

# Re: Teaching and Learning English in Hong Kong

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**From:** Geoff (grw888\_at\_hotmail.com)

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phippmartin@hotmail.com wrote:

- > *When I was visiting Cornwall, England a few years back I heard tea*
- > *referred to as "cha" and I told my parents that the word came from*
- > *Mandarian Chinese. In Taiwan, the word for tea sounds like "tay",*
- > *which is precisely how the word is pronounced in French, and probably*
- > *Portuguese too I imagine.*
- >
- > *Martin*
- >

The present-day Chinese languages ("dialects") have evolved in different directions from middle Chinese. The "tay" you hear is the word for tea in Taiwanese/Hokkien/Fujianhua. "Cha" is the same word in putonghua/mandarin pronunciation.