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**In Italy, 'al dente' is prized. In Taiwan, it's all about food that's 'Q.'**

在意大利，“有嚼劲”被视为珍宝；在台湾，它与一切“Q”的食物有关

**al dente** /æɪl 'denteɪ/: adj. 有嚼劲，有弹性

As dusk falls at Lehua Night Market, the **fluorescent** lights **flicker** on and the hungry customers start **trickling in**, **anxious** for a taste of the local **delicacies** that give this island its **reputation** as one of Asia's finest **culinary capitals**.

随着夜幕降临，乐华夜市的荧光灯渐渐亮起，饥肠辘辘的顾客们陆陆续续地来到这里，急切渴望着品尝到当地的美食，因为这些美食使得这座岛屿被誉为亚洲美食胜地之一。

**fluorescent** /flɔɪ'resnt/: adj. 荧光的

- a fluorescent lamp 荧光灯

**flicker** /'flɪkər/: v. (灯光等) 闪烁，摇曳，忽隐忽现；n. 闪烁

- the candle flickered / the flicker of the candle 蜡光闪烁

**trickling in/into**: (人) 缓慢地移动, 三三两两地进入

- People began trickling in/into the hall.

相关词汇: **trickle**: v. 小股流淌; 缓慢移动

- blood trickled out of the wound 血从伤口处流出来

- to trickle away from a place 从一个地方慢慢离开

**anxious**: adj. 焦虑的

**delicacy** /'dɛlɪkəsi/: n. 佳肴; 精致; 较弱; 棘手; 周到

相关词汇: **delicate**: adj. 精致的; 易损的; 纤弱的

- with a few delicate strokes of his brush 他巧妙地勾画几笔

- I feel a bit delicate this morning. 我今天早上感觉有点虚弱。

**reputation**: n. 名声

- to live up to one's reputation 名副其实

- to acquire/establish/earn a reputation 获得/确立/赢得名声

- He has a reputation for laziness. 他以懒惰出名。

**culinary** /'kʌlɪnəri/: adj. 烹饪的, 食物的

culinary skills

**capital**: n. 大写字母; 重要城市; 资本; adj. 主要的

- with a capital 确确实实

- the fashion capital of the world 世界时装之都

- a starting capital of £50,000 5万英镑的启动资金

- to be of capital importance 至关重要

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**Neatly** arranged **pyramids** of **plump** fish balls. Bowls **brimming** with **tapioca** balls

bathed in lightly sweetened **syrup**. Take a bite of any of these dishes and you'll discover a unique texture. But how exactly do you describe that perfectly **calibrated** "mouth feel"?

**Slippery? Chewy? Globby?** Not exactly the most **flattering** adjectives in the culinary world.

整齐排列成金字塔状的饱满鱼丸。一碗碗浸润在微甜糖水里的粉圆。从这些小吃里随便尝一口, 你都会发现一种独特的口感。但你该如何描述那种经过精心调配的“口感”呢? 滑溜? 有嚼劲? 黏糊糊? 这些可算不上是烹饪界最讨人喜欢的形容词。

**neatly**: adj. 整齐地; 巧妙地

- his hair was neatly combed 他的头发梳得整整齐齐

- neatly put! 说得好!

- the case is designed to fit neatly into your pocket 盒子设计得正好能装进口袋里

**pyramid**: n. 金字塔; 锥体

- the pyramids of Egypt 埃及的金字塔

**plump** /plʌmp/: adj. 丰满的，饱满的

- plump juicy grapes 丰满多汁的葡萄

**brim with**: 装满，充满

- a glass brimming with coffee

**tapioca** /ˌtæpiˈoʊkə/: n. 木薯淀粉

**syrup** /ˈsɪrəp/: n. 糖浆

**texture** /ˈtekstʃər/: n. 口感

- She likes sponge cakes because they have a light texture. 她喜欢海绵蛋糕，因为它们质地轻盈。

**calibrated** /ˈkælɪbreɪtɪd/: adj. (工具或仪器) 校准的 (calibrate v.)

- to calibrate a thermometer 校准温度计

**slippery** /ˈslɪpəri/: adj. 滑溜的，湿滑的

**chewy** /ˈtʃu:ɪ/: adj. 耐嚼的，需要多嚼的 (chew v.)

- chewy toffee 耐嚼的太妃糖

**globby** /ˈɡlɒbi/: adj. 黏糊糊的

相关词汇: glob: n. 一滴；一小团

- a glob of ketchup 一小团番茄酱

**flattering** /ˈflætərɪŋ/: adj. 奉承的，讨好的 (flatter v.)

- She's always making flattering remarks. 她一直在发表讨人喜欢的言论。

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Luckily, the Taiwanese have a word for this texture. Well, actually, it's not a word, it's a letter—one that even non-Chinese speakers can pronounce. It's "Q."

幸运的是，台湾人有一个词来形容这种口感。事实上，它也不是一个词，而是一个字母——就连不讲中文的人也能说出它。那就是“Q”。

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"It's difficult to explain what Q means exactly," said Liu Yen-ling, a manager at Chun Shui Tang, a popular **teahouse** chain that claims to have invented tapioca milk tea in Taiwan.

"Basically it means **springy**, soft, **elastic**."

人气连锁茶饮店春水堂号称是台湾珍珠奶茶的发明者。该店的经理刘彦伶表示，“很难解释‘Q’到底是什么意思，基本上，它意味着有弹性，软糯，可伸缩的。”

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**teahouse**: n. 茶馆

**springy** /ˈsprɪŋi/: adj. 有弹性的，有活力的 (spring v. 跃起；涌现)

- the springy turf 有弹性的草皮

**elastic** /ɪˈlæstɪk/: adj. 有弹力的，可伸缩的

- an elastic rope 弹力绳

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Q texture is to Taiwanese what **umami** is to Japanese and al dente is to Italians—that is, **cherished and essential**. The texture is found in both **savory** and sweet foods, and is most often used to describe foods that contain some kind of **starch** like noodles, tapioca pearls and fish balls. If something is really chewy or extra Q, then it could be called QQ.

Q 的口感之于台湾人，犹如鲜味之于日本人，有嚼劲之于意大利人——既备受珍视，也必不可少。这种口感在非甜食和甜食中都能找到，并且它最常被用来描述含有淀粉的食物，比如面条、木薯珍珠和鱼丸。如果某样东西真的很耐嚼或特别的 Q，那么它就可以被称为 QQ。

**umami** /u:'mɑ:mi/: n. 鲜味

**savory** /'seɪvəri/: adj. 美味的；不甜的

**starch** /stɑ:rtʃ/: n. 淀粉 (starchy adj.)

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Among Taiwanese, the appreciation for Q texture starts at a young age. Asked why Q texture was so **appealing** to Taiwanese, Lu Wei-chen, the owner of the **stand**, smiled and said, "It's simple. When you eat it, you will be in a good mood."

台湾人对 Q 这种口感的喜爱从年幼时就开始了，当被问到 Q 的口感为什么对台湾人有如此大的吸引力时，小摊老板路伟晨微笑着说，“很简单，当你吃到它时，你的心情会很好。”

**appealing** /ə'pi:liŋ/: adj. 有吸引力的

- The idea of not having to get up early every morning is rather appealing to me. 每天早上不必早起的想法对我很有吸引力。

相关词汇：**appeal** v./n. 呼吁；上诉；有吸引力

- the manager appealed for calm 经理呼吁保持冷静(v.)

- he appealed to the court for mercy 他恳求法庭宽恕(v.)

- he made an appeal to the citizens for tolerance 他恳请公民要宽容(n.)

- to appeal to a higher court 向上级法院申诉(v.)

- Does this colour appeal to you? 这种颜色你喜欢吗？(v.)

**stand** /stænd/: n. 摊位

a newspaper stand

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原文：

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