's music is love, and that's reason enough to consider myself a Hongkonger.

**Kaur Mukhjot, 16, St Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong**

This is a meaningful question. I strongly believe that having the freedom of speech makes me a Hongkonger. In Hong Kong, everyone can live as they wish. According to the Basic Law, no one should criticise others for their religion or their political beliefs. Because of this, Hong Kong is one of the most open-minded and liberal cities, and one in which I am proud to live.

**Anita So Yuen-tin, 15, PLK Ma Kam Ming College**

To me, speaking fluently in three languages makes me a Hongkonger. I see having Cantonese as our mother tongue as a privilege.

Although Cantonese is used in southern China and some other Asian countries, there are still some slang terms and euphemisms unique to Hong Kong people, which I am very proud of; for example, "hea" means "laid-back".

Furthermore, Cantonese is said to be one of the most difficult languages to learn, so mastering Cantonese is a great achievement, and adds to what makes me a Hongkonger.

**Clara Chan Hoi-ying, 16, Wa Ying College**

Some say that it's a love for yum cha. Some say it's the ability to tolerate the busy streets of Wan Chai. Others say that it's an enjoyment of Cantonese soap operas.

In my opinion, it's none of the above. Just because you act like a Hongkonger doesn't make you a Hongkonger, and similarly, just because you are a Hongkonger doesn't necessarily mean you act like one.

Being a Hongkonger has no requirements, no criteria, no rubric. If you believe that you're a Hongkonger, then you are. And that's all.

**Benjamin Oh, 14, Chinese International School**

You're welcome to join the conversation at [www.yip.scmp.com](http://www.yip.scmp.com). In our next Talking Points, we'll discuss: After you graduate, will you work in Hong Kong?

We are now accepting answers from readers for this new topic. To take part, email your answer with your name, age and school, plus a hi-res photo of yourself (no less than 1MB), to [yp@scmp.com](mailto:yp@scmp.com) by Monday lunchtime next week