

# Speakers of a tone language show improved pitch perception

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People who speak Cantonese, a tonal language, demonstrate enhanced musical pitch perception relative to Canadian French and English speakers, according to an Apr. 11 report in the open access journal *PLoS ONE*.

The researchers, led by Patrick Wong, Li-Hai Tan, and Isabelle Peretz at the University of Montreal also investigated individuals with congenital amusia, a neurogenetic disorder that affects processing of pitch and rhythm in music.

Interestingly, Cantonese speaking amusics still showed enhanced [pitch perception](#) relative to Canadian amusics. These results, the authors write, argue for a re-conceptualization of communicative disorders within appropriate cultural frameworks.

**More information:** Wong PCM, Ciocca V, Chan AHD, Ha LYY, Tan L-H, et al. (2012) Effects of Culture on Musical Pitch Perception. *PLoS ONE* 7(4): e33424. [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0033424](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0033424)

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