

## My MEP Projects

**Project: 'Lost Cowboy'**  
**Series: Songs / Culture**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a cool Project because it combines mastering a brilliant song with learning about a particular type of tea that is extremely popular both in Asia and the West.*

*Who knows? Maybe you'll end up trying this drink yourself soon.*

*You're going to enjoy this one!*

*Go for it!*

### 1. Watch and listen

Watch the music video 'Lost Cowboy' by Transition once through. The characters on the video are traditional, as used in Taiwan. This Project uses simplified characters of course. Enjoy your first viewing!

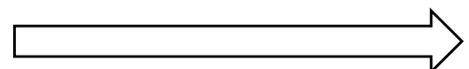
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drwOkrTR9I4>



### 2. Meaning ... ?

You probably just read the English subtitles, but you might not have realised which word related to which Chinese word. Look at the lyrics on the next few pages and read the English lines carefully. You could call it the 'Chinglish' version because it has been written with the same word order as the Chinese. Some of the English words are in brackets if they were not needed in Chinese.

Look at each line of characters and compare it with the English line below it. See if you can work out which Chinese word goes with which English word. Don't worry if you can't get all of them.



## 'Lost Cowboy' by Transition – a more literal translation

### Verse 1

为 何 牛 仔 来 到 这 里 ?

Wèi hé niú zǎi lái dào zhè lǐ?

Why (has) a cowboy come (to) here?

他 该 不 是 收 到 绝 杀 令

tā gāi bú shì shōu dào jué shā lìng

He surely has not received a command to kill

大 家 小 心 , 准 备 逃 跑

dà jiā xiǎo xīn, zhǔn bèi táo pǎo

Everyone, be careful, get ready to run away

他 到 底 为 什 么 来 这 里 ?

tā dào dǐ wèi shén me lái zhè lǐ?

Why on earth did he come here?

迷 路 的 牛 仔 不 忙

Mí lù de niú zǎi bù máng

(A / the) lost cowboy is not busy (has nothing to do)

在 哪 里 选 错 路 , 不 晓 得

zài nǎ lǐ xuǎn cuò lù, bù xiǎo de

Where (he) chose the wrong path (he) doesn't know

走 了 几 千 里 , 已 铁 腿

zǒu le jǐ qiān lǐ, yǐ tiě tuǐ

(He has) walked a few thousand *li*, (his) legs are heavy as iron

*Song continues on next page*

他 只 要 找 个 地 方 休 息  
tā zhǐ yào zhǎo gè dì fang xiū xi  
He only wants (to) find a place (to) rest

### **Chorus**

来 一 杯 ， 永 远 不 累  
lái yì bēi, yǒng yuǎn bú lèi  
Have a cup, never get tired

我 们 都 是 朋 友 ， 一 起 享 受  
Wǒ men dōu shì péng you, yì qǐ xiǎng shòu  
We are all friends, together (let's) enjoy



来 一 杯 ， 不 管 是 谁  
lái yì bēi, bù guǎn shì shéi  
Have a cup, it doesn't matter who (you) are

都 能 随 时 加 入 ， 不 再 幸 苦 下 去  
dōu néng suí shí jiā rù, bú zài xìn kǔ xià qù  
You can join in at any time, it doesn't need to keep being so exhausting

喝 茶 、 唱 歌 、 玩 乐 X 2  
hē chá, chàng gē, wán lè X 2  
Drink tea, sing songs, play around (or 'have fun') X 2

### **Verse 2**

在 英 国 的 牛 仔 不 多  
zài yīng guó de niú zǎi bù duō  
In the UK cowboys are few (in number)

*Song continues on next page*

忙的牛仔更是非常罕见  
máng de niú zǎi gèng shì fēi cháng hǎn jiàn  
a busy cowboy is even rarer

这次牛仔不点牛奶  
zhè cì niú zǎi bù diǎn niú nǎi  
This time the cowboy doesn't order milk

他想来  
tā xiǎng lái  
He wants (to) get

一杯珍珠奶茶  
yì bēi zhēn zhū nǎi chá  
a cup of pearl milk tea (or 'bubble tea')

### **Chorus**

来一杯，永远不累  
lái yì bēi, yǒng yuǎn bú lèi  
Have a cup, never get tired

我们都是朋友，一起享受  
Wǒ men dōu shì péng you, yì qǐ xiǎng shòu  
We are all friends, together (let's) enjoy

来一杯，不管是谁  
lái yì bēi, bù guǎn shì shéi  
Have a cup, it doesn't matter who (you) are

都能随时加入，不再辛苦下去  
dōu néng suí shí jiā rù, bú zài xìng kǔ xià qù  
You can join in at any time, it doesn't need to keep being so exhausting

喝茶、唱歌、玩乐 X 4

hē chá, chàng gē, wán lè X 4

Drink tea, sing songs, play around (or 'have fun') X 4

***Chorus repeats with the last line sung 3 instead of 4 times***

★ Task 2 complete

### 3. Step 1: Understanding and reciting the text

高老师 Mr G has created a video for you that is going to talk you through the meaning of each line in more depth and that will require you to practise saying the lyrics to ensure your pronunciation is good before you learn the song. Go to the following link and watch the video. You may watch it twice if you would like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Udw9gFjuCMs&index=13&list=PLYj2ZUvNVyKllyMrKNR2oilYYqp74o7nM>

★ Task 3 complete

### 4. Mastering the verses

By now, you should be feeling more confident about the chorus. Go back to the song and just practise the verse parts (everything not including the chorus). These are the bits that change and so are harder to get good at. Practise each verse around three times or more, until you begin to feel you know it by heart.

★ Task 4 complete

### 5. Singing away

Now that you have practised pronouncing the lyrics, you're ready to sing along with passion. Go back to page 2 and play the song, reading out the lyrics and singing along. When you've finished, listen to and sing the whole song through a second time.

★ Task 5 complete

### 6. Yikes! No pinyin?

You've now reached the advanced stage. Yippee!



As the characters in the video are traditional, you need to use the versions with the simplified characters given to you in this Project on the next page. Listen to the first line of the song. Now press pause and read the first line of pure characters repeating the line of the song yourself. Do the same with the second line.

Do this for the whole song and then go back to the beginning again. Keep going until you can read and sing two lines at a time.

The final stage is to read the characters whilst singing without pressing pause, or just pressing it occasionally.

When you have practised singing the song a lot only looking at the characters, record yourself singing it and email your teacher the sound file or a link to the song if you have an online classroom. Don't worry if you find singing difficult, just give it your best shot.

**Note:** It's important that you don't only sing everything by heart without caring about the characters. You need to play close attention to all the characters as you sing.

Spend as much time as you need on this task. It is going to be very good for your reading skills!

## Simplified character version – no pinyin

### Verse 1

为何牛仔来到这里？  
他该不是收到绝杀令  
大家小心，准备逃跑  
他到底为什么来这里？

迷路的牛仔不忙  
在哪里选错路，不晓得  
走了几千里，已铁腿  
他只要找个地方休息

### Chorus

来一杯，永远不累  
我们都是朋友，一起享受  
来一杯，不管是谁  
都能随时加入，不再辛苦下去

喝茶、唱歌、玩乐 X 2

### Verse 1

在英国的牛仔不多  
忙的牛仔更是非常罕见  
这次牛仔不点牛奶  
他想来  
一杯珍珠奶茶

### Chorus

来一杯，永远不累  
我们都是朋友，一起享受  
来一杯，不管是谁  
都能随时加入，不再辛苦下去

喝茶、唱歌、玩乐 X 4

**Chorus repeats with the last line  
sung 3 instead of 4 times**

★	Task 6 complete	
---	-----------------	--

## 7. Language

a) Practise writing out the characters for 'to sing' (in Chinese this is 'sing a song') in the boxes below:

唱	chàng						
歌	gē						

b) Now write in Chinese, 'My younger brother's hobby is singing.' You can refer to your book or any dictionaries to help. Reminder: You will need to use the possessive 的 de somewhere, as well as 是 shì (to be).

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Translate into Chinese, 'My cat can't sing'. Reminder: You will need the verb 会 huì (be able to).

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

d) In the song, the cowboy orders 一杯 珍珠 奶茶. What is this in English?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



e) 杯 bēi is a measure word that means 'a cup of'. Using 了 le after the verb to show the past tense, write in Chinese, 'She drank three cups of green tea.' Look up any characters you don't know.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

☆ Task 7 complete

## 8. Quiz: it's all about bubble tea!

There are many names for bubble tea. Visit the following page about bubble tea and just read the very first short paragraph which is printed in bold. Then, answer the question below.

<http://www.bubbletea.com/>

- a) List six alternative names for bubble tea here:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) This popular drink is made with tapioca balls. Do some quick research online and write down what you think tapioca is here:

Transition filmed the music video in Taiwan, and for good reason, as you are about to find out. Watch this YouTube video about pearl milk tea or 'boba' and answer the questions below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E-hhsvO2bY>

- c) What is the name of the Taiwanese airline Fung Bros take to Taiwan?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d) In which city was boba (or bubble tea) invented?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e) What word do you think one of the men says at 3:07? **Tip:** it appears in the song too!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- f) Why is the first drink talked about in the restaurant called 'bubble tea'?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- g) In which year were tapioca balls first added to bubble tea?

★	Task 8 complete	
---	-----------------	--

### 9. Fancy a cuppa down the road?

Run a quick online search for bubble tea or pearl milk tea cafes in a city near where you live. Make a note below of where one of them is. Perhaps you will go there one day.

Nearest place: \_\_\_\_\_

☆	Task 9 complete	
---	-----------------	--

### 10. Traditional Chinese tea

The drinks we have looked at so far are relatively recent inventions. Many Chinese people prefer to drink healthier and more traditional teas that do not need milk or sweeteners to be enjoyed. There are numerous types of Chinese tea. Take a look at the different types: [http://www.shen-nong.com/eng/lifestyles/chinese\\_tea\\_types.html](http://www.shen-nong.com/eng/lifestyles/chinese_tea_types.html)

Look up the characters of these four teas and write them out in the box below. You may add the pinyin with tones as well.

Oolong tea: \_\_\_\_\_

Green tea: \_\_\_\_\_

Jasmine tea: \_\_\_\_\_

Red tea: \_\_\_\_\_

☆	Task 10 complete	
---	------------------	--

Watch this video of a tea brewing ceremony used for pu-erh tea. Make notes in the box below about anything you find interesting or perhaps strange.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3tA3fFCP34>

*Notes on Chinese tea brewing ceremony*

### ***Some final thoughts***

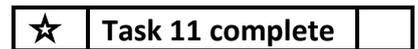
- 1) If you have drunk Chinese tea before, for example in a Chinese restaurant, describe what it was like in a few words:

---

- 2) Do you like the idea of trying to make pearl milk tea yourself? If so, visit some of the following links to see how it's done. You can find many other guides online. A word of advice from 高老师 Mr G: don't add very much sugar as it really isn't good for you, and it can actually be much more enjoyable when it's not sickly sweet!

You can find tapioca balls in a Chinese supermarket. You might also need to get hold of some fat straws that the balls can fit into when you suck at the straw.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Bubble-Tea>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU-WVa-f1Lo>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olieCr8lwxs>



Well done!



太棒了!

## Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You now know another Chinese song.
- You know all about one of the most popular drinks in the whole of Asia and where it comes from.
- You have had your first glimpse of traditional Chinese tea brewing.

*If your teacher signs you off,  
you will collect 1 Badge!*