

## WORDMATTERS

"It's so beautiful; I just had to take some pictures when I passed by."

**Many drivers are slowing down on the Lupo Bridge when they catch sight of the Expo park. Some drivers have leaned out of their open car windows to snap a few photos. Others have even had the temerity to climb out of their vehicles to get a bird's eye view of the dazzling night scene, causing traffic to grind to halt. Police have tried to discourage these disruptive drivers from leaving their vehicles, but as one man told them, the sight was just too beautiful to pass up.**



## Opinion

## A Shanghai surprise: the drunken shrimp delicacy

By Craig Zabransky

In a city famous for dumplings and seasonal crabs, more adventurous Shanghai cuisine awaits those who are interested. My first meal after 18 hours of flights (and essentially a 36-hour time change) from New York was a late dinner with my new co-workers. One of my Western partners, who arrived a few days earlier, had planned to brief me on etiquette and expectations, but I missed it because of delays in my travel. Yet, what I immediately learned is that Chinese food is nothing like the takeout that I grew up with.

My warm reception started

with a bowl of soup. Simple? No. Both shock and surprise came over me when I noticed a chicken foot on the ladle and then in my bowl. Not only difficult to swallow, but also difficult to chew. A difficult beginning.

As a consultant, I expect (and sell) managed change. I had expected to investigate and then ease into Chinese cuisine after I arrived in Shanghai. Not the case. My first weekend, a friend invited to me to join her for a Shanghai specialty – drunken shrimp. Shrimp, I thought, I can do that.

We arrived and she selected the live fish and shrimp from the freshwater tanks. We inspected them and they were

then shuttled off to the kitchen to be prepared. Dishes and side dishes came at intervals I could not completely grasp; yet I always had a small discard plate for any bones or inedible bites. But when the shrimp came, I immediately noticed a difference. The dish had a lid, a clear glass lid. No other dishes had lids. None.

Then it bounced. Then again. I looked closer and realized the shrimp were still alive. My friend, only then, informed me that the shrimp need to swim in the sauce and get drunk from the alcohol. Only then do we eat. Live shrimp? Live drunk shrimp? Seriously?

After the shrimp settled down, or perhaps passed out, I picked one with my chopsticks half expecting it to squirm like live bait. I dunked it once for good measure (and assurance) and slowly took my first bite, crunching through the shell. Scared and concerned I eventually opened my eyes and savored the taste. Good. I took another bite, then another shrimp, a third. Actually delicious.

That night changed my view toward Shanghai cuisine. From then on, I started to enjoy more and more dishes, if not delicacies, prepared in the city. Stomach, ears, tongue – you name it – I've tried it. And well, if you don't like it, there is always a discard plate. Of course, you can also follow the shrimp's example and swim in some alcohol. It eases the tension.



Illustrations: Cao Zhiyi

## Slanguage Corner

**Bamboozled by bloggers? Jaded by jargon? Let our new guide to netspeak and slangsitics smooth the way**

**Relative "eater"** (啃亲族, kěn qīn zú) :

People who mooch off their wealthy relatives. They go to see their rich family members now and again, bringing their school-age children or sick wives with them, and call this a "visit." They are actually more interested in winning sympathy and "donations."

**Red messages** (红段子, hóng duàn zì) :

Positive text messages that are spread between friends or online.

**Ants** (蚁族, yǐ zú) :

College graduates who work in low paying jobs like insurance sales or catering and squeeze together in small suburban apartments in big cities.

**School hangers-on** (校漂族, xiào piāo zú) :

A country boy who studied very hard to succeed in the big city, based on the sacrifice and hope of his family.

**Phoenix** (凤凰男, fèng huáng nán) :

An average guy with average looks, average wife, average salary. He doesn't drink, or smoke, or gamble, and has no mistress. His salary is between 2,000 to 10,000 yuan, and he hands it directly to his wife.

**Peacocks** (孔雀女, kǒng què nǚ) :

Overindulged city girls who have never experienced hardship and have lived comfortably since childhood.

## Polls Apart

## When will you visit the World Expo?

**The World Expo 2010 in Shanghai will kick off tomorrow. Do you plan to visit the event? If so, when do you plan to go? Let's see what Shanghai-based netizens think.**

I will go in July or August

**13% (287)**

I will go in May or June

**13% (285)**

There are so many people coming for the event, I won't go. I would prefer to watch it on TV or the Internet

**60% (1302)**

I will go in September or October

**14% (307)**

Source: sh.xinmin.cn

## Give your two cents, be part of the paper!

Can't wait to tell your story? If you have anything bizarre, funny, romantic or horrible to say, tell us!

Two Cents includes the most talked about stories in Shanghai. Give us your opinion on the hottest happenings in the city! Please send any and all inquiries under 100 words to [twocents-sh@globaltimes.com](mailto:twocents-sh@globaltimes.com).

**cn.** Opinions and stories are welcome at no more than 300 words. The Global Times reserves the right to edit all letters and statements for length and clarity.

METRO  
SHANGHAI

Any questions about life in Shanghai, give us a call!

+86 21 61363418