

# UNIT 4

## Leisure

- 休息是为了更好的蓄力。

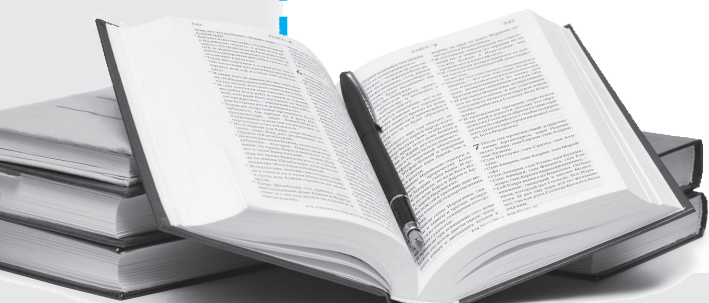
— 朱光潜

*Time for leisure is to get readier for work.*

— Zhu Guangqian  
(1897–1986, Chinese scholar in aesthetic studies)

- *We give up leisure in order that we may have leisure, just as we go to war in order that we may have peace.*

— Aristotle  
(384 B.C.–322 B.C., Greek philosopher and scientist)



## Exploring the Topic



Video

Where would you go if you need to meet your friend, a teahouse, a coffee shop, or even a bar? Have you read the drama *Teahouse* written by the famous Chinese playwright Lao She? What role do you think teahouse plays in people's daily life? In the drama, the Chinese teahouse functions as a place for people from all walks of life to chat and socialize while enjoying tea. What about real-life teahouses nowadays?

To a large extent, the pub to Britain is what the teahouse is to China. In Britain, the pub, also the public house, is a place with an important social function — a meeting place, somewhere to relax, a place where people drink, talk and traditionally play games like cards or darts or even billiards. Going to the pub is a traditional part of English life and has become a signature cultural icon of the country.

In this unit, you are going to read about China's long-standing teahouses as well as the British pubs. This will help you understand the cultural differences in leisure pursuits between the two cultures.

**After learning this unit, you are expected to be able to answer the following questions:**

- What roles do teahouses play in the life of Chengdu people?
- How have pubs evolved through history in Britain?
- How do young people in different cultures spend their leisure time?
- How would you introduce to the world the drama *Teahouse* by Lao She?

## Understanding the Text



Key Words

### Text A

#### How China's Long-Standing Teahouses Foster Urban Stability

Sascha Matuszak

- ① Guidebooks to Chengdu always mention the teahouse culture. The famous teahouses provide a backdrop to a visit to an operetta, a trip to get your ears cleaned, or simply a midday break for a cup of good green tea. But such teahouses aren't merely a quaint place to cool your heels. For locals, they perform a vital function: keeping Chengdu's identity alive amid the galloping pace of change.
- ② The guidebooks point visitors first and foremost to the Heming Teahouse, in the center of People's Park, and rightfully so. Steeped in history and local culture, Heming has remained staunchly local despite the influx of tourists. Today, "staunchly local" means Heming serves only local green teas made with hot water poured from long-spouted copper pots specific to Chengdu. Patrons wile away the day playing mahjong and nonchalantly getting their ears cleaned by a bewhiskered old man in Sichuan opera colors.
- ③ Two stories about this teahouse. In 1911, when the Qing Dynasty fell following a nationwide strike, the spark came from here, the Heming teahouse, when Sichuanese rioted against the government's cooperation with an English railroad company. Also, before the Qing fell, this teahouse was where teachers and professors hung their credentials from the rafters and waited for students to approach them. Appealing to a teacher was an incredibly social experience. Parents and students crowded around to listen to lectures, professors eyed each other over steaming green tea, and money flowed from one side of the teahouse



to the other.

- ④ The thing about Chengdu teahouses, and Chinese discourse in general, is that it is much more vibrant than outsiders imagine. There are certain safe zones where anything can be discussed or addressed, and teahouses are one of them.
- ⑤ Teahouses are a bit like social media in that respect. Although there have been revolutions staged out of teahouses, the major purpose of the teahouse — besides of course drinking tea, playing games and chatting about nothing — is to provide the populace with a source of information and an outlet for grievances.
- ⑥ Traditionally, teahouses were the only source of information for people in Chengdu. Before phones and the Internet, word-of-mouth passed between sips of tea is how people learned. That has not changed. Will this neighborhood be reconstructed like all of the others? Learn the answer in the local teahouse. Did you read about the latest fighter accident on the deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier? No? Well then head over to the teahouse and you'll hear all about it.
- ⑦ There is a communal strength in China that belies decades of chaos and change. Much of it is in the bones of the people: centuries of doing things a certain way has bred a certain way of doing things. Such as gathering at the teahouse. The ability to maintain continuity as a society is, after all, the very definition of resilience. There are teahouses in every village in Sichuan. Every neighborhood in Chengdu has a teahouse. There is a teahouse in every one of China's newest, most dynamic developments.
- ⑧ And there is not a home in Chengdu, in which an older man lives, that does not have a box of cheap Sichuan green tea and a mug so brown from years of use. Tea drinking is such an integral part of the culture in Chengdu that has its own slang, a dozen ancient techniques for how to pour, how to drink, when to drink. And it has a clear purpose: reminding Chengdunese that they are from Chengdu, that they love to chat and drink tea. They may be lazy, but there isn't a topic on Earth they won't discuss.

**A Global Understanding**

*Quickly locate the relevant information in Text A for the following questions. Write down a short answer to each of them.*

1 What vital function do Chengdu's teahouses perform?

(Paragraph \_\_)

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2 Why is the Heming teahouse said to be “staunchly local”?

(Paragraph \_\_)

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3 What is the major purpose of the Chengdu teahouses?

(Paragraph \_\_)

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4 How was the information spread before phones and the Internet?

(Paragraph \_\_)

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5 What was the author's definition of resilience?

(Paragraph \_\_)

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**B Language Focus**

*Find in Text A the English equivalents for the following Chinese expressions.*

1 茶馆文化 \_\_\_\_\_

6 打麻将 \_\_\_\_\_

2 绿茶 \_\_\_\_\_

7 闲谈 \_\_\_\_\_

3 长嘴铜壶 \_\_\_\_\_

8 安全地带 \_\_\_\_\_

4 采耳 \_\_\_\_\_

9 热腾腾的绿茶 \_\_\_\_\_

5 川剧 \_\_\_\_\_

10 消息来源 \_\_\_\_\_

## Text B

## The Great British Pub

Ben Johnson



Key Words

- ① Renowned the world over, the great British pub is not just a place to drink beer, wine, cider or even something a little bit stronger, it is a unique social center, very often the focus of community life in villages, towns and cities throughout the length and breadth of the country.
- ② Yet it appears that the great British pub actually started life as a great Italian wine bar, and dates back almost 2,000 years.
- ③ It was an invading Roman army that first brought Roman roads, Roman towns and Roman pubs known as *tabernae* to these shores in 43 A.D. Such *tabernae*, or shops that sold wine, were quickly built alongside Roman roads and in towns to help quench the thirst of the legionary troops.
- ④ Ale however was the native British brew, and it appears that these *tabernae* quickly adapted to provide the locals with their favorite tipple, and the word eventually became corrupted to tavern.
- ⑤ These taverns or alehouses not only survived but continued to adapt to an ever changing clientele, through invading Angles, Saxons, Jutes and both Danish and Scandinavian Vikings. Around 970 A.D. one Anglo-Saxon king, Edgar, even attempted to limit the number of alehouses in any one village. He is also said to have been responsible for introducing a drinking measure known as “the peg” as a means of controlling the amount of alcohol an individual could consume, hence the expression “to take (someone) down a peg.”
- ⑥ Taverns and alehouses provided food and drink to their guests, whilst inns offered accommodation for weary travelers. These could include merchants, court officials or pilgrims traveling to and from religious shrines, as immortalized by **Geoffrey Chaucer**<sup>1</sup> in his *Canterbury Tales*.
- ⑦ Inns also served military purposes; one of the oldest dating from 1189 A.D.

<sup>1</sup> 1343–1400, the author of *Canterbury Tales*, known as the father of English literature and the greatest poet of the Middle Ages.

is Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem in Nottingham, and is said to have acted as a recruitment center for volunteers to accompany King Richard I (The Lionheart) on his **crusade**<sup>1</sup> to the Holy Lands.



- ⑧ The Bell Hotel, Tewkesbury Alehouses, inns and taverns collectively became known as public houses and then simply as pubs around the reign of King Henry VII. A little later, in 1552, an act was passed that required innkeepers to have a license in order to run a pub.
- ⑨ By 1577 it is estimated that there were some 17,000 alehouses, 2,000 inns and 400 taverns throughout England and Wales. Taking into account the population of the period, that would equate to around one pub for every 200 persons. To put that into context, that same ratio today would be approximately one pub for every 1,000 persons ... Happy Daze!
- ⑩ Throughout history, ale and beer have always formed a part of the staple British diet, the brewing process itself making it a much safer option than drinking the water of the times.
- ⑪ Although both coffee and tea were introduced into Britain around the mid-1600s, their prohibitive prices ensured that they remained the preserve of the rich and famous. Just a few decades later however, things changed dramatically when cheap spirits, such as brandy from France and gin from Holland hit the shelves of the pubs. The social problems caused by the “Gin Era” of 1720–1750 are recorded in **Hogarth’s<sup>2</sup> *Gin Lane*<sup>3</sup>**.

<sup>1</sup> Military campaigns sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages ( 十字军东征 ).

<sup>2</sup> William Hogarth, 1697–1764, an English painter, printmaker, pictorial satirist, social critic, and editorial cartoonist.

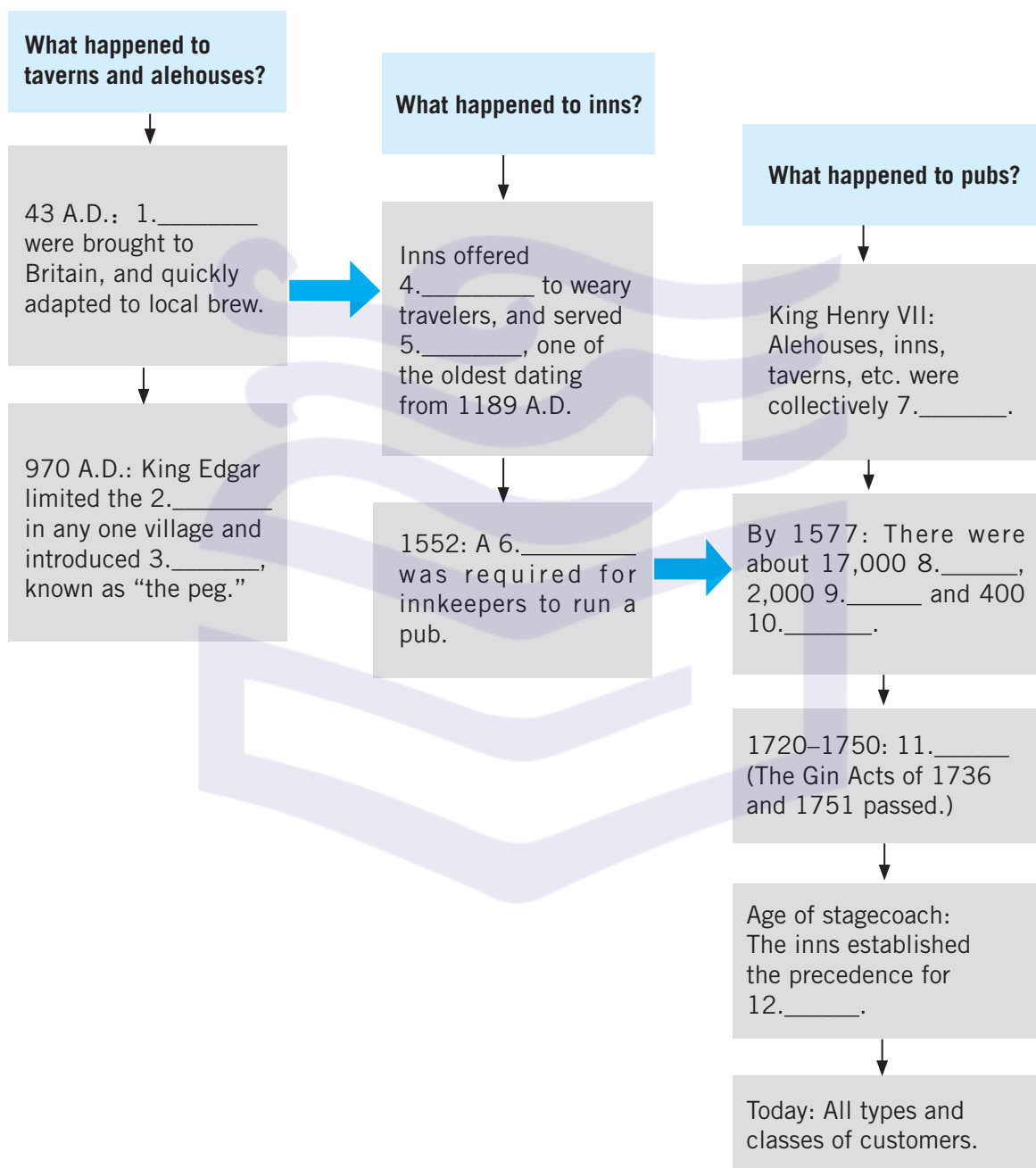
<sup>3</sup> *Beer Street* and *Gin Lane* were two prints of significance by Hogarth in support of the Gin Act of 1751. Designed to be viewed alongside each other, they depict the evils of the consumption of gin as a contrast to the merits of drinking beer.

- ⑫ **The Gin Acts of 1736 and 1751**<sup>1</sup> reduced gin consumption to a quarter of its previous level and returned some semblance of order back to the pubs.
- ⑬ The age of the stagecoach heralded yet another new era for the pubs of the time, as coaching inns were established on strategic routes up and down and across the country. Such inns provided food, drink and accommodation for passengers and crew alike, as well as changes of fresh horses for their continued journey. The passengers themselves generally consisted of two distinct groups, the more affluent who could afford the relative luxury of traveling inside the coach, and the others who would be left clinging on to the outside for dear life. The “insiders” would of course receive the warmest greetings and be welcomed into the innkeepers private parlor or salon (saloon), the outsiders meanwhile would get no further than the inn’s bar room.
- ⑭ The age of the stagecoach, although relatively short-lived, did establish the precedence for the class distinctions that followed with rail travel from the 1840s onward. Like the railways that operated a First, Second and even Third Class service, so the pubs evolved in a similar manner. Pubs of that time, even relatively small ones, would typically be split into several rooms and bars in order to cater for differing preferences of the differing type and class of customer.
- ⑮ In today’s “open-plan” society such walls have in the main been removed, and all types and classes of customer are now welcome in the great British pub, but tourists beware, don’t talk to any of the locals, a recent survey has revealed that almost one in four Britons will meet their future wife or husband in a pub!

<sup>1</sup> The Gin Act of 1736 imposed high taxes on retailers, aiming at prohibiting the trade by making it economically unfeasible, and this led to riots in the streets. The Gin Act of 1751 was enacted in order to reduce the consumption of spirits, which was considered one of the primary causes of crime in London.

**A Global Understanding**

*Fill in the following blanks with information from Text B to get an idea on how the tabernae evolved into today's pubs.*



**B Language Focus**

*Translate the English expressions from Text B into Chinese.*

- |   |         |       |
|---|---------|-------|
| 1 | beer    | _____ |
| 2 | wine    | _____ |
| 3 | cider   | _____ |
| 4 | ale     | _____ |
| 5 | tipple  | _____ |
| 6 | brandy  | _____ |
| 7 | gin     | _____ |
| 8 | spirits | _____ |

## Improving Reading Ability

### Making Inference in Reading

Most of the information we get from reading comes from what is implied rather than direct statements as you can tell from the amount of information we get from “reading between the lines.” In most situations, it is through inferences that words take on meaning. Inference is drawing conclusions based on the information that has been implied rather than directly stated and is an essential skill in reading comprehension. We make inferences every day, both in oral and written communication. Many times this is so automatic that we don’t even realize the information is not included in the conversation or text.

For example, read the following sentences: *“My wife and I tried to pack light but we made sure not to forget our bathing suits and sunblock. I wasn’t sure if I would get seasick again so I made sure to pack some medicine for upset stomachs.”*

You can deduce a great deal of information from these sentences:

- The author is married.
- He and his wife are going on a trip.
- They are going to be on a boat.
- They will be around water.
- They will be going swimming.

- They have gone swimming before.
- The author once got seasick on a boat in the past.

So, inferring is the ability to connect what is in the text with what is in the mind to create an educated guess. Making inference involves using what you know to guess what you don't know or reading between the lines. Here one uses the clues in the text along with their own experiences to help them figure out what is not directly said.

***Now read each of the following sentences carefully and then answer the questions below by making inferences. Choose the best answer from the four choices given.***

- 1 Turner almost wished that he hadn't listened to the radio. He went to the closet and grabbed his umbrella. He would feel silly carrying it to the bus stop on such a sunny morning. What probably happened?  
A. Turner realized that he had an unnatural fear of falling radio parts.  
B. Turner had promised himself to do something silly that morning.  
C. Turner had heard a weather forecast that predicted rain.  
D. Turner planned to trade his umbrella for a bus ride.
- 2 "Larry, as your boss, I must say it's been very interesting working with you," Miss Valdez said. "However, it seems that our company's needs and your performance style are not well matched. Therefore, it makes me very sad to have to talk with you today." What would Miss Valdez tell Larry next?  
A. She would feel really bad if he decided to quit.  
B. He was being fired.  
C. He was getting a raise in pay.  
D. She really enjoyed having him in the office.
- 3 Bill and Jessica were almost done taking turns to choose the players for their teams. It was Jessica's turn to choose, and only Kurt was left. Jessica said, "Kurt." What can we infer?  
A. Kurt was the best player on either team.  
B. Jessica was inconsiderate of Kurt's feelings.  
C. Kurt is not a very good player.  
D. Jessica was pleased to have Kurt on her team.

## Enhancing Cultural Awareness

Of the three major beverages of the world — tea, coffee and cocoa — tea is consumed by the largest number of people in the world.

China is the homeland of tea because all tea trees in other countries have their origin directly or indirectly in China. The word for *tea leaves* or *tea* as a drink in many countries are derivatives from the Chinese character “Cha.” The Russians call it “cha’i,” which sounds like “chaye” (tea leaves) as it is pronounced in northern China, and the English word “tea” sounds similar to the pronunciation of its counterpart in Xiamen. The Japanese character for *tea* is written exactly the same as it is in Chinese, though pronounced with a slight difference.

Ever since Emperor Shen Nong sat under a camellia tree 5,000 years ago, tea has been China’s national beverage. With such a long history of cultivating tea plants and brewing their leaves and those of other shrubs or herbs, the Chinese can truly be said to have a tea culture. Tea is more than a refreshment in China. It is a medicine, a tonic, a social stimulant, a digestive aid — a way of life.

In imperial times in China, the teahouse was the meeting place for gentlemen of leisure. They brought their pet birds along, savored their favorite teas, and passed the time of day. Drinking tea was a very serious business for them. Later, businessmen discussed and sealed deals in the neutral, relaxed surroundings of a teahouse, rather than in offices. The teahouse that served “house” blends or prized imports from respected tea-growing areas (such as Zhejiang and Fujian) sprang up all over China. One street in a town might support three or more, just as an English village happily accommodated a handful of pubs.

Tea, the most quintessential of English drinks, is a relative latecomer to British shores. Although the custom of drinking tea dates back to the 3rd millennium B.C. in China, it was not until the mid-17th century that the beverage first appeared in England.

Curiously, it was the London coffee houses that were responsible for introducing tea to England. One of the first coffee house merchants to offer tea was Thomas Garway, who owned an establishment in Exchange Alley. He sold both liquid and dry tea to the public as early as 1657. Tea gained popularity quickly in the coffee houses, and by 1700 over 500 coffee houses sold it. This distressed the tavern owners, as tea cut their sales of ale and gin, and it was bad news for the government, who depended upon a steady stream of revenue from taxes on liquor sales. By 1750, tea had become the favored drink of Britain’s lower classes.

***Based on what you have learned, make a comparison between teahouses in China and pubs in Britain. You may focus on how they differ from each other and what they have in common. If necessary, consult online resources.***

## Taking a Global Perspective

As you have found, Chinese teahouses and British pubs are places for both social activities and leisure time. In the U.S., college students often meet at coffee shops to discuss their assignments and enjoy their spare time. Where would the young people of other cultures go for socialization and relaxation?

**Conduct research on the preferences of young people in at least three different cultures, then write an essay of about 250 words to describe their choices of venues, specify the activities they perform in those places, and explain the reasons for their preference.**

## Telling Chinese Stories

In this unit, we have learnt that Chinese teahouse plays a role in people's social life. Interestingly, a famous drama by Lao She has the same title *Teahouse*. Published in 1957, Lao She's *Teahouse* mirrors the then social turmoil and the dark side of society, and is a monumental work in the history of modern Chinese drama.

**Make a 3-minute presentation to sketch the story and explain the significance of the drama in Chinese literature.**



Useful Expressions

## Assessing Your Learning

*After learning this unit, what have you accomplished and what do you still need to improve? Go over each aspect and rate your learning on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 means “Poor,” 3 means “Average,” and 5 means “Excellent.”*

Aspects	Your Achievements	Rating				
		1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge	I have got to know the significance of teahouses to Chengdu people.					
	I have learned the key time points in the history of pubs.					
Language	I have a command of English words or expressions related to leisure activities.					
	I can summarize the major functions of teahouses and pubs to people in English.					
Skills	I can make inferences based on the implied information.					
	I can outline the similarities and differences in young people's choice of social activities.					
Values	I have a clearer picture of the tea history and its reception in other countries.					
	I am proud of the influence of Chinese tea around the world.					
	I have come to realize the importance of promoting the soft power of China.					