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LEVEL

2



Cantonese

Absolute Beginner



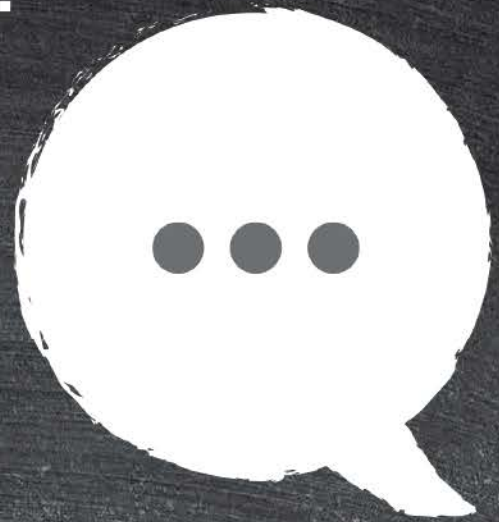
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LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

What's in a Cantonese Name?

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DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 你好。
2. 你好。
3. 我叫偉仔，你呢？
4. 我叫嘉玲。

ENGLISH

1. Hello.
2. Hello.
3. I'm Tony Leung. And you?
4. I'm Carina Lau.

JYUTPING

1. nei5 hou2.
2. nei5 hou2.
3. ngo5 giu3 wai5 zai2, nei5 ne1?
4. ngo5 giu3 gaa1 ling4.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 你好 | nei5 hou2 | hello | phrase |
| 我 | ngo5 | I | pronoun |
| 叫 | giu3 | to be called; call | verb |
| 你 | nei5 | you (singular) | pronoun |
| 你呢 | nei5 ne1 | and you | phrase |
| 好 | hou2 | very, quite | adverb, adjective |
| 嘉玲 | gaa1 ling4 | Carina Lau | Noun |
| 偉仔 | wai5 zai2 | Tony Leung | Noun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>我主修美術。 <i>ngo5 zyu2 sau1 mei5 seot6.</i> I'm an art major.</p> | <p>我係學生。 <i>ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1.</i> I'm a student.</p> |
| <p>我係佢哥哥。 <i>ngo5 hai6 keoi5 go4 go1.</i> I'm his older brother.</p> | <p>我叫Nicole。 <i>ngo5 giu3 Nicole.</i> I'm (called) Nicole.</p> |
| <p>我要叫外賣。 <i>Ngo5 giu3 giu3 ngoi6 maai6.</i> I am calling for take-out.</p> | <p>我叫Nicole。 <i>ngo5 giu3 Nicole.</i> I'm (called) Nicole.</p> |
| <p>你叫咩名？ <i>nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?</i> What's your name?</p> | <p>你喺邊？ <i>nei5 hai2 bin1?</i> Where are you?</p> |
| <p>你最近點呀？ <i>nei5 zeoi3 gan6 dim2 aa3 ?</i> How have you been lately?</p> | <p>你叫咩名？ <i>nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?</i> What's your name?</p> |
| <p>我最近好好，你呢？ <i>ngo5 zeoi3 gan6 hou2 hou2, nei5 ne1 ?</i> I've been really good lately, and you?</p> | <p>今日好開心啊！ <i>gam1 jat6 hou2 hoi1 sam1 aa3 !</i> Today (I'm) very happy!</p> |
| <p>我唔鍾意嘉玲。 <i>ngo5 m4 zung1 ji3 gaa1 ling4.</i> I don't like Carina.</p> | <p>我鍾意偉仔。 <i>ngo5 zung1 ji3 wai5 zai2.</i> I like Tony Leung.</p> |

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

你好 (*nei5 hou2*) means "hello" in Cantonese and is made up of two words: 你 (*nei5*) meaning "you" and '好 (*hou2*) meaning "good." Between friends, you can replace the 你好 with 嗨 (*haai1*), which literally means "hi," and it sounds just like it. 叫 (*giu3*) is literally the verb for "to call." So, as in the case of our dialogue, when you are saying "My name is _____," in Chinese, actually you are saying "I'm called _____."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Introducing Yourself and Asking Other's Names.

我叫偉仔，你呢？

ngo5 giu3 wai5 zai2, nei5 ne1?

"I'm Tony Leung. And you?"

The way to introduce yourself in Cantonese is very similar to English. In this case, we follow a simple pattern:

我叫 (*ngo5 giu3*) - "I'm called" + (name)

The sentence follows the subject (我) + verb (叫) + object (name) sentence structure, which is standard for Cantonese.

For Example:

1. 我叫Nicole。
ngo5 giu3 Nicole
"I'm Nicole."
2. 我叫Matt。
ngo5 giu3 Matt
"I'm Matt."

你呢 (*nei5 ne1*) "and you?"

We can use 你呢 (*nei5 ne1*) on any occasion where you want to ask for the other person's information or opinion. It is normal to first say something about yourself before you ask someone else 你呢.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What is Your Name?

When dealing with names in Cantonese, there are two ground rules you want to follow.

In the Chinese naming system, the given name is placed after the surname. Imagine your name in English. To turn your name into a Cantonese name, just put your family name first, and your first name, last. So for instance, Paul Johnson would now be Johnson Paul. For a Cantonese example, Tony Leung would be 梁朝偉, (*loeng4 ciu4 wai5*) - Literally, Leung Tony.

A second guideline is that it is more polite in Cantonese to introduce your name before asking others theirs. It is very common to simply ask for the family name of someone who is older than you as a sign of respect. For example, 你貴姓? (*nei5 gwai3 seng3?*) - "What is your family name?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2

Shooting the Breeze in Cantonese

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DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 你最近點呀？
2. 幾好，你呢？
3. 幾好。

ENGLISH

1. How are you lately?
2. Pretty good. And you?
3. Not bad.

JYUTPING

1. nei5 zeoi3 gan6 dim2 aa3?
2. gei2 hou2, nei5 ne1?
3. gei2 hou2.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| 幾好 | gei2 hou2 | pretty good | adjective |
| 點呀 | dim2 aa3 | What's up? | expression |
| 好好 | hou2 hou2 | very good | phrase |
| 你 | nei5 | you (singular) | pronoun |
| 最近 | zeoi3 gan6 | lately | adverb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| 我覺得佢幾好。 <i>ngo5 gok3 dak1 keoi5 gei2 hou2.</i> I think he is pretty good. | 呢排點呀？ <i>ni1 paai4 dim2 aa3 ?</i> How are you doing lately? |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>我好好。</p> <p><i>ngo5 hou2 hou2.</i></p> <p>I'm very good/well.</p> | <p>你喺邊？</p> <p><i>nei5 hai2 bin1?</i></p> <p>Where are you?</p> |
| <p>你去唔去？</p> <p><i>nei5 heoi3 m4 heoi3?</i></p> <p>Will you go?</p> | <p>你最近點呀？</p> <p><i>nei5 zeoi3 gan6 dim2 aa3?</i></p> <p>How have you been lately?</p> |
| <p>你叫咩名？</p> <p><i>nei5 giu3 me1 meng2?</i></p> <p>What's your name?</p> | <p>我個BB最近瞓得唔係幾好。</p> <p><i>ngo5 go3 bi4 bi1 zeoi3 gan6 fan6 dak1 m4 hai6 gei2 hou2.</i></p> <p>My baby hasn't been able to sleep well lately.</p> |
| <p>我最近幾好。</p> <p><i>ngo5 zeoi3 gan6 gei2 hou2.</i></p> <p>I've been all right lately.</p> | |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking, "How have you been?"

你最近點呀？

nei5 zeoi3 gan6 dim2 aa3?

"How are you lately?"

When asking a question in Cantonese, you place the question in statement form. For example, "How are you?" turns into "You are how," as a statement: 你點呀？ (*nei5 dim2 aa3?*) - "How are you?" To sound more colloquial and informal, add an 呀 (*aa3*) at the end of the sentence.

In the dialogue, we saw the sentence 你最近點呀？ (*nei5 zeoi3 gan6 dim2 aa3?*) - "How have you been lately?" In Cantonese, the adverb 最近 (*zeoi3 gan6*) - "lately" comes right after the subject. So it is "you lately how," plus 呀. Also, native speakers usually say it without the 你, that is, 最近點呀？ or 點呀？

If someone asks you this question, 你最近點呀？ you can reply with 我最近幾好呀 (*ngo5 zeoi3 gan6 gei2 hou2 aa1.*) - "I've been good lately." Notice that the adverb 最近 is in the same position here after the subject 我.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Exchanging Pleasantries

Exchanging pleasantries and engaging in small talk is a big part of the Cantonese speaking culture. There are a few ways to be friendly with old friends or casual acquaintances.

Some examples of "small talk" include:

1. 食咗飯未？

sik6 zo2 faan6 mei6

"Have you eaten yet?"

2. 最近點呀？

zeoi3 gan6 dim2 aa3

"How have you been lately?"

3. 點呀？

dim2 aa3

"What's up?"

Another way to engage in small talk is by asking someone if they have eaten, such as 得閒飲茶 (*dak1 haan4 jam2 caa4.*) - "Have Cantonese breakfast or brunch or *dim sum* when you have time." This doesn't necessarily mean an invitation to brunch together, but functions more as "I'll call you."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3

The Cantonese Identity Mix-Up

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 唔該，你係唔係偉仔？
2. 唔係。
3. 唔好意思。
4. 唔緊要。

JYUTPING

1. m4 goi1 , nei5 hai6 m4 hai6 wai5 zai2 ?
2. m4 hai6。
3. m4 hou2 ji3 si1。
4. m4 gan2 jiu3。

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me, are you Tony Leung?
2. No.
3. Sorry.
4. Never mind.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 唔係 | m4 hai6 | no | adverb |
| 唔好意思 | m4 hou2 ji3 si1 | excuse me, sorry | phrase |
| 係 | hai6 | to be | verb |
| 唔緊要 | m4 gan2 jiu3 | it doesn't matter | phrase |
| 廣東話 | gwong2 dung1 waa2 | Cantonese language | noun |
| 學 | hok6 | to learn | verb |
| 食 | sik6 | to eat | verb |
| 做 | zou6 | to do; to work | verb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>佢最近唔係幾好。 <i>keoi5 zeoi3 gan6 m4 hai6 gei2 hou2.</i></p> <p>He hasn't been doing too well lately.</p> | <p>唔好意思，洗手間喺邊？ <i>m4 hou2 ji3 si1, sai2 sau2 gaan1 hai2 bin1 ?</i></p> <p>Excuse me, where is the washroom?</p> |
| <p>我係學生。 <i>ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1.</i></p> <p>"I am a student."</p> | <p>唔緊要。 <i>m4 gan2 jiu3.</i></p> <p>Doesn't matter.</p> |
| <p>我識講廣東話。 <i>ngo5 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2.</i></p> <p>I (know how to) speak Cantonese.</p> | <p>你識唔識講廣東話？ <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2 ?</i></p> <p>Do you (know how to) speak Cantonese?</p> |
| <p>我學過跳舞。 <i>ngo5 hok6 gwo3 tiu3 mou5.</i></p> <p>I've learned dancing.</p> | <p>一齊食嘢。 <i>jat1 cai4 sik6 je5.</i></p> <p>Eat together.</p> |

最近好多嘢做。

zeoi3 gan6 hou2 do1 je5 zou6.

(There's) a lot of stuff to do lately.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 係, hai6 ("to be")

唔該，你係唔係偉仔？

m4 goi1 , nei5 hai6 m4 hai6 wai5 zai2?

"Excuse me, are you Tony Leung?"

In Cantonese, the verb 係 (hai6) - "to be" links the subject of the sentence with the object. For example, take 我係佢嘅朋友。 (ngo5 hai6 keoi5 ge3 pang4 jau5) - "I'm his/her friend." Here, 係 links the subject 我 with the object 嘅朋友。

Another feature of this verb and many other verbs in Cantonese is how we use them when asking a question. Cantonese uses an V-唔-V approach to asking a question. We duplicate the verb with the negation 唔 placed in the middle.

Some simple verbs that you can use in this format include:

1. 做唔做
zou6 m4 zou6
"to do or not to do"
2. 食唔食
sik6 m4 sik6
"to eat or not to eat"
3. 學唔學
hok6 m4 hok6
"to learn or not to learn"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Mistakes in Cantonese

Mistakes and misunderstandings are bound to happen when learning a language. Luckily, most Cantonese people are very forgiving about innocent mistakes and are quite amused at any non-native speaker speaking the language. With that said, here are two phrases that you can use when cultural misstep takes place:

1. 唔好意思。

m4 hou2 ji3 si1

"Excuse me."

You can use this very casual and versatile phrase in a lot of different situations.

2. 唔該。

m4 goi1

"Excuse me." or "Thank you."

You can use this phrase just to bring attention to a certain situation. If you need to pass someone on the street, you can say 唔該.

Many loan words have been adopted in Hong Kong and thus, have been disseminated through the Cantonese-speaking lexicon. "Hello" in Cantonese is 哈囉 (*haa1 lo2*). Whereas, "Bye" is 拜拜 (*baai1 baai3*). Both words have been adapted to the Cantonese pronunciation.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4

A Beer to Quench your Cantonese Thirst

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#4

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 小姐，唔該！
2. 唔？
3. 我要一支啤酒。
4. 冇問題。

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me, Miss?
2. Hmm?
3. I would like a beer.
4. No problem.

JYUTPING

1. siu2 ze2, m4 goi1!
2. m2?
3. ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 be1 zau2.
4. mou5 man6 tai4.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 小姐 | siu2 ze2 | miss | noun |
| 果汁 | gwo2 zap1 | juice | noun |
| 個 | go3 | (measure word) | measure word |
| 兩 | loeng5 | two (2) | numeral |
| 靚女 | leng3 neoi5 | pretty girl | noun |
| 靚仔 | leng3 zai2 | handsome boy | noun |
| 先生 | sin1 saang1 | sir, mister | noun |
| 冇問題 | mou5 man6 tai4 | no problem | phrase |
| 啤酒 | be1 zau2 | beer | noun |
| 支 | zi1 | (measure word for bottle) | measure word |
| 一 | jat1 | one | noun, adjective, number |
| 要 | jiu3 | to want, to need | verb |
| 水 | seoi2 | water | noun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>小姐，唔該借過。</p> <p><i>siu2 ze2, m4 goi1 ze3 gwo3.</i></p> <p>Miss, please let me through.</p> | <p>蘋果汁，橙汁，及葡萄汁</p> <p><i>ping4 gwo2 zap1 caang4 zap1 kap6 pou4 tou4 zap1</i></p> <p>apple juice, orange juice, and grape juice</p> |
| <p>百分百純果汁</p> <p><i>baak3 fan6 baak3 seon4 gwo2 zap1</i></p> <p>100% juice</p> | <p>兩杯果汁，唔該。</p> <p><i>loeng5 bui1 gwo2 zap1, m4 goi1.</i></p> <p>Two glasses of juice, please.</p> |
| <p>我有兩個姊妹。</p> <p><i>ngo5 jau5 loeng5 go3 ze4 ze1.</i></p> <p>I have two older sisters.</p> | <p>兩位。</p> <p><i>loeng5 wai2.</i></p> <p>For two.</p> |
| <p>我姐姐係一個靚女。</p> <p><i>ngo5 ze4 ze1 hai6 jat1 go3 leng3 neoi5.</i></p> <p>My sister is a pretty girl.</p> | <p>嘉玲好靚女。</p> <p><i>gaa1 ling4 hou2 leng3 neoi5.</i></p> <p>Carling Lau is very good-looking.</p> |
| <p>偉仔好靚仔。</p> <p><i>wai5 zai2 hou2 leng3 zai2.</i></p> <p>Tony Leung is very good-looking.</p> | <p>先生，幾位？</p> <p><i>sin1 saang1, gei2 wai2?</i></p> <p>How many people, sir?</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| 冇問題嘅，等我接手啦。 <i>mou5 man6 tai4 ge3, dang2 ngo5 zip3 sau2 laa1.</i> No problem, let me take over. | 調酒師正在倒生啤。 <i>diu6 zau2 si1 zing3 zoi6 dou2 saang1 be1</i> The bartender is pouring a draft beer. |
| | 一罐啤酒 <i>jat1 gun3 be1 zau2</i> can of beer |
| 我想要支啤酒。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 zi1 be1 zau2.</i> I'd like to have a beer. | 一樽啤酒 <i>jat1 zeon1 be1 zau2</i> bottle of beer |
| 我要一支紅酒。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 hung4 zau2.</i> I'd like a bottle of red wine. | 我上咗網一個鐘。 <i>ngo5 soeng5 zo2 mong5 jat1 go3 zung1.</i> I surfed the Internet for an hour. |
| 一個人嚟？ <i>jat1 go3 jan4 lai4 ?</i> You here alone? | 我要兩個pizza。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 pizza.</i> I want two pizzas. |
| 喝水 <i>hot3 sei2</i> drink water | 女人正在喝水。 <i>nei5 jan2 zing3 zoi6 hot3 sei2</i> The woman is drinking water. |
| 可以給我一些水嗎？ <i>ho2 ji5 kap1 ngo5 jat1 se1 sei2 maa3</i> Can I have some water, please? | 唔該畀杯水我。 <i>m4 goi1 bei2 bui1 sei2 ngo5.</i> I would like a glass of water, please. |
| 好口渴，我想飲水。 <i>hou2 hau2 hot3, ngo5 soeng2 jam2 sei2.</i> I'm so thirsty I want some water. | 水對身體好。 <i>sei2 deoi3 san1 tai2 hou2.</i> Water is good for the body. |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking for Something

我要一支啤酒。

ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 be1 zau2.

"I would like a beer."

The grammar focus of this lesson is the verb "to want" (要, *jiu3*). You can use this to express desire, interest, or a set plan for something that you want. The sentence structure for this verb follows the familiar pattern S+V+O where 要 is the verb, and what you want is the object.

For Example:

1. 小姐，我要百威。

siu2 ze2, ngo5 jiu3 baak3 wai1

"Miss, I want a Budweiser."

2. 香港啤酒好好飲。

hoeng1 gong2 be1 zau2 hou2 hou2 jam2

"Hong Kong beer tastes good."

3. 我要水。

ngo5 jiu3 sei2

"I want water."

4. 我要果汁。

ngo5 jiu3 gwo2 zap1

"I want fruit juice."

5. 我要兩個菜。

ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 coi3

"I want two dishes."*

6. 我要兩個飯。

ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 faan6

"I want two bowls of rice."*

* Remember that Cantonese uses measure words like 個 (*go3*) to distinguish the object. Remember that the measure word goes after the verb and before the object.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Calling Out in Cantonese

When traveling through a street in either Hong Kong or Guangdong, many roadside vendors will yell out at you 喂，靚仔! (*wai2, leng3 zai2!*) - "Hey gorgeous!" just to get your attention. Another common call is 靚女 (*leng3 nei5*), which literally translates to "beautiful woman." You might look back amusingly to see what all the commotion is about, but this kind of yelling out is just a Cantonese custom.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5

Logging on in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 呢度有冇wifi啊?
2. 有。
3. 點上?
4. 我嚟幫你。

JYUTPING

1. ni1 dou6 jau5 mou5 wifi aa3?
2. jau5.
3. dim2 soeng5?
4. ngo5 lei4 bong1 nei5.

ENGLISH

1. Do you have Wi-Fi here?
2. Yes.
3. How do I get on?
4. Let me help you.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 呢度 | ni1 dou6 | here | pronoun, adverb |
| 有冇 | jau5 mou5 | Do you have...?,is/ are there any | phrase |
| 點 | dim2 | how to, to order | adverb, verb |
| 上 | soeng5 | to get on | verb |
| 上網 | soeng5 mong5 | to get online | phrase |
| 嚟 | lei4 / lai4 | come | verb |
| 幫 | bong1 | to help | verb |
| 廁所 | ci3 so2 | toilet | noun |
| 餐廳 | caan1 teng1 | restaurant | noun |
| 互聯網 | wu6 lyun4 mong5 | internet | noun |
| 房 | fong2 | room | noun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>呢度啲嘢好好食。 <i>ni1 dou6 di1 je5 hou2 hou2 sik6。</i></p> <p>The food here is delicious.</p> | <p>你有冇時間? <i>nei5 jau5 mou5 si4 gaan3 ?</i></p> <p>Do you have time?</p> |
| <p>我哋啲餐廳都點埋一樣嘅嘢。 <i>ngo5 dei6 hai2 caan1 teng1 dou1 dim2 maai4 jat1 joeng6 ge3 je5。</i></p> <p>"All of us ordered the same at the restaurant."</p> | <p>呢個點用? <i>ni1 go3 dim2 jung6 ?</i></p> <p>How do I use this?</p> |
| <p>呢個網站我好耐冇上嘞。 <i>ni1 go3 mong5 zaam6 ngo5 hou2 noi6 mou5 soeng5 la6。</i></p> <p>I haven't been to this website for quite a while.</p> | <p>我屋企可以上網。 <i>ngo5 uk1 kei2 ho2 ji5 soeng5 mong5。</i></p> <p>You can get online at my place.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>等我嚟。 <i>dang2 ngo5 lei4.</i></p> <p>Let me do it.</p> | <p>佢幫我搞掂。 <i>keoi5 bong1 ngo5 gaau2 dim6.</i></p> <p>He helped me seal the deal.</p> |
| <p>佢去咗廁所。 <i>keoi5 heoi3 zo2 ci3 so2.</i></p> <p>He went to the bathroom.</p> | <p>佢要去廁所。 <i>keoi5 jiu3 heoi3 ci3 so2.</i></p> <p>He wants to go to the toilet.</p> |
| <p>印度餐廳 <i>jan3 dou6 caan1 teng1</i></p> <p>Indian restaurant</p> | <p>最近嘅印度餐廳喺邊? <i>zeoi3 kan5 ge3 jan3 dou6 caan1 teng1 hai2 bin1?</i></p> <p>Where is the nearest Indian restaurant?</p> |
| <p>我最鍾意嘅餐廳係SUBWAY。 <i>ngo5 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 ge3 caan1 teng1 hai6 SUBWAY.</i></p> <p>My favorite restaurant is Subway.</p> | <p>我鍾意呢間餐廳。 <i>ngo5 zung1 ji3 ni1 gaan1 caan1 teng1.</i></p> <p>I like this restaurant.</p> |
| <p>餐廳喺邊? <i>caan1 teng1 hai2 bin1?</i></p> <p>Where is the restaurant?</p> | <p>男人正在瀏覽互聯網。 <i>naam4 jan2 zing3 zoi6 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5</i></p> <p>The man is surfing the internet on the computer.</p> |
| <p>呢間房好細。 <i>ni1 gaan1 fong2 hou2 sai3.</i></p> <p>This room is really small.</p> | <p>仲有冇房? <i>zung6 jau5 mou5 fong2?</i></p> <p>Do you have any room left?</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 有, *jau5* ("to have")

呢度有冇wifi啊?

ni1 dou6 jau5 mou5 wifi aa3?

"Do you have Wi-Fi here?"

The focus of this grammar section is the verb 有 (*jau5*) - "to have." You can use this verb to say that something exists, is in someone's possession, or is available.

For Example:

1. 我有問題。
ngo5 jau5 man6 tai4
"I have a problem."

To negate this verb, you replace 有 with 冇.

For Example:

1. 冇問題
mou5 man6 tai4
"no problem"
2. 冇網絡
mou5 mong5 lok6
"no Internet"
3. 冇房
mou5 fong2
"no room"
4. 冇啤酒
mou5 be1 zau2
"no beer"

To ask "Do you have...," or "Is there any...," use 有冇 (*jau5 mou5*) followed by the object you are asking about.

For Example:

1. 有冇廁所啊?
jau5 mou5 ci3 so2 aa3
"Is there a toilet here?"
2. 有冇啤酒啊?
jau5 mou5 be1 zau2 aa3
"Do you have any beer?"

3. 有冇餐廳啊？
jau5 mou5 caan1 teng1 aa3
"Is there a restaurant here?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding Wireless in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a modern city with all the amenities you would expect back in the US or Europe. Wireless Internet is easily accessible in most parts of the city, especially on the island, and in most parts of Kowloon. One of the first things you will want to do when entering Hong Kong is to buy a local SIM card for your cell phone. You can easily purchase these either on the train into the territory or at the airport. This will allow you to access Wi-Fi hotspots in Hong Kong.

The Internet in Hong Kong is surprisingly fast, and you don't experience the kind of Internet censorship common on the mainland of China. Facebook, Twitter, and Google applications are all accessible.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6

A Lesson in Cantonese Civility

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

6

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你好。
2. 你好。
3. 你嘅啤酒。
4. 唔該。
5. 唔使客氣。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 hou2。
2. nei5 hou2。
3. nei5 ge3 be1 zau2。
4. m4 goi1。
5. m4 sai2 haak3 hei3。

ENGLISH

1. Hello.
2. Hello.
3. Your beer.

CONT'D OVER

4. Thank you.
5. You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 支 | zi1 | (measure word for bottle) | measure word |
| 你嘅 | nei5 ge3 | your, yours | pronoun |
| 嘅 | ge3 | possessive particle | possessive particle |
| 佢 | keoi5 | he, she, it | pronoun |
| 唔該晒 | m4 goi1 saai3 | Thank you very much. | phrase |
| 唔該 | m4 goi1 | excuse me, please, thank you | phrase |
| 唔使客氣 | m4 sai2 haak3 hei3 | You're welcome. | phrase |
| 啤酒 | be1 zau2 | beer | noun |
| 我哋 | ngo5 dei6 | we | pronoun |
| 你哋 | nei5 dei6 | you (plural) | pronoun |
| 佢哋 | keoi5 dei6 | they | pronoun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>我要一支紅酒。 ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 hung4 zau2.</p> <p>I'd like a bottle of red wine.</p> | <p>呢本係唔係你嘅書? ni1 bun2 hai6 m4 hai6 nei5 ge3 syu1?</p> <p>Is this your book?</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>呢個係我嘅收藏品。 <i>ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 ge3 sau1 cong4 ban2 .</i></p> <p>This is my collection.</p> | <p>我嘅單車唔見咗。 <i>ngo5 ge3 daan1 ce1 m4 gin3 zo2.</i></p> <p>My bike is missing.</p> |
| <p>佢今朝餵咗啲雞。 <i>keoi5 gam1 ziu1 wai3 zo2 di1 gai1.</i></p> <p>He fed the chickens this morning.</p> | <p>佢係我朋友。 <i>keoi5 hai6 ngo5 pang4 jau5.</i></p> <p>He is my friend.</p> |
| <p>真係唔該晒。 <i>zan1 hai6 m4 goi1 saai3.</i></p> <p>A million thanks.</p> | <p>唔該，我諗你坐緊呢個位係我嘅。 <i>m4 goi1, ngo5 lam2 nei5 co5 gan2 ni1 go3 wai2 hai6 ngo5 ge3.</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, I think this is my seat you are sitting on."</p> |
| <p>唔該細聲啲。 <i>m4 goi1 sai3 seng1 di1.</i></p> <p>Please lower your volume.</p> | <p>唔使客氣。 <i>m4 sai2 haak3 hei3.</i></p> <p>You're welcome. (No need to be polite)</p> |
| <p>我想要支啤酒。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 zi1 be1 zau2.</i></p> <p>I'd like to have a beer.</p> | <p>一樽啤酒 <i>jat1 zeon1 be1 zau2</i></p> <p>bottle of beer</p> |
| <p>我哋都係中國人。 <i>ngo5 dei6 dou1 hai6 zung1 gwok3 jan4.</i></p> <p>We are all Chinese.</p> | <p>你哋一齊去? <i>nei5 dei6 jat1 cai4 heoi3?</i></p> <p>Are you going together?</p> |
| <p>佢哋做咩嘍? <i>keoi5 dei6 zou6 me1 gaa3 ?</i></p> <p>What do they do?</p> | <p>佢哋嘅事你唔好理。 <i>keoi5 dei6 ge3 si6 nei5 m4 hou2 lei5.</i></p> <p>Stay away from their business.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Possessive Particle 嘅 (ge3)

你嘅啤酒。

nei5 ge3 be1 zau2

"Your beer."

嘅 (*ge3*) is a structural particle we use to show possession or ownership. The noun before 嘅 (*ge3*) is the owner of the object after 嘅 (*ge3*). For example, to say "my book" in Cantonese, connect the subject 我 (*ngo5*) - "I" and the object 書 (*syu1*) - "book" with the particle 嘅 (*ge3*): 我嘅書.

The word order is always as follows: owner + 嘅 (*ge3*) + owned. Furthermore, you can use all pronouns with the possessive particle 嘅.

| Cantonese | Jyutping | "English" |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 我嘅 | <i>ngo5 ge3</i> | "mine" |
| 你嘅 | <i>nei5 ge3</i> | "yours" |
| 佢嘅 | <i>keoi5 ge3</i> | "his"/"hers"/"its" |
| 我哋嘅 | <i>ngo5 dei6 ge3</i> | "ours" |
| 你哋嘅 | <i>nei5 dei6 ge3</i> | "yours" - plural |
| 佢哋嘅 | <i>keoi5 dei6 ge3</i> | "theirs" |

When speaking about family members, we drop 嘅 (*ge3*). For instance, "my mother" is 我媽媽 (*ngo5 maa4 maa1*).

For Example:

1. 你嘅啤酒。
nei5 ge3 be1 zau2
"Your beer."
2. 我嘅水。
ngo5 ge3 sei2
"My water."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Service in Hong Kong

Taking a cue from Britain, Hong Kong has a culture with a developed and sophisticated hospitality industry. This includes a custom of tipping. This is quite evident when contrasted with mainland Guangdong where tipping is unheard of and service can be hit or miss. Go to any sit-down restaurant in Hong Kong, and you will likely find a fifteen percent service charge added to your bill. In Hong Kong, the service staff is smaller and more efficient. In Guangdong, an army of waiters and waitresses fly through the restaurant filling orders as they are shouted at from across the room by impatient customers.

Given the differences in labor cost and cost of living in general, meals in Hong Kong are more expensive. But remember, in China, you get what you pay for. The meal may be cheaper, but don't assume you will receive top-notch service. But then again, mainland China can surprise you by providing excellent service at a fraction of the cost.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

Out for a Cantonese Dinner

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

7

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我肚餓。
2. 我都係。
3. 一齊食嘢?
4. 好啊。

JYUTPING

1. ngo5 tou5 ngo6。
2. ngo5 dou1 hai6。
3. jat1 cai4 sik6 je5 ?
4. hou2 a3 。

ENGLISH

1. I'm hungry.
2. Me too.
3. Let's go eat.
4. Okay.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| 口渴 | hau2 hot3 | thirsty | adjective |
| 飲 | jam2 | to drink | verb |
| 好 | hou2 | all right | adverb |
| 食 | sik6 | to eat | verb |
| 嘢 | je5 | thing, things | noun |
| 𩇛 | gui6 | tired | adjective |
| 係 | hai6 | to be | verb |
| 都 | dou1 | also | adverb |
| 肚餓 | tou5 ngo6 | hungry | adjective |
| 一齊 | jat1 cai4 | together | adverb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>口渴的狗在喝泳池裡的水。 <i>hau2 hot3 dik1 gau2 zoi6 hot3 wing6 ci4 lei5 dik1 sei2.</i></p> <p>The thirsty dog is drinking from the pool.</p> | <p>你鍾意飲咩? <i>nei5 zung1 ji3 jam2 me1?</i></p> <p>What do you like to drink?</p> |
| <p>我好好。 <i>ngo5 hou2 hou2.</i></p> <p>I'm very good/well.</p> | <p>一齊食嘢。 <i>jat1 cai4 sik6 je5.</i></p> <p>Eat together.</p> |
| <p>一齊食嘢。 <i>jat1 cai4 sik6 je5.</i></p> <p>Eat together.</p> | <p>行咗成日好𩇛。 <i>haang4 zo2 seng4 jat6 hou2 gui6.</i></p> <p>After walking for a whole day, I feel tired.</p> |
| <p>我係學生。 <i>Ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1.</i></p> <p>"I am a student."</p> | <p>你都好可愛。 <i>Nei5 dou1 hou2 ho2 oi3.</i></p> <p>You are also very cute.</p> |

我都鍾意佢。
ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5.

I also like him(/her/it).

那男人很肚餓，正在找食物。
*naa5 naam4 jan2 han2 tou5 ngo6, zing3 zoi6
zaau2 sik6 mat6*

The man is hungry and looking for food.

一齊食嘢。
jat1 cai4 sik6 je5.

Eat together.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Sentence Structure

我肚餓。

ngo5 tou5 ngo6

"I'm hungry"

In Cantonese, the basic sentence pattern is as follows: subject + adverb/verb + adjective. For example, 我好肚餓 (*ngo5 hou2 tou5 ngo6.*) - "I'm very hungry." The adverb of degree here is 好, and this acts as "to be," linking the subject 我 and the adjective 肚餓.

You can also place verbs to connect both the subject and object.

For Example:

1. 我好肚餓。
ngo5 hou2 tou5 ngo6
"I am hungry."
2. 佢好口渴。
keoi5 hou2 hau2 hot3
"He is thirsty."

If there is both an adverb and a verb in the sentence, place the adverb in front of the verb.

For instance, subject + adverb + verb + object

For Example:

1. 我哋一齊食嘢。
ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 sik6 je5
"We eat together."
2. 我哋一齊飲嘢。
ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 jam2 je5
"We drink together."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Outside Eateries

Hong Kong is notorious for sweltering and humid summers. To beat the heat and avoid stuffy restaurants, many locals and tourists alike head outdoors to enjoy their food and cooler temperatures. Since Hong Kong is situated on the ocean, there is easy access to fresh seafood. Go to any bustling street on the Kowloon side of the territory, and you will find a vast selection of foods to choose from.

The most popular and abundant beer by far in Hong Kong is San Miguel. With their original brewery based in the Philippines, San Miguel is one of the cheapest beers you can buy on the street. San Miguel is also brewed in Hong Kong by the San Miguel Brewery Hong Kong Ltd., where it has a twenty-four percent share compared to European rivals. Pick it up at a corner store or your favorite restaurant.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8

Help From the Cantonese Staff

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 小姐!
2. 有咩可以幫到你?
3. 埋單, 唔該。
4. 好。

JYUTPING

1. siu2 ze2 !
2. jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 bong1 dou2 nei5?
3. maai4 daan1, m4 goi1。
4. hou2。

ENGLISH

1. Miss!
2. Is there anything I can help you with?
3. Bill please.
4. Okay.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|
| 咩 | me1 | what | pronoun |
| 可以 | ho2 ji5 | can | verb |
| 幫 | bong1 | to help | verb |
| 有咩 | jau5 me1 | Is there anything... | phrase |
| 睇 | tai2 | to watch | verb |
| 做 | zou6 | to do; to work | verb |
| 埋單 | maai4 daan1 | to check the bill | verb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>發生咩事? <i>Faat3 saang1 me1 si6 ?</i></p> <p>What happened?</p> | <p>你叫咩名? <i>nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?</i></p> <p>What's your name?</p> |
| <p>我可以搭公交。 <i>Ngo5 ho2 ji5 daap3 gung1 gaau1.</i></p> <p>I can take the bus.</p> | <p>我哋可以一齊去。 <i>ngo5 dei6 ho2 ji5 jat1 cai4 heoi3.</i></p> <p>We can go together.</p> |
| <p>多謝你幫我。 <i>do1 ze6 nei5 bong1 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Thank you for helping me.</p> | <p>唔該幫下我。 <i>m4 goi1 bong1 haa5 ngo5</i></p> <p>Please help me.</p> |
| <p>有咩問題? <i>jau5 me1 man6 tai4?</i></p> <p>Is there any problem? /What's the problem?</p> | <p>不如睇戲? <i>bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?</i></p> <p>How about seeing a movie?</p> |
| <p>最近好多嘢做。 <i>zeoi3 gan6 hou2 do1 je5 zou6.</i></p> <p>(There's) a lot of stuff to do lately.</p> | <p>我嚟埋單。 <i>ngo5 lai4 maai4 daan1.</i></p> <p>Let me pick up the tab.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking Questions Using 有咩 (*jau5 me1*)

有咩可以幫到你?

jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 bong1 dou2 nei5 ?

"Is there anything I can help you with?"

In this lesson, we will focus on two ways of asking questions in Cantonese. The first is by using the combination of 有咩 (*jau5 me1*) and 可以 (*ho2 ji5*). This functions as "Is there any..." and then the object you are asking about.

Formula: 有咩可以 + object + 啊

For Example:

1. 有咩可以食啊?
jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 sik6 aa3
"Is there anything to eat?"
2. 有咩可以飲啊?
jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 jam2 aa3
"Is there anything to drink?"
3. 有咩可以買啊?
jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 maai5 aa3
"Is there anything to buy?"

Another way of asking a question in Cantonese is by using 可以. In Cantonese, an easy way to ask a question is by reduplicating the verb. In this case, we use 可唔可以 to ask "can" or "cannot?" Notice we are using the negation 唔.

For Example:

1. 你可唔可以幫我?
nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 bong1 ngo5
"Can you help me?"

2. 我哋可唔可以食嘢?
ngo5 dei6 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 sik6 je5
"Can we eat?"
3. 我哋可唔可以飲嘢?
ngo5 dei6 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 jam2 je5
"Can we drink?"
4. 我哋可唔可以埋單?
ngo5 dei6 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 maai4 daan1
"Can we get the bill?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Customer Service in Hong Kong

One of the benefits that Hong Kong received under British rule was a stronger appreciation and aptitude for customer service. This is something that distinguishes the territory from its mainland brethren. Overall, the level of customer service in Hong Kong's hospitality sector is quite good. This can be attributed in some small part to the fact that Hong Kong operates on a tipping basis. But good service comes at a price. Often times in restaurants, an involuntary service charge of fifteen percent will be applied to the total cost of the bill.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9

Delicious Cantonese Roast Goose

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 呢個係咩?
2. 呢個係深井燒鵝。
3. 好好食㗎!
4. 我都好鍾意食。

JYUTPING

1. ni1 go3 hai6 me1 ?
2. ni1 go3 hai6 sam1 zeng2 siu1 ngo2。
3. hou2 hou2 sik6 wo3 !
4. ngo5 dou1 hou2 zung1 ji3 sik6。

ENGLISH

1. What is this?
2. This is Sam Jeng roast goose.
3. It's delicious.
4. I like it a lot too.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| 呢 | ni1 | this | pronoun |
| 呢個 | ni1 go3 | this one | pronoun |
| 嗰 | go2 | that | pronoun |
| 嗰個 | go2 go3 | that one | pronoun |
| 燒鵝 | siu1 ngo2 | roast goose | noun |
| 好食 | hou2 sik6 | delicious, tasty | adjective |
| 鍾意 | zung1 ji3 | to like | verb |
| 出名 | ceot1 meng2 | famous | adjective |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>呢個係婆婆俾我嘅。 <i>ni1 go3 hai6 po4 po2 bei2 ngo5 ge3.</i></p> <p>My grandmother gave me this.</p> | <p>呢件衫好好睇。 <i>ni1 gin6 saam1 hou2 hou2 tai2.</i></p> <p>This clothing looks really good.</p> |
| <p>我要呢個。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 ni1 go3.</i></p> <p>I want this one.</p> | <p>嗰隻歌好好聽。 <i>go2 zek3 go1 hou2 hou2 teng1.</i></p> <p>That song sounds really good.</p> |
| <p>嗰個幾錢? <i>go2 go3 gei2 cin2?</i></p> <p>How much is that?</p> | <p>深井燒鵝遠近馳名。 <i>sam1 zeng2 siu1 ngo2 jyun5 gan6 ci4 ming4.</i></p> <p>Sam Jeng roast goose is famous far and wide.</p> |
| <p>呢度啲嘢好好食。 <i>ni1 dou6 di1 je5 hou2 hou2 sik6.</i></p> <p>The food here is delicious.</p> | <p>我鍾意食點心。 <i>ngo5 zung1 ji3 sik6 dim2 sam1.</i></p> <p>I like to eat dimsum.</p> |

人怕出名豬怕壯。

jan4 paa3 ceot1 meng2 zyu1 paa3 zong3.

People fear getting famous, pigs fear getting fat. (Don't fly too close to the sun.)

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking Questions

呢個係咩？

ni1 go3 hai6 me1 ?

"What is this?"

Another way to ask questions in Cantonese is by using 係咩 (hai6 me1?) - "What?" To ask a question using 係咩, you want to place the object of the sentence in front of 係咩. We see this used in the dialogue in this sentence: 呢個係咩? (ni1 go3 hai6 me1 ?) - "What is this?" The literal translation is "This is what?" so it is important to remember to place the question word 係咩 at the end of the sentence.

For Example:

1. 嗰個係咩

go2 go3 hai6 me1

"What is that?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Delicious Cantonese Cuisine

Cantonese cooking is somewhat lighter than most regional Chinese cuisine. Preparation methods usually involve stir-frying in shallow water or oil in a wok. As cooking time is short, the flavors and nutrition of the food is preserved. Vegetable and fish dishes are often steamed without the use of too much oil. Sauces made from ingredients like ginger, garlic, onion,

vinegar, and sugar are complemented to enhance flavors.

Cantonese menus are long and can often confuse the diner in making a decision. There are a wide variety of dishes made from meats, poultry, fish, seafood, and vegetables for you to choose from.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10

Ways to Get Around Hong Kong

CONTENTS

Dialogue - Cantonese
 Main
 English
 Jyutping
Vocabulary
Sample sentences
Grammar
Cultural insight

10

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 我地點去啊？
2. 搭巴士。
3. 不如搭地鐵？
4. 都得。

ENGLISH

1. How do we get there?
2. Let's take the bus.
3. How about the subway?
4. That'll also work.

JYUTPING

1. ngo5 dei6 dim2 heoi3 aa3?
2. daap3 baa1 si2.
3. bat1 jyu4 daap3 dei6 tit3?
4. dou1 dak1.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 搭 | daap3 | to take (a transport) | verb |
| 的士 | dik1 si2 | taxi | noun |
| 車 | ce1 | car | noun |
| 巴士 | baa1 si2 | bus | noun |
| 地鐵 | dei6 tit3 | subway | noun |
| 飛機 | fei1 gei1 | airplane | noun |
| 不如 | bat1 jyu4 | how about, why not | phrase |
| 都得 | dou1 dak1 | They're both okay. | phrase |
| 下次 | haa6 ci3 | next time | phrase |
| 小巴 | siu2 baa1 | minibus | undefined |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>搭車搭船都可以去。</p> <p><i>daap3 ce1 daap3 syun4 dou1 ho2 ji5 heoi3.</i></p> <p>We can go there by car or by boat.</p> | <p>黃色的士</p> <p><i>wong4 sik1 dik1 si2</i></p> <p>yellow taxi</p> |
| <p>女人正在登上的士。</p> <p><i>nei5 jan2 zing3 zoi6 dang1 soeng5 dik1 si2</i></p> <p>The woman is getting in a taxi.</p> | <p>登上的士</p> <p><i>dang1 soeng5 dik1 si2</i></p> <p>get in a taxi</p> |
| <p>乘的士</p> <p><i>sing4 dik1 si2</i></p> <p>take a taxi</p> | <p>喂！的士！</p> <p><i>wai3! dik1 si2!</i></p> <p>Hey! Taxi!</p> |
| <p>今日嘅內容係如何避免嘢中國大陸搭的士俾人扼錢！</p> <p><i>gam1 jat6 ge3 noi6 jung4 hai6 jyu4 ho4 bei6 min5</i> <i>hai2 zung1 gwok3 daai6 luk6 daap3 dik1 si2 bei2</i> <i>jan4 ak1 cin2!</i></p> <p>Today's content is how to avoid getting cheated in mainland taxis.</p> | <p>唔好叫人地的士佬。</p> <p><i>m4 hou2 giu3 jan4 dei6 dik1 si2 lou2.</i></p> <p>Don't call people "taxi guy."</p> |
| <p>你識唔識揸車呀？</p> <p><i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 zaa1 ce1 aa3?</i></p> <p>Do you know how to drive (a car)?</p> | <p>佢揀咗部藍色車。</p> <p><i>keoi5 gaan2 zo2 bou6 laam4 sik1 ce1.</i></p> <p>He chose a blue car.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>又要供車，又要供樓，好辛苦呀！</p> <p><i>jau6 jiu3 gung1 ce1, jau6 jiu3 gung1 lau2, hou2 san1 fu2 aa6!</i></p> <p>(I) have to pay the car loan as well as the mortgage, it's so hard!</p> | <p>停車熄火。</p> <p><i>ting4 ce1 sik1 fo2.</i></p> <p>Stop the car and turn off the engine.</p> |
| <p>我想買部二手車。</p> <p><i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 ji6 sau2 ce1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a second-hand car.</p> | <p>我們會乘巴士去機場。</p> <p><i>ngo5 mun4 wui5 sing4 baa1 si2 heoi3 gei1 coeng4</i></p> <p>We'll go to the airport by bus.</p> |
| <p>我每日搭巴士返工。</p> <p><i>ngo5 mui5 jat6 daap3 baa1 si2 faan1 gung1.</i></p> <p>Every day I get the bus to work.</p> | <p>香港有啲巴士有無線上網，咁塞車都有咁悶。</p> <p><i>hoeng1 gong2 jau5 di1 baa1 si2 jau5 mou4 sin3 seong5 mong5, gam2 sak1 ce1 dou1 mou5 gam3 mun6.</i></p> <p>Some Hong Kong buses have Wi-Fi, so it's less boring when you're stuck in a traffic jam.</p> |
| <p>搭巴士過去都好方便。</p> <p><i>daap3 baa1 si2 gwo3 heoi3 dou1 hou2 fong1 bin6.</i></p> <p>Taking a bus there is very convenient too.</p> | <p>地鐵線路</p> <p><i>dei6 tit3 sin3 lou3</i></p> <p>subway line</p> |
| <p>我乘地鐵去辦公室。</p> <p><i>ngo5 sing4 dei6 tit3 heoi3 baan6 gung1 sat1</i></p> <p>I take the subway to the office.</p> | <p>搭地鐵過海最快，但係好迫。</p> <p><i>daap3 dei6 tit3 gwo3 hoi2 zeoi3 faai3, daan6 hai6 hou2 bik1.</i></p> <p>Crossing the harbor by subway is the fastest, but it's so crowded.</p> |
| <p>佢屋企喺地鐵站附近。</p> <p><i>keoi5 uk1 kei2 hai2 dei6 tit3 zaam6 fu6 gan6.</i></p> <p>His house is close to the subway station.</p> | <p>萊特兄弟在一百年前駕駛首架飛機。</p> <p><i>loi4 dak6 hing1 dai6 zoi6 jat1 baak3 nin4 cin4 gaa3 sai2 sau2 gaa3 fei1 gei1</i></p> <p>The Wright Brothers flew the first airplane over 100 years ago.</p> |
| <p>正在飛翔的飛機</p> <p><i>zing3 zoi6 fei1 coeng4 dik1 fei1 gei1</i></p> <p>flying airplane</p> | <p>飛機在天空上飛翔。</p> <p><i>fei1 gei1 zoi6 tin1 hung1 soeng6 fei1 coeng4</i></p> <p>The airplane is flying in the sky.</p> |
| <p>我而家坐緊飛機。</p> <p><i>ngo5 ji4 gaa1 co5 gan2 fei1 gei1.</i></p> <p>I'm on an airplane right now.</p> | <p>而家飛機票唔貴。</p> <p><i>Ji4 gaa1 fei1 gei1 piu3 m4 gwai3.</i></p> <p>Plane tickets now are not expensive.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| 不如叫多籠點心吖？ <i>bat1 jyu4 giu3 do1 lung4 dim2 sam1 aa1?</i> How about we order another dim sum? | 不如睇戲？ <i>bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?</i> How about seeing a movie? |
| 點都得。 <i>dim2 dou1 dak1。</i> Any way works. | 下次再傾。 <i>haa6 ci3 zoi3 king1.</i> Talk to you next time! |
| 下次再見。 <i>haa6 ci3 zoi3 gin3.</i> See you next time. | 啲小巴開得好快，好容易撞車。 <i>di1 siu2 baa1 hoi1 dak1 hou2 faai3, hou2 jung4 ji6 zong6 ce1.</i> The minibus drivers drive really fast, which causes traffic accidents easily. |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Making Suggestions

不如搭地鐵？

bat1 jyu4 daap3 dei6 tit3 ?

"How about the subway?"

Making suggestions in Cantonese is simple. By using 不如 (*bat1 jyu4*), you can imply that one idea is better than another proposed idea and has the meaning of "How about..." When using 不如, you do not need to include the pronoun 我哋 ("we") because it is implied. The suggestion following 不如 can be a verb, a noun, or a sentence.

| Cantonese | Jyutping | "English" |
|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| 不如去食嘢？ | <i>bat1 jyu4 heoi3 sik6 je5</i> | "How about we go eat something?" |
| 不如搭飛機？ | <i>bat1 jyu4 daap3 fei1 gei1</i> | "How about we take an airplane?" |
| 不如搭的士？ | <i>bat1 jyu4 daap3 dik1 si2</i> | "How about we take a taxi?" |
| 不如我哋一齊食嘢？ | <i>bat1 jyu4 ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 sik6 je5</i> | "How about eating together?" |
| 不如蝦餃？ | <i>bat1 jyu4 haa1 gaau2</i> | "How about shrimp dumplings?" |

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting around in Hong Kong

Traveling within Hong Kong is convenient and fun. The layout of the Hong Kong territory is basically divided into two sections. To the south, you have the main Hong Kong Island along with other minor outlying islands, and to the north, you have the mainland territories of Kowloon. Hong Kong has an extensive network of subways that connects all parts of the city to each other. If you'd prefer to travel above ground, it is very easy to hail a taxi and get to where you need to go. The taxis drive on the left side of the road, so make sure you look right and then left before crossing the street.

One of the best ways of getting around, however, is by ferry. There are plenty of ferries that haul people from the main island and other small surrounding islands. The trip across the strait only takes around twenty minutes, which is plenty of time to take in all the sights. If you want to head up to Victoria Peak, you can take a bus up the winding mountain, take in the mountaintop scenery, and then hop on the tram that takes you back down to sea level.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11

No Free Cantonese Lunch

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

11

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 弊!
2. 咩事?
3. 我有晒cash!
4. 唔使驚，我大把。

JYUTPING

1. bai6 !
2. me1 si6 ?
3. ngo5 mou5 saai3 cash !
4. m4 sai2 geng1, ngo5 daai6 baa2。

ENGLISH

1. Shoot!
2. What?
3. I ran out of cash!
4. Don't worry. I've got plenty.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 驚 | geng1 | to be scared of | transitive verb |
| 冇晒 | mou5 saai3 | to run out of | phrase |
| 咩事 | me1 si6 | What (thing happened)? | phrase |
| 擔心 | daam1 sam1 | to worry | verb |
| 唔使驚 | m4 sai2 geng1 | Don't worry. | phrase |
| 錢 | cin2 | money | noun |
| 大把 | daai6 baa2 | to have plenty (of); many | verb, adjective |
| 唔使 | m4 sai2 | no need to | phrase |
| 弊 | bai6 | shoot! | interjection |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>我好驚老鼠。 <i>ngo5 hou2 geng1 lou5 syu2。</i></p> <p>I'm scared of mice.</p> | <p>佢冇晒面。 <i>keoi5 mou5 saai3 min2。</i></p> <p>He is so embarrassed.</p> |
| <p>咩事? <i>me1 si6?</i></p> <p>What?</p> | <p>媽媽好擔心你。 <i>maa1 maa1 hou2 daam1 sam1 nei5。</i></p> <p>Mom is so worried about you.</p> |
| <p>我喺你身邊, 唔使驚! <i>ngo5 hai2 nei5 san1 bin1, m4 sai2 geng1!</i></p> <p>Don't worry, I am by your side.</p> | <p>嗰個幾錢? <i>go2 go3 gei2 cin2?</i></p> <p>How much is that?</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>慢慢嚟，我大把時間。 <i>maan6 maan2 lai4, ngo5 daai6 baa2 si4 gaan3.</i></p> <p>Take it easy, I have plenty of time.</p> | <p>失戀啫，唔使咁鬱結嚟。 <i>sat1 lyun2 ze1, m4 sai2 gam2 wat1 git3 bo3.</i></p> <p>You don't need to be depressed just because you broke up with your girlfriend.</p> |
| <p>唔使咁緊張。 <i>m4 sai2 gam3 gan2 zoeng1.</i></p> <p>No need to be so anxious.</p> | <p>弊啦! <i>bai6 laa3!</i></p> <p>Oh, shoot!</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Reviewing Basic Sentence Structure

我有晒 cash !

ngo5 mou5 saai3 cash!

"I ran out of cash!"

The basic Cantonese sentence structure follows the English pattern: Subject + Verb/Adverb + Object. A sample sentence is 我好口渴 (*ngo5 hou2 hau2 hot3.*) - "I'm very thirsty." In this sentence, the object of the sentence is the adjective 口渴 ("thirsty"). We connect the subject 我 to the adjective/object by the adverb 好. In this context, the adverb 好 functions as the English equivalent of "to be" and "very" combined.

More examples using the adverb 好:

1. 佢好肚餓。
keoi5 hou2 tou5 ngo6
 "He is hungry."
2. 我好劓。
ngo5 hou2 gui6
 "I am tired."

To negate a sentence in Cantonese, simply replace the adverb 好 with 唔 (*m4*).

For Example:

1. 我唔奩。
ngo5 m4 gui6
"I'm not tired."

We can place other verbs into our formula of Subject + Verb + Object, including 有 (*jau5*) - "to have," 要 (*jiu3*) - "to want," and 鍾意 (*zung1 ji3*) - "to like".

For Example:

1. 我有錢。
ngo5 jau5 cin2
"I have money."
2. 我要呢個。
ngo5 jiu3 ni1 go3
"I want this"
3. 我鍾意你。
ngo5 zung1 ji3 nei5
"I like you."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Purchasing Power in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is based on commerce, and it functions as an Asian financial hub. People travel from all over the world to shop in one of Hong Kong's many department stores. Customers need easy access to these goods, so the use of credit and debit cards is everywhere. Aside from being able to pay with a card, Hong Kong has colorful and interesting banknotes. Individual banks inside Hong Kong print their own money. Money from different banks will appear and feel different, sometimes having a clear, see-through portion. Coins are also quite common in Hong Kong since a large number of people take public transportation. Coins are easily distributed and collected.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

Time for Cantonese

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

12

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你幾時得閒呀?
2. 下個禮拜𠵼。
3. 禮拜六?
4. 禮拜日。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4 a3?
2. haa6 go3 lai5 baai3 a1.
3. lai5 baai3 luk6?
4. lai5 baai3 jat6.

ENGLISH

1. When will you have time?
2. Next week.
3. Saturday?
4. Sunday.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 幾時 | gei2 si4 | when | adverb |
| 五 | ng5 | five (5) | number |
| 四 | sei3 | four (4) | number |
| 三 | saam1 | three (3) | number |
| 二 | ji6 | two (2) | number |
| 一 | jat1 | one (1) | number |
| 禮拜日 | lai5 baai3 jat6 | Sunday | noun |
| 禮拜六 | lai5 baai3 luk6 | Saturday | noun |
| 星期 | sing1 kei4 | week | noun |
| 禮拜 | lai5 baai3 | week | noun |
| 上個 | soeng6 go3 | last (one) | adjective |
| 下個 | haa6 go3 | next (one) | adjective |
| 得閒 | dak1 haan4 | to be available, to be free | phrase |
| 六 | luk6 | six (6) | number |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>足球比賽幾時開始? <i>zuk1 kau4 bei2 coi3 gei2 si4 hoi1 ci2?</i></p> <p>When does the football game start?</p> | <p>你幾時到? <i>nei5 gei2 si4 dou3?</i></p> <p>When will you arrive?</p> |
| <p>俾五蚊我就得喇。 <i>bei2 ng5 man1 ngo5 zau6 dak1 laa3.</i></p> <p>Give me five HKD, that's fine.</p> | <p>四個星期。 <i>sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.</i></p> <p>"Four weeks."</p> |
| <p>佢有三個細路。 <i>keoi5 jau5 saam1 go3 sai3 lou6.</i></p> <p>He has three children.</p> | <p>三百人 <i>saam1 baak3 jan4</i></p> <p>three hundred people</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>二號位。 <i>ji6 hou6 wai2.</i></p> <p>The position number two.</p> | <p>一個人。 <i>jat1 go3 jan4.</i></p> <p>One person.</p> |
| <p>下個禮拜日。 <i>haa6 go3 lai5 baai3 jat6.</i></p> <p>Next Sunday.</p> | <p>上個禮拜六。 <i>soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3 luk6.</i></p> <p>Last Saturday.</p> |
| <p>四個星期。 <i>sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.</i></p> <p>"Four weeks."</p> | <p>四個禮拜。 <i>sei3 go3 lai5 baai3.</i></p> <p>Four weeks.</p> |
| <p>上個禮拜。 <i>soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3.</i></p> <p>Last week.</p> | <p>下個人。 <i>haa6 go3 jan4.</i></p> <p>Next (person).</p> |
| <p>MARK通常上晝都得閒。 <i>MARK tung1 soeng4 soeng6 zau3 dou1 dak1 haan4.</i></p> <p>Mark is always free in the morning.</p> | <p>我得閒就去書店。 <i>Ngo5 dak1 haan4 zau6 heoi3 syu1 dim3.</i></p> <p>I go to bookshops whenever I am free.</p> |
| <p>得閒去兜風。 <i>dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1.</i></p> <p>(When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.</p> | <p>我個女六歲。 <i>ngo5 go3 neoi5 luk6 sei3.</i></p> <p>My daughter is six years old.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Talking about 幾時, *gei1 si4* ("time")

你幾時得閒?

nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4 ?

"When will you have time?"

When asking about a general time in Cantonese, use the word 幾時 (*gei2 si4*). This is a combination of the words 幾 ("how much") + 時 ("time"). When phrasing this in a question, you

want to follow this pattern: Subject + 幾時 + Verb. For example, in the dialogue, we saw this sentence: 你幾時得閒? (*nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4?*) "When will you have time?" To ask about a specific time, use the phrase 幾點 (*gei2 dim2*).

Examples using 幾時:

1. 你哋幾時食飯?
nei5 dei6 gei2 si4 sik6 faan6
"When will you eat?"
2. 你幾時得閒?
nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4
"When will you be available?"
3. 佢幾時到?
keoi5 gei2 si4 dou3
"When will he arrive?"
4. 我哋幾時走?
ngo5 dei6 gei2 si4 zau2
"When do we leave?"
5. 佢哋幾點到?
keoi5 dei6 gei2 dim2 dou3
"What time will they arrive?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Counting the Days in Cantonese

While the handful of tones and countless characters may prove daunting to the fresh student learning Cantonese, at least one thing won't make your head spin. That is the weekly calendar. In Cantonese, instead of having individual names for days, the days are counted off from one to seven. "One" being Monday, and "seven" being Sunday. To say a day, simply put the word for "week" (禮拜) followed by the number of the day. For example, Thursday will be 禮拜四 (*lai5 baai3 sei3*), or "day four." We use the same number scheme for months also. Instead of placing the number after the week, you place the calendar number of the month before 月 (*jyut6*). So for example, March will become 三月 (*saam1 jyut6*), or the "third month."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13

Crashing and Burning

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

13

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 嗨，靚女！
2. 咩事呀？
3. 你電話幾多號呀？
4. 我有電話。

JYUTPING

1. haai1, leng3 nei5!
2. me1 si6 a3?
3. nei5 din6 waa2 gei2 do1 hou6 a3?
4. ngo5 mou5 din6 waa2.

ENGLISH

1. Hi, gorgeous.
2. What?
3. What's your phone number?
4. I don't have a phone.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 打 | daa2 | to dial; to hit | verb |
| 九 | gau2 | nine (9) | number, numeral |
| 八 | baat3 | eight (8) | number |
| 七 | cat1 | seven (7) | number |
| 幾多 | gei2 do1 | How many? (literally) | phrase |
| 屋企 | uk1 kei5 | home | noun |
| 號碼 | hou6 maa5 | number | noun |
| 手機 | sau2 gei1 | cell phone | noun |
| 電話 | din6 waa2 | telephone | noun |
| 零 | ling4 | zero (0) | number |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>打俾我。 <i>daa2 bei2 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Call me.</p> | <p>佢爸爸一九八九年嚟美國。 <i>keoi5 baa4 baa1 jat1 gau2 baat3 gau2 nin4 lai4 mei5 gwok3.</i></p> <p>His dad came to America in 1989.</p> |
| <p>佢住喺八樓。 <i>keoi5 zyu6 hai2 baat3 lau2.</i></p> <p>He lives on the eighth floor.</p> | <p>呢條裙四百七十蚊。 <i>ni1 tiu4 kwan4 sei3 baak3 cat1 sap6 man1.</i></p> <p>This skirt is 470 HKD.</p> |
| <p>總共幾多人啊? <i>zung2 gung6 gei2 do1 jan4 aa3?</i></p> <p>How many people all together?</p> | <p>你屋企喺邊度? <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hai2 bin1 dou6 ?</i></p> <p>Where's your house?</p> |
| <p>佢屋企喺地鐵站附近。 <i>keoi5 uk1 kei2 hai2 dei6 tit3 zaam6 fu6 gan6.</i></p> <p>His house is close to the subway station.</p> | <p>我返屋企喇。 <i>ngo5 faan1 uk1 kei5 laa3.</i></p> <p>I'm going home.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>唔該寫低你個名同電話號碼。 <i>m4 goi1 se2 dai1 nei5 go3 meng2 tung4 din6 waa2 hou6 maa5.</i></p> <p>Please write down your name and telephone number.</p> | <p>可唔可以俾你個電話號碼我? <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji3 bei2 nei5 go3 din6 waa2 hou6 maa5 ngo5?</i></p> <p>Can you give me your phone number?</p> |
| <p>二號位。 <i>ji6 hou6 wai2.</i></p> <p>The position number two.</p> | <p>你屋企號碼幾多? <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hou6 maa5 gei2 do1?</i></p> <p>What's your room number?</p> |
| <p>我想買部新手機。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maa5 bou6 san1 sau2 gei1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a new cell phone.</p> | <p>返工唔好傾電話。 <i>faan1 gung1 m4 hou2 king1 din6 waa2.</i></p> <p>Don't talk on the phone when you're at work.</p> |
| <p>有冇我電話? <i>jau5 mou5 ngo5 din6 waa2?</i></p> <p>Are there any phone calls for me?</p> | <p>我最愛嘅電影角色係占士邦零零七! <i>ngo5 zeoi3 oi3 ge3 din6 jing2 gok3 sik1 hai6 zim1 si6 bong1 ling4 ling4 cat1 !</i></p> <p>My favorite movie star is James Bond - 007!</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 幾多, *gei2 do1* ("How Many")

你電話幾多號呀?

nei5 din6 waa2 gei2 do1 hou6 a3?

"What's your phone number?"

In Cantonese, when asking for someone's phone number, use 幾多號 (*gei2 do1 hou6*) - "How many number?"

"What's your phone number?" in Cantonese is 你電話幾多號啊? (*nei5 din6 waa2 gei2 do1 hou6 a3*), this translates literally as "Your phone number how many number?"

Here are some more examples using 幾多:

1. 有幾多人?
jau5 gei2 do1 jan4
"How many people (are there)?"
2. 有幾多個?
jau5 gei2 do1 go3
"How many?"
3. 我哋屋企電話幾多號?
ngo5 dei6 uk1 kei2 din6 waa2 gei2 do1 hou6
"What's our home phone number?"
4. 佢手機幾多號?
keoi5 sau2 gei1 gei2 do1 hou6
"What's his cell number?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cell Phones in Hong Kong

Cell phones are easy to use and buy in Hong Kong. You can use any international cell phone as long as it has a SIM card slot in the phone. You can easily purchase a SIM card on a pre-paid basis without the hassle of contracts. Since Hong Kong has preferential trade policies and low tariffs, you can purchase international brands of electronics and cell phones at a discounted price. You can buy an iPhone at a thirty to forty percent discount in price from the same model in mainland China.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 Out for a Cantonese Movie

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

14

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 一齊睇戲吖?
2. 咩戲呀?
3. 2012。
4. 好呀。

JYUTPING

1. jat1 cai4 tai2 hei3 aa1?
2. me1 hei3 aa3?
3. ji6 ling4 jat1 ji6.
4. hou2 aa3.

ENGLISH

1. Let's go see a movie?
2. What movie?
3. "2012."
4. Sounds good.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 想 | soeng2 | to want | transitive verb |
| 睇戲 | tai2 hei3 | to watch a movie | phrase |
| 行街 | hang4 gaai1 | to walk in the street (literally) | phrase |
| 食飯 | sik6 faan6 | to have a meal | phrase |
| 飲茶 | jam2 caa4 | to have Cantonese brunch | phrase |
| 飲嘢 | jam2 je5 | to have a drink | phrase |
| 買嘢 | maai5 je5 | to go shopping | phrase, verb |
| 兜風 | dau1 fung1 | to have a joyride | phrase |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>我想飲酒。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 jam2 zau2.</i></p> <p>I want to drink alcohol.</p> | <p>不如睇戲? <i>bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?</i></p> <p>How about seeing a movie?</p> |
| <p>男人唔鍾意行街。 <i>naam4 jan2 m4 zung1 ji3 hang4 gaai1.</i></p> <p>Men don't like shopping.</p> | <p>今晚去餐廳食飯。 <i>gam1 maan5 heoi3 caan1 teng1 sik6 faan6.</i></p> <p>Tonight (I'll) eat at a restaurant.</p> |
| <p>我同爺爺去飲茶。 <i>ngo5 tung4 je4 je2 heoi3 jam2 caa4.</i></p> <p>I have Cantonese brunch with my grandpa.</p> | <p>今晚去飲嘢啦! <i>gam1 maan5 heoi3 jam2 je5 laa1!</i></p> <p>Let's go drink tonight!</p> |
| <p>女仔鍾意買嘢。 <i>nei5 zai2 zung1 ji3 maai5 je5.</i></p> <p>Girls like shopping.</p> | <p>得閒去兜風。 <i>dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1 .</i></p> <p>(When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Comparing 想 and 要 (soeng2 and jiu1)

一齊睇戲吖？

jat1 cai4 tai2 hei3 aa1 ?

"Let's go see a movie?"

In previous lessons, we have covered the verb for "to want" (要, *jiu3*). You can negate this verb by adding 唔 to make 唔要. If you want to ask someone if he or she wants something, you can reduplicate the verb: 要唔要 (*jiu3 m4 jiu3*).

There is another verb in Cantonese that is similar to yet different from 要. This verb is 想 (*soeng2*). While this verb also functions as "to want," it can also mean "to think," or "to wish." You can also reduplicate this verb as in 想唔想 (*soeng2 m4 soeng2*) - "to think or not to think," "to feel or not to feel".

For Example:

1. 你想唔想食飯?
nei5 soeng2 m4 soeng2 sik6 faan6
"Do you want to have dinner?"

Remember that you can replace 想 with 要: 要唔要一齊食飯 (*jiu3 m4 jiu3 jat1 cai4 sik6 faan6*). The meaning is still the same but is a little more direct.

要 connotes more of a set plan, whereas 想 implies a desire for something that is not quite concrete.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hong Kong Film Industry

The Cantonese film industry is a hotbed of artistic talent and creativity for all of Asia. Hong Kong functions as a filmmaking hub for the greater Chinese speaking world due to the higher degree of economic and political freedom when compared with the mainland. The Hong Kong film industry is heavily commercialized with a highly corporate structure, mainly making movies that are crowd pleasers. Movie stars are groomed from TV farm leagues, and many pop stars enjoy acting careers and vice-versa.

Hong Kong films are relatively low budget when compared with American movies. Most

budgets will cost around one million USD, while a Jackie Chan or Stephen Chow movie may cost around twenty million USD. Dubbing is one of the most recognizable traits of earlier Hong Kong films. To save time and money, films were shot without sound and dubbing, which would be added in later, sometimes without the original actors' voices. This worked well in a couple of ways because films could easily have another language added in for export.

Another feature of Hong Kong films is the subtitling of all movies. This was a result of a 1963 law put in place by the British government to keep an eye on political content. The original law was to subtitle into English, but at the same time, Chinese subtitles were added, which added to the mobility of movies throughout the Chinese speaking diasporas.

By the end of the 1970s, Golden Harvest studio has cemented its status as Hong Kong's premier film studio, pioneering new ground in Kung Fu movies and signing new talents like Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan.

By the 1990s, Hong Kong's film industry had stagnated due to falling ticket prices and the Asian financial crisis along with the handover to mainland China in 1997. Currently, Hong Kong films are finding a large market in mainland China's cinemas. Box office hits like *Overheard* (2009) are cementing Hong Kong's staying power in the Asian movie market.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15

Crashing and Burning: Part 2

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

15

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 嗨，靚女!
2. 咩事?
3. 得唔得閒，飲杯嘢?
4. Sorry, 我趕時間。

JYUTPING

1. haai1, leng3 nei5!
2. me1 si6?
3. dak1 m4 dak1 haan4, jam2 bui1 je5?
4. Sorry, ngo5 gon2 si4 gaan3.

ENGLISH

1. Hey pretty girl
2. What's wrong?
3. Do you have time? Fancy a drink?
4. Sorry, I'm in a rush.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 得閒 | dak1 haan4 | to be available, to be free | phrase |
| 趕時間 | gon2 si4 gaan3 | to be in a rush | phrase |
| 食餐飯 | sik6 caan1 faan6 | to have a meal | phrase |
| 飲杯嘢 | jam2 bui1 je5 | to have a drink | phrase |
| 睇部戲 | tai2 bou6 hei3 | to watch a movie | phrase |
| 忙 | mong4 | busy | adjective |
| 有時間 | jau5 si4 gaan3 | to have time | phrase |
| 冇時間 | mou5 si4 gaan3 | not to have time | phrase |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>MARK通常上晝都得閒。 <i>MARK tung1 soeng4 soeng6 zau3 dou1 dak1 haan4.</i></p> <p>Mark is always free in the morning.</p> | <p>我得閒就去書店。 <i>Ngo5 dak1 haan4 zau6 heoi2 syu1 dim3.</i></p> <p>I go to bookshops whenever I am free.</p> |
| <p>得閒去兜風。 <i>dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1.</i></p> <p>(When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.</p> | <p>唔好意思我趕時間。 <i>m4 hou2 ji3 si1 ngo5 gon2 si4 gaan3.</i></p> <p>Sorry, I'm in a rush.</p> |
| <p>有冇時間食餐飯? <i>jau5 mou5 si4 gaan1 sik6 caan1 faan6?</i></p> <p>Are you available to have a meal?</p> | <p>飲杯嘢好貴! <i>jam2 bui1 je5 hou2 gwai3!</i></p> <p>So expensive for a drink!</p> |
| <p>有時間一齊睇部戲? <i>jau5 si4 gaan3 jat1 cai4 tai2 bou6 hei3?</i></p> <p>Have time to go to a movie together?</p> | <p>火車站成日都咁繁忙。 <i>fo2 ce1 zaam6 sing4 jat6 dou1 gam3 faan4 mong4.</i></p> <p>The train station is always busy.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>你星期六忙唔忙? <i>nei5 sing1 kei4 luk6 mong4 m4 mong4?</i></p> <p>Are you busy on Saturday?</p> | <p>我工作好忙。 <i>Ngo5 gung1 zok3 hou2 mong4.</i></p> <p>I have a busy job.</p> |
| <p>忙咩啊? <i>mong4 me1 aa3?</i></p> <p>What are you busy with?</p> | <p>飲水都有時間。 <i>jam2 seoi2 dou1 mou5 si4 gaan3.</i></p> <p>I don't even have the time to drink water.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Measure Words

飲杯嘢?

jam2 bui1 je5?

"Fancy a drink?"

You use measure words in Cantonese to specify which type of object you are talking about. Just as English says "A pair of shoes," or a "bottle of water," Cantonese has a similar concept that applies a measure word to each object.

In Cantonese, we use this formula: Verb + Measure Word + Object.

There are many measure words, but the most common measure word by far is 個 (*go3*). If you find yourself in a situation where you can't remember the exact measure word, you can simply use 個, and no one will think twice.

Some other common measure words include:

1. 支 (*zi1*)
"bottle"
2. 杯 (*bui1*)
"cup"
3. 餐 (*caan1*)
"meal"

For Example:

1. 一支啤酒
jat1 zi1 be1 zau2
"a bottle of beer"
2. 一支水
jat1 zi1 seoi2
"a bottle of water"
3. 一餐飯
jat1 caan1 faan6
"one meal"
4. 兩餐飯
loeng5 caan1 faan6
"two meals"
5. 幾餐飯
gei2 caan1 faan6
"a couple of meals"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Out on the Town in Hong Kong

There are plenty of options for entertainment when the sun goes down in Hong Kong, along with plenty of ways to spend money. Lan Kwai Fong is the icon of nightlife in Hong Kong. From here, you can experience restaurants, pubs, and bars in Hong Kong's trendiest area. Locals come here to relax and socialize, while tourists enjoy the variety of bands and international spirits.

Also on the island, the streets of Wan Chai gained notoriety in the 1940s as Western service men descended on the bars during their

For a more relaxed evening focused on eating and shopping, head to Tsim Sha Tsui to sample the local seafood and to pick up bargains on apparel and accessories. This section comes alive at night when outdoor markets open up and restaurants seat guests outside in the street.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

How About a Cup of Coffee?

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

16

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 嗨，靚女！
2. 點呀，靚仔。
3. 得唔得閒，飲杯咖啡？
4. 好呀。

JYUTPING

1. haai1 leng3 neoi5!
2. dim2 aa3, leng3 zai2.
3. dak1 m4 dak1 haan4, jam2 bui1 gaa3 fe1?
4. hou2 aa3.

ENGLISH

1. Hi, pretty girl.
2. What's up, pretty guy?
3. Do you have time? Let's have a cup of coffee?
4. Sounds good.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|------------------|------------|-------|
| 咖啡 | gaa3 fe1 | coffee | noun |
| 男朋友 | naam4 pang4 jau5 | boyfriend | noun |
| 女朋友 | neoi5 pang4 jau5 | girlfriend | noun |
| 茶 | caa4 | tea | noun |
| 紅酒 | hung4 zau2 | red wine | noun |
| 白酒 | baak6 zau2 | white wine | noun |
| 去 | heoi3 | to go | verb |
| 嚟 | lei4 / lai4 | to come | verb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>我一起身就要飲咖啡。 ngo5 jat1 hei2 san1 zau6 jiu3 jam2 gaa3 fe1.</p> <p>I can't start the day without coffee.</p> | <p>如果想瞓個好覺，夜晚就唔好飲咖啡喇。 jyu4 gwo2 soeng2 fan3 go3 hou2 gaau3, je6 maan5 zau6 m4 hou2 jam2 gaa3 fe1 laa3.</p> <p>If you want to sleep well, do not drink coffee at night.</p> |
| <p>呢度嘅咖啡好正。 ni1 dou6 ge3 gaa3 fe1 hou2 zeng3.</p> <p>The coffee here is awesome.</p> | <p>你有冇男朋友呢？ nei5 jau5 mou5 naam4 pang4 jau5 ne1?</p> <p>Do you have a boyfriend?</p> |
| <p>我男朋友係老師。 ngo5 naam4 pang4 jau5 hai6 lou5 si1.</p> <p>My boyfriend is a teacher.</p> | <p>你有冇女朋友呢？ nei5 jau5 mou5 neoi5 pang4 jau5 ne1?</p> <p>Do you have a girlfriend?</p> |
| <p>呢個係我女朋友。 ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 neoi5 pang4 jau5.</p> <p>This is my girlfriend.</p> | <p>咖啡定茶？ gaa3 fe1 ding6 caa4?</p> <p>Coffee or tea?</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>佢買俾我嘅茶有少少苦。 <i>keoi5 maai5 bei2 ngo5 ge3 caa4 jau5 siu2 siu2 fu2.</i></p> <p>The tea he bought me was a little bitter.</p> | <p>我爸爸鍾意飲功夫茶。 <i>ngo5 baa4 baa1 zung1 ji3 jam2 gung1 fu1 caa4.</i></p> <p>My father likes to drink Kung Fu tea.</p> |
| <p>我要一支紅酒。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 hung4 zau2.</i></p> <p>I'd like a bottle of red wine.</p> | <p>我要嗰支白酒。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 go2 zi1 baak6 zau2.</i></p> <p>I'd like that bottle of white wine.</p> |
| <p>你去唔去? <i>nei5 heoi3 m4 heoi3?</i></p> <p>Will you go?</p> | <p>我知你唔想我嚟個PARTY。 <i>ngo5 zi1 nei5 m4 soeng2 ngo5 lei4 go3 PARTY.</i></p> <p>I know you don't want me to come to the party.</p> |
| <p>點解你唔嚟? <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lei4?</i></p> <p>Why don't you come?</p> | <p>我嚟幫你。 <i>ngo5 lai4 bong1 nei5.</i></p> <p>Let me (come) help you.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 去, *heoi3* ("to go")

飲杯咖啡?

jam2 bui1 gaa3 fe1 ?

Let's have a cup of coffee?

The verb 去 (*heoi3*) - "to go" is usually combined with other verbs to mean "to go...and do something." The second verb usually takes an object.

The formula to use is : 去 + Verb + Object

For Example:

- 去食飯
heoi3 sik6 faan6
 "to go eat"

2. 去飲嘢
heoi3 jam2 je5
"to go for a drink"
3. 去飲茶
heoi3 jam2 caa4
"to go for some tea"
4. 去睇戲
heoi3 tai2 hei3
"to go watch a movie"
5. 去行街
heoi3 haang4 gai1
"to go for a walk on the street"
6. 去飲咖啡
heoi3 jam2 gaa3 fe1
"to go drink coffee"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Coffee Shops and Milk Tea in Hong Kong

The large population of expats in Hong Kong has created a taste for good coffee. Now, one third of Hong Kong's residents buy ready-to-drink coffee outside the home, according to a 2006 survey. You can find an array of quality and value-priced coffee throughout the territory, especially on the island. Along with coffee, many of these cafes sell gourmet sandwiches, salads, pastas, and baked goods. In Hong Kong, Starbucks coffee is popular along with Pacific coffee.

Aside from coffee, "milk tea," known as *dai pai dong*, stands as a traditional alternative to quench that Cantonese sweet tooth. It consists of black tea sweetened with evaporated milk and is usually part of an afternoon meal in Hong Kong tea culture. The key feature of Hong Kong-style milk tea is that a sackcloth bag is used to filter the tea leaves. However, any other strainer may be used to filter the tea.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17

Bargaining in the Cantonese Market

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

17

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 呢個幾錢?
2. 一百蚊。
3. 太貴喇。
4. 五十。

JYUTPING

1. ni1 go3 gei2 cin2?
2. jat1 baak3 man1.
3. taai3 gwai3 laa3.
4. ng5 sap6.

ENGLISH

1. How much is this?
2. One hundred HKD.
3. Too expensive.
4. Fifty HKD.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 幾錢 | gei2 cin2 | How much...? | phrase |
| 蚊 | man1 | Hong Kong dollars | noun |
| 講價 | gong2 gaa3 | to bargain | verb |
| 貴 | gwai3 | expensive | adjective |
| 平 | peng4 | cheap | adjective |
| 買 | maai5 | to buy | verb |
| 賣 | maai6 | to sell | verb |
| 太 | taai3 | too | adverb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>嗰個幾錢? <i>go2 go3 gei2 cin2?</i></p> <p>How much is that?</p> | <p>兩蚊一個。 <i>loeng5 man1 jat1 go3.</i></p> <p>Two HKD each.</p> |
| <p>冇得講價。 <i>mou5 dak1 gong2 gaa3.</i></p> <p>No bargaining.</p> | <p>咁貴? <i>gam3 gwai3?</i></p> <p>That expensive?</p> |
| <p>平啲啦。 <i>peng4 di1 laa1.</i></p> <p>Please lower the price.</p> | <p>佢會買一間喺河邊嘅屋。 <i>keoi5 wui5 maai5 jat1 gaan1 hai2 ho4 bin1 ge3 uk1.</i></p> <p>He will buy a house next to the river.</p> |
| <p>我想買架新車。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 gaa3 san1 ce1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a new car.</p> | <p>要買三個先有優惠。 <i>jiu3 maai5 saam1 go3 sin1 jau5 jau1 wai6.</i></p> <p>You have to buy three if you want to get the discount.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>你下次買多啲餸啦。 <i>nei5 haa6 ci3 maa5 do1 di1 sung3 laa1.</i></p> <p>Why don't you buy more groceries next time?</p> | <p>我肚餓嗰陣成日都會買好多餸。 <i>ngo5 tou5 ngo6 go2 zan6 sing4 jat6 dou1 wui5 maa5 hou2 do1 sung3.</i></p> <p>I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry.</p> |
| <p>佢想買部好快嘅車。 <i>keoi5 soeng2 maa5 bou6 hou2 faai3 ge3 ce1.</i></p> <p>He wants to buy a fast car.</p> | <p>我買。 <i>ngo5 maa5.</i></p> <p>I'll buy it.</p> |
| <p>賣嘢需要特別技巧。 <i>maa6 je5 seoi1 jiu3 dak6 bit6 gei6 haa2.</i></p> <p>You need a special skill to sell something.</p> | <p>唔賣。 <i>m4 maa6.</i></p> <p>I'm not selling it.</p> |
| <p>佢今個WEEKEND有太多功課。 <i>keoi5 gam1 go3 WEEKEND jau5 taa3 do1 gung1 fo3.</i></p> <p>He has too much homework for this weekend.</p> | <p>太好喇! <i>taa3 hou2 laa3!</i></p> <p>That's great!</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 太, *taa3* ("too..")

太貴喇。

taa3 gwai3 laa1.

"Too expensive."

Cantonese uses the adverb 太, meaning "excessive" or "to a high degree." You place this adverb in front of the adjective you want to modify. An example from the dialogue is 太貴喇 (*taa3 gwai3 laa1*) - "too expensive". Remember to add 喇 after the adjective for dramatic effect. You can add a subject to the beginning of the sentence, but it is not mandatory. If you decide to omit the subject, make sure that it is clear what you are describing.

Formula: 太 + Adjective + 喇

For Example:

1. 太好了！
taai3 hou2 liu5
"That's great!"
2. 呢個太貴！
ni1 go3 taai3 gwai3
"This is too expensive!"
3. 呢個太大！
ni1 go3 taai3 daai6
"This is too big!"
4. 我唔可以食，太熱啦！
ngo5 m4 ho2 ji5 sik6 taai3 jit6 laa3
"I can't eat it. It's too hot!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Shopping in the Hong Kong Market

Hong Kong offers a veritable paradise for shopaholics, and stands as a centerpiece of Hong Kong's culture of consumerism. Standing at the crossroads of mainland China's factories and the West's appetite for consumption, Hong Kong offers anything and everything under the sun at a value. Hong Kong's integrated city offers shopping at both high-end malls and small side streets full of vendors, both in a stone's throw from each other. Nathan Road and Tsim Sha Tsui are two of the biggest areas in Kowloon to do your bargain shopping on. In addition to finding bargains, some bargains may find you. Indian and Pakistani immigrants will stand on the street soliciting suits, watches, and sunglasses at a discount.

For locals on the island, the place to go find big names, small boutiques, and bargain stalls, all in a tight cluster is Causeway Bay. The main strip is located outside the MTR exit, with buildings on each side of the road offering multiple stories of restaurants and shops.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18

It's Quitting Time in Hong Kong!

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

18

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 而家幾點?
2. 五點半。
3. 夠鐘收工。
4. 走啦。

JYUTPING

1. ji4 gaa1 gei2 dim2?
2. ng5 dim2 bun3.
3. gau3 zung1 sau1 gung1.
4. zau2 laa1.

ENGLISH

1. What time is it now?
2. Half past five.
3. It's time to leave work.
4. Let's go.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 而家 | ji4 gaa1 | now | adverb |
| 幾點 | gei2 dim2 | what time | phrase |
| 夠鐘 | gau3 zung1 | it's time | phrase |
| 半 | bun3 | half | adjective |
| 收工 | sau1 gung1 | to get off work | phrase |
| 開工 | hoi1 gung1 | to start work | verb |
| 走 | zau2 | to leave, to walk | verb |
| 十一 | sap6 jat1 | eleven | noun |
| 十二 | sap6 ji6 | twelve | noun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>我哋而家要去醫院!</p> <p><i>ngo5 dei6 ji4 gaa1 jiu3 heoi3 ji1 jyun2!</i></p> <p>We have to go to the hospital now!</p> | <p>你而家喺邊?</p> <p><i>Nei5 ji4 gaa1 hai2 bin1?</i></p> <p>Where are you now?</p> |
| <p>我而家就要!</p> <p><i>Ngo5 ji4 gaa1 zau6 jiu3 !</i></p> <p>I want it now!</p> | <p>幾點呀?</p> <p><i>gei2 dim2 aa3?</i></p> <p>What time is it?</p> |
| <p>幾點退房?</p> <p><i>gei2 dim2 teoi3 fong2?</i></p> <p>What time do we check out?</p> | <p>夠鐘收工。</p> <p><i>gau3 zung1 sau1 gung1。</i></p> <p>Time to leave work.</p> |
| <p>十二點半</p> <p><i>sap6 ji6 dim2 bun3</i></p> <p>12.30</p> | <p>夠鐘收工。</p> <p><i>gau3 zung1 sau1 gung1。</i></p> <p>Time to leave work.</p> |
| <p>夠鐘開工。</p> <p><i>gau3 zung1 hoi1 gung1。</i></p> <p>Time to start work.</p> | <p>一齊走啦。</p> <p><i>jat1 cai4 zau2 laa1。</i></p> <p>Let's go together.</p> |

十一點半左右你有可能見到佢。
*sap6 jat1 dim2 bun3 zo2 jau2 nei5 jau5 ho2
nang4 gin3 dou3 keoi5.*

You might catch her at about half past eleven.

十二除六得二。
sap6 ji6 ceoi4 luk6 dak1 ji6.

Six goes into twelve twice.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Time Expressions

五點半。

ng5 dim2 bun3.

"Half past five"

When talking about time, the numbers one to twelve are used primarily. The method we use for telling time is very similar to how a clock works using numbers in Cantonese that correspond to the numbers on an hour and minute-hand clock.

To say what time it is, use the number (1-12) + 點 = ___ o'clock.

For Example:

1. 10:00 = 十點 *sap6 dim2*

To say "half past," use the number (1-12) + 點半 = half past ___.

For Example:

1. 9:30 = 九點半 *gau2 dim2 bun3*

To say a specific hour and minute, use number (1-12) + number (1-12) = .

For Example:

1. 4:15 = 四點三 *sei3 dim2 saam1*

Notice that 三 corresponds to the clock and indicates "fifteen minutes."

To say a little past some hour, for example, 4:03, use = 四點多小小 *sei3 dim2 do1 siu2 siu2* ("a little past four o'clock")

Special Note: When talking about 2:00 or 2:30 = 兩點 *loeng5 dim2* or 兩點半 *loeng5 dim2 bun3* (not 二點 *ji6 dim2*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Working in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is regarded as the gateway into the Chinese market and has the advantages of both transparency and rule of law. Many multinational companies have their China headquarters in Hong Kong with their manufacturing and back offices across the border. In addition, many mainland Chinese companies tend to register in Hong Kong due to simpler and clearer rules.

In Hong Kong, the working week is a little longer with averages around fifty hours per week. Some differences in the work place include handing and accepting business cards with both hands and having the boss foot the entire bill for any entertainment function, which hosts employees or clients.

Many visitors holding a foreign passport can enjoy a visa-free visit of 14 to 180 days depending on your nationality. Visitors, however, are not allowed by law to take up employment or to enter school as a student without a proper visa. To obtain a working permit, the Immigration Department will look at a few key areas including educational background and whether or not the Hong Kong economy is in demand of the specific skill area. The processing time for work permits is between six and eight weeks. All Hong Kong residents require a Hong Kong ID card.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19

Lightning Fast Cantonese

Language Proficiency

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

19

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你廣東話講得好好㗎!
2. 邊度係呀!
3. 你學咗幾耐?
4. 兩個鐘頭。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 gwong2 dung1 waa2 gong2 dak1 hou2 hou2 wo3!
2. bin1 dou6 hai6 aa3!
3. nei5 hok6 zo2 gei2 noi6?
4. loeng5 go3 zung1 tau4.

ENGLISH

1. Your Cantonese is really good.
2. No, it isn't.
3. How long have you been learning?
4. Two hours.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 廣東話 | gwong2 dung1 waa2 | Cantonese language | noun |
| 咗 | zo2 | -ed (past tense suffix) | interjection |
| 邊度 | bin1 dou6 | where | pronoun |
| 呢度 | ni1 dou6 | here | pronoun, adverb |
| 個度 | go2 dou6 | there | pronoun |
| 幾耐 | gei2 noi6 | how long | phrase |
| 鐘頭 | zung1 tau4 | hour | noun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>我識講廣東話。 <i>ngo5 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2.</i></p> <p>I (know how to) speak Cantonese.</p> | <p>你識唔識講廣東話? <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2 ?</i></p> <p>Do you (know how to) speak Cantonese?</p> |
| <p>去咗邊度? <i>heoi3 zo2 bin1 dou6?</i></p> <p>Where did (you) go?</p> | <p>你聽晚去邊度? <i>nei5 ting1 maan5 heoi3 bin1 dou6?</i></p> <p>Where are you going tomorrow night?</p> |
| <p>去咗邊度? <i>heoi3 zo2 bin1 dou6?</i></p> <p>Where did (you) go?</p> | <p>呢度啲嘢好好食。 <i>ni1 dou6 di1 je5 hou2 hou2 sik6.</i></p> <p>The food here is delicious.</p> |
| <p>個度好靚。 <i>go2 dou6 hou2 leng3.</i></p> <p>It's beautiful over there.</p> | <p>幾耐到? <i>gei2 noi6 dou3 ?</i></p> <p>How long (does it take) to get there?</p> |
| <p>兩個鐘頭。 <i>loeng5 go3 zung1 tau4.</i></p> <p>Two hours.</p> | |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Past Tense Suffix 咗 (zo2)

你學咗幾耐?

nei5 hok6 zo2 gei2 loi6

"How long have you been learning?"

In Cantonese, we don't conjugate verbs as in English. Rather, we place a specific character after a verb to show that the action took place in the past.

To indicate that you have already done an action, simply use this formula: verb + 咗 = past tense

For Example:

1. 學咗
hok6 zo2
"studied"

2. 食咗
sik6 zo2
"ate"

3. 飲咗
jam2 zo2
"drank"

4. 做咗
zou6 zo2
"did"

5. 走咗
zau2 zo2
"left"

6. 嚟咗
lai4 zo2
"came"

Complete sentences using the past tense marker 咗:

1. 我食咗。
ngo5 sik6 zo2
"I ate."
2. 佢走咗。
keoi5 zau2 zo2
"He left."
3. 佢嚟咗。
keoi5 lai4 zo2
"He came."
4. 我飲咗水。
ngo5 jam2 zo2 seoi2
"I drank some water."
5. 你哋做咗咩？
nei5 dei6 zou6 zo2 me1
"What did you guys do?"
6. 你學咗幾耐？
nei5 hok6 zo2 gei2 loi6
"How long have you been studying?"
7. 我學咗兩個鐘頭。
ngo5 hok6 zo2 loeng5 go3 zung1 tau4
"I've studied for two hours."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Learning Cantonese

Language learning opportunities are in the eye of the beholder. Unlike many languages, Cantonese is unique in the fact that a large population of native Cantonese speakers exist all around the world due to immigration. Throughout Europe, the United States, and Canada, China towns and small Chinese communities alike exist. Walk into any Chinese takeout restaurant and you will likely find a Cantonese speaker. If not a Cantonese speaker, at least someone who can help you with your Chinese characters.

Cantonese is blessed with a plethora of movies, songs, and television shows in Cantonese. You can practice natural, native-level Cantonese in the comfort of your own home on your computer. Spending time studying Chinese history and culture will give you topics to discuss with your language partner.

If you happen to live in Hong Kong or Guangdong, every day is a language lesson. Interacting with locals and repeated speaking practice is a fast track to better fluency.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20

Effortless Cantonese

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

20

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我學緊廣東話。
2. 係咩?
3. 你可唔可以同我講廣東話?
4. 冇問題。

JYUTPING

1. ngo5 hok6 gan2 gwong2 dung1 waa2.
2. hai6 me1?
3. nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 tung4 ngo5 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2?
4. mou5 man6 tai4.

ENGLISH

1. I'm learning Cantonese.
2. Really?
3. Can you talk to me in Cantonese?
4. No problem.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 學 | hok6 | to learn | verb |
| 溫書 | wan1 syu1 | to study | verb |
| 緊 | gan2 | -ing | suffix |
| 廣東話 | gwong2 dung1 waa2 | Cantonese language | noun |
| 英文 | jing1 man2 | English | noun |
| 係咩 | hai6 me1 | Really | interrogative |
| 國語 | gwok3 jyu5 | Mandarin | noun |
| 講 | gong2 | to speak | verb |
| 傾 | king1 | to talk | verb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>我學過跳舞。 <i>ngo5 hok6 gwo3 tiu3 mou5.</i></p> <p>I've learned dancing.</p> | <p>聽日就考試，所以我今晚要溫書。 <i>ting1 jat6 zau6 haau2 si5, so2 ji3 ngo5 gam1 maan5 jiu3 wan1 syu1.</i></p> <p>The exam is tomorrow, so I have to study tonight.</p> |
| <p>我一向都好勤力溫書。 <i>ngo5 jat1 hoeng3 dou1 hou2 kan4 lik6 wan1 syu1.</i></p> <p>I always study hard at school.</p> | <p>我溫緊書。 <i>ngo5 wan1 gan2 syu1.</i></p> <p>I'm studying.</p> |
| <p>我溫緊書。 <i>ngo5 wan1 gan2 syu1.</i></p> <p>I'm studying.</p> | <p>我識講廣東話。 <i>ngo5 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2.</i></p> <p>I (know how to) speak Cantonese.</p> |
| <p>你識唔識講廣東話？ <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2 ?</i></p> <p>Do you (know how to) speak Cantonese?</p> | <p>我好鍾意我嘅英文先生。 <i>ngo5 hou2 zung1 ji3 ngo5 ge3 jing1 man2 sin1 saang1.</i></p> <p>I like my English teacher.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>你識唔識英文? <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 jing1 man2?</i></p> <p>Do you speak English?</p> | <p>係咩? <i>hai6 me1?</i></p> <p>really?</p> |
| <p>我識講國語。 <i>ngo5 sik1 gong2 gwok3 jyu5.</i></p> <p>I can speak Mandarin.</p> | <p>你識唔識講廣東話? <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2?</i></p> <p>Do you speak Cantonese?</p> |
| <p>佢有緊急事要同佢傾。 <i>keoi5 jau5 gan2 gap1 si6 jiu3 tung4 keoi5 king1.</i></p> <p>She needed to talk to him urgently.</p> | <p>佢哋可以傾成日都唔悶。 <i>keoi5 dei6 ho2 ji3 king1 seng4 jat6 dou1 m4 mun6.</i></p> <p>They could talk for hours and never get bored.</p> |
| <p>你仲未同我哋傾關於今日開會嘅嘢。 <i>nei5 zung6 mei6 tung4 ngo5 dei6 king1 gwaan1 jyu1 gam1 jat6 hoi1 wui5 ge3 je5.</i></p> <p>You haven't talked about today's meeting yet!</p> | <p>下次再傾。 <i>haa6 ci3 zoi3 king1.</i></p> <p>Talk to you next time!</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Present Continuous Tense Suffix 緊 (*gan2*)

我學緊廣東話。

ngo5 hok6 gan2 gwong2 dung1 waa2

"I'm learning Cantonese."

In Cantonese, we don't conjugate verbs as in English. Rather, we place a specific character after a verb to show that the action is taking place right now.

To indicate that you are doing an action, simply use this formula: verb + 緊 = present continuous tense

For Example:

1. 學緊
hok6 gan2
"learning"
2. 食緊
sik6 gan2
"eating"
3. 飲緊
jam2 gan2
"drinking"
4. 做緊
zou6 gan2
"doing"
5. 行緊
haang4 gan2
"walking"
6. 嚟緊
lai4 gan2
"coming"

Complete sentences using the present continuous tense marker 緊:

1. 我食緊。
ngo5 sik6 gan2
"I'm eating."
2. 佢嚟緊。
keoi5 lai4 gan2
"He is coming."
3. 我飲緊。
ngo5 jam2 gan2
"I'm drinking."

4. 你哋做緊咩？
nei5 dei4 zou6 gan2 me1
"What are you guys doing?"

5. 你學緊咩？
nei5 hok6 gan2 me1
"What are you learning?"

6. 我學緊廣東話。
ngo5 hok6 gan2 gwong2 dung1 waa2
"I'm learning Cantonese."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Speaking Cantonese with Locals

Living in a Cantonese-speaking area is a great resource to learn the language. Everyone around you is a language teacher! One of the things you may find, however, is that the language taught in a traditional textbook is a world away from how casual native speakers talk with one another. Eavesdropping on a conversation can be like solving a puzzle: trying to pick out the words you already know, while trying to construct an idea of what the entire conversation is about.

Interaction is key, and you will find people from every walk of life literally walking down the street. Most Cantonese people are very eager to engage in a conversation with a non-native speaker but remember: a) you will probably sound funny to them, and b) they have probably had few if any chances to interact with a "westerner."

Spend some time hanging around a street game of Chinese checkers or chatting with your cab driver. You'll find your spoken Cantonese and listening comprehension improving dramatically. Don't confine it just to your language partner in safe territory. Remember to push the boundaries.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21

Slowing Down the Cantonese

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

21

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 唔好意思。
2. 咩事?
3. 我聽唔明呀。
4. 咁...
5. 你可唔可以講慢啲呀?
6. 冇問題。

JYUTPING

1. m4 hou2 ji3 si1.
2. me1 si6?
3. ngo5 teng1 m4 ming4 aa3.
4. gam2...
5. nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gong2 maan6 di1 aa3?
6. mou5 man6 tai4.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me.

CONT'D OVER

2. What's the matter?
3. I don't understand.
4. So...
5. Can you slow it down a bit?
6. No problem.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 聽唔明 | teng1 m4 ming4 | to not understand | verb |
| 慢 | maan6 | slow | adjective/adverb |
| 咁 | gam2 | so, then | conjunction |
| 講 | gong2 | to speak | verb |
| 快 | faai3 | fast | adjective |
| 勤力 | kan4 lik6 | diligent | adjective |
| 啲 | di1 | -er | suffix |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>我聽唔明。 <i>ngo5 teng1 m4 ming4.</i></p> <p>I don't understand.</p> | <p>唔該講慢啲。 <i>m4 goi1 gong2 maan6 di1 .</i></p> <p>Can you speak slowly please?</p> |
| <p>行慢啲。 <i>haang4 maan6 di1.</i></p> <p>Walk slower.</p> | <p>咁... <i>gam2...</i></p> <p>So...</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>你識唔識講廣東話? <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2?</i></p> <p>Do you speak Cantonese?</p> | <p>講快啲。 <i>gong2 faai3 di1。</i></p> <p>Speak faster.</p> |
| <p>勤力啲。 <i>kan4 lik6 di1。</i></p> <p>(Work) harder!</p> | <p>唔該慢啲講多次。 <i>m4 goi1 maan6 di1 gong2 do1 ci3。</i></p> <p>Can you repeat again, slowly please?</p> |
| <p>行慢啲。 <i>haang4 maan6 di1。</i></p> <p>Walk slower.</p> | <p>唔該細聲啲。 <i>m4 goi1 sai3 seng1 di1。</i></p> <p>Please lower your volume.</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 啲, *di1* ("-er")

你可唔可以講慢啲?

nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gong2 maan6 di1 ?

"Can you slow it down a bit?"

In Cantonese, the character 啲 (*di1*) modifies adjectives and verbs and functions as the English equivalent of "-er." For example, the Cantonese words for "fast" (快) and "slow" (慢) turn into "faster" (快啲, *faai3 di1*) and "slower" (慢啲, *maan6 di1*). Notice that the 啲 directly follows the adjective or verb. We place adjectives that modify verbs behind the verb.

Formula: Verb + Adjective + 啲

For Example:

- 食慢啲。
sik6 maan6 di1
"Eat slower."
- 飲慢啲。
jam2 maan6 di1
"Drink slower."

3. 行快啲。
haang4 faai3 di1
"Go faster."

4. 勤力啲。
kan4 lik6 di1
"Work harder."

You can negate 啲 by placing 唔好 before the verb/adjective phrase.

For Example:

1. 唔好講慢啲。
m4 ho2 gong2 maan6 di1
"Don't speak slower."

In the dialogue, we used the grammar pattern 可唔可以 ("can or cannot") in conjunction with 啲.

For Example:

1. 你可唔可以講慢啲?
nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gong2 maan6 di1
"Can you speak slower?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cultural Misunderstandings

One of the biggest hurdles in living and working in both Hong Kong and Guangdong are not only the linguistic differences but the cultural differences as well. While Westerners can be given a free pass on many faux pas, there are a few proactive steps you can take to avoid stepping in cultural pot holes.

The first is the handshake. There is no need to bow in Chinese culture and oftentimes a handshake will suffice. You may notice that by American and European standards, a Chinese handshake is rather limp. The thumbs-up is quite ubiquitous in Hong Kong and mainland

Guangdong, meaning "excellent!" You won't get too far with high fives though. You may also notice that many Hong Kong Chinese who do business with foreigners will use a "Western" name that is easier for them to remember and pronounce. These names are often generic and easy to pronounce, like "Eric," "Mike," or "Bill."

Gift giving is part and parcel of doing business in Hong Kong. It helps establish and maintain relationships. Gifts are always exchanged between business associates at Christmas and the Chinese New Year. Usually a red envelope with money inside is presented at both the Chinese New Year's and weddings. When giving and accepting gifts, use both hands. Gifts should be reciprocated.

Entertaining is a critical part of doing business in Hong Kong. Just like gifts, meals should also be reciprocated. Chinese tables are round and will have a "lazy Susan" in the middle so that the food can be distributed evenly. The guest of honor will sit furthest from the entrance while the host will sit closest to the entrance so they can better deal with wait staff.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22

It Runs in the Cantonese Family

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

22

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 佢係邊個嚟㗎?
2. 我大佬。
3. 佢好似劉德華嚟!
4. 就係佢呀。

JYUTPING

1. keoi5 hai6 bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3?
2. ngo5 daai6 lou2.
3. keoi5 hou2 ci5 lau4 dak1 waa4 bo3!
4. zau6 hai6 keoi5 aa3.

ENGLISH

1. Who is he?
2. My older brother.
3. He looks a lot like Andy Lau.
4. He is.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 似 | ci5 | to look like | verb |
| 老婆 | lou5 po4 | wife | noun |
| 細妹 | sai3 mui2 | younger sister | noun |
| 家姐 | gaa1 ze1 | older sister | noun |
| 細佬 | sai3 lou2 | younger brother | noun |
| 大佬 | daai6 lou2 | older brother | noun |
| 爸爸 | baa4 baa1 | father | noun |
| 媽媽 | maa4 maa1 | mother | noun |
| 邊個黎㗎 | bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3 | who | pronoun |
| 邊個 | bin1 go3 | who | pronoun |
| 老公 | lou5 gung1 | husband | noun |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>你好似我一個朋友。 <i>nei5 hou2 ci5 ngo5 jat1 go3 pang4 jau5.</i></p> <p>You look like a friend of mine.</p> | <p>佢老婆兩年前過身。 <i>keoi5 lou5 pou4 loeng5 nin4 cin4 gwo3 san1.</i></p> <p>呢個係我老婆。 <i>nei5 go3 hai6 ngo5 lou5 po4.</i></p> <p>His wife died two years ago.</p> <p>This is my wife.</p> |
| <p>嗰個係佢老婆。 <i>go2 go3 hai6 keoi5 lou5 po4.</i></p> <p>That is his wife.</p> | <p>佢老婆大佢十年。 <i>keoi5 lou5 po4 daai6 keoi5 sap6 nin4.</i></p> <p>His wife is older than him by ten years.</p> |
| <p>我老婆上班。 <i>ngo5 lou5 po4 soeng6 baan1.</i></p> <p>My wife is at work.</p> | <p>佢有兩個細妹。 <i>keoi5 jau5 loeng5 go3 sai3 mui2.</i></p> <p>She has two younger sisters.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>呢個係我家姐。 <i>nei1 go3 hai6 ngo5 gaa1 ze1.</i></p> <p>This is my older sister.</p> | <p>我成日同細佬打交。 <i>ngo5 sing4 jat6 tung4 sai3 lou2 daa2 gaau1.</i></p> <p>I always fight with my younger brother.</p> |
| <p>我係佢細佬。 <i>ngo5 hai6 keoi5 sai3 lou2.</i></p> <p>I'm his younger brother.</p> | <p>我有兩個大佬。 <i>ngo5 jau5 loeng5 go3 daai6 lou2.</i></p> <p>I have two older brothers.</p> |
| <p>爸爸帶我去睇足球比賽。 <i>baa4 baa1 daai3 ngo5 heoi3 tai2 zuk1 kau4 bei2 coi3.</i></p> <p>Father takes me to watch soccer game.</p> | <p>我爸爸係工程師。 <i>ngo5 baa4 baa1 hai6 gung1 cing4 si1.</i></p> <p>My father is an engineer.</p> |
| <p>佢爸爸一九八九年嚟美國。 <i>keoi5 baa4 baa1 jat1 gau2 baat3 gau2 nin4 lai4 mei5 gwok3.</i></p> <p>His dad came to America in 1989.</p> | <p>你爸爸幾歲？ <i>nei5 baa4 baa1 gei2 sei3?</i></p> <p>How old is your father?</p> |
| <p>佢媽媽係個教師。 <i>keoi5 maa4 maa1 hai6 go3 gaau3 si1.</i></p> <p>His mother is a teacher.</p> | <p>我媽媽嘅炒麵全世界最好味。 <i>ngo5 maa4 maa1 ge3 caau2 min6 cyun4 sai3 gaa3 zeoi3 hou2 mei6.</i></p> <p>My mom cooks the best fried noodles in the world.</p> |
| <p>我媽媽五十歲。 <i>ngo5 maa4 maa1 ng5 sap6 sei3.</i></p> <p>My mom is fifty years old.</p> | <p>邊個嚟㗎？ <i>bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3?</i></p> <p>Who is he?</p> |
| <p>我唔理係邊個打嚟，你唔可以用呢度個電話。 <i>ngo5 m4 lei5 hai6 bin1 go3 daa2 lei4, nei5 m4 ho2 ji3 jung6 ni1 dou6 go3 din6 waa2.</i></p> <p>I don't care who is calling, you cannot use the phone here.</p> | <p>你係邊個？ <i>nei5 hai6 bin1 go3?</i></p> <p>Who are you?</p> |

佢唔單只係個好老公，仲係個好爸爸。

keoi5 bat1 daan1 zi2 hai6 go3 hou2 lou5 gung1, zung6 hai6 go3 hou2 baa4 baa1.

He is not only a good husband, but also a great father.

呢個係佢老公。

nei1 go3 hai6 keoi5 lou5 gung1.

This is her husband.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 係, *hai6* ("to be")

係咩？

hai6 me1 ?

"Really?"

係 is a verb with many different functions. Often, it translates to the English verb "to be." However, we primarily use 係 to express that one noun is equivalent to another, as in the sentence 我係你爸爸 (*ngo5 hai6 nei5 baa4 baa1.*) - "I am your father." Adjectives do not link to nouns often using 係. So the English sentence "He is tall," would not use 係 in Cantonese.

In a simple sentence using 係, the noun after 係 is usually more general in meaning or reference than the noun before 係. Only when both nouns are equally specific can they be interchanged.

For Example:

1. 我係你大佬。
ngo5 hai6 nei5 daai6 lou2
"I'm your brother."
2. 佢係劉德華。
heoi5 hai6 lau4 dak1 waa4
"He is Andy Lau."
3. 呢個係我爸爸。
ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 baa4 baa1
"This is my father."

4. 嗰個係佢家姐。
go 2 go3 hai6 heoi5 gaa1 ze1
"That is her older sister."
5. 我哋係老公老婆。
ngo5 dei2 hai6 lou5 gung1 lou5 po4
"We are husband and wife."
6. 邊個係你男朋友？
bin1 go3 hai6 nei5 naam4 pang4 jau5
"Who is your boyfriend?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Legend of Andy Lau

What's that? You haven't heard of Andy Lau? The incredible acting, singing, and dancing Andy Lau? The entertainment tycoon of the Orient and cover boy for Asian men's magazines?

The Hong Kong film industry is relatively small, which means that you'll see the same actors again and again in different films. Andy Lau is one of the most popular and bankable Hong Kong stars, and if you don't know him now, you'll recognize him on sight before spending too long in Hong Kong. Lau started his career on television in the early 1980s. His increasing popularity led him into a singing career and then into film. To date, he has made over one hundred movies, including silly Hong Kong films like *Future X-Cops* and *Cat and Mouse* and more artistically ambitious films like Zhang Yimou's 2004 film *House of Flying Daggers*.

As his wealth and fame has grown, Andy Lau has attempted to play a greater role in expanding the Hong Kong film industry. In 1991, he set up his own production company called Teamwork Motion Pictures. This led him to being recognized as the "Asian Filmmaker of the Year" in the Pusan International Film Festival in 2006. In addition to being an active singer and director, Andy is increasingly well-known for ongoing speculation about his love life, a perennial subject in the Hong Kong entertainment dailies.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23

Compliments to the Cantonese Chef

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

23

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我個餸點呀？
2. 正！
3. 我個人點呀？
4. 仲正！

JYUTPING

1. ngo5 go3 sung3 dim2 aa3?
2. zeng3!
3. ngo5 go3 jan4 dim2 aa3?
4. zung6 zeng3!

ENGLISH

1. How is the food I made?
2. Awesome!
3. What about me?
4. Even better!

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 粥 | zuk1 | porridge | noun |
| 餸 | sung3 | food (dish) | noun |
| 湯 | tong1 | soup | noun |
| 甜品 | tim4 ban2 | dessert | noun |
| 糖水 | tong4 seoi2 | Cantonese soup-like dessert | noun |
| 人 | jan4 | person, people | noun |
| 正 | zeng3 | awesome | adjective |
| 靚 | leng3 | beautiful/good | adjective |
| 仲 | zung6 | even more | phrase |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>我鍾意食粥。</p> <p><i>ngo5 zung1 ji3 sik6 zuk1 °</i></p> <p>I like eating porridge.</p> | <p>今晚有三個餸。</p> <p><i>Gam1 maan5 jau5 saam1 go3 sung3 °</i></p> <p>We have three dishes tonight.</p> |
| <p>廣東人鍾意飲湯。</p> <p><i>gwong2 dung1 jan4 zung1 ji3 jam2 tong1 °</i></p> <p>Cantonese people like having soup.</p> | <p>如果你日日都食甜品實會好肥。</p> <p><i>jyu4 gwo2 nei5 jat6 jat6 dou1 sik6 tim4 ban2 sat6 wui5 hou2 fei4.</i></p> <p>If you eat dessert every day you are going to get fat!</p> |
| <p>有冇甜品?</p> <p><i>jau5 mou5 tim4 ban2?</i></p> <p>Is there dessert?</p> | <p>我想食糖水。</p> <p><i>ngo5 soeng2 sik6 tong4 seoi2 °</i></p> <p>I want to have some Cantonese dessert.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| 佢個人好好。 <i>keoi5 go3 jan4 hou2 hou2</i> ◦ His personality is very nice. | 正! <i>zeng3!</i> Awesome! |
| 你好靚。 <i>nei5 hou2 leng3</i> ◦ You're beautiful. | 佢跑得仲慢。 <i>keoi5 paau2 dak1 zung6 maan6.</i> He runs even slower. |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 仲 ("even more")

仲正!

zung6 zeng3!

"Even better!"

We use 仲 (*zung6*) in Cantonese to form a comparison to mean "even more...(something adjective)." The example given in the dialogue was 仲正 (*zung6 zeng3*) - "even better." When using 仲, an adjective always follows.

For Example:

1. 我慢，佢仲慢。
ngo5 maan6, keoi5 zung6 maan6
 "I'm slow, but he's even slower."
2. 佢地仲快。
keoi5 dei6 zung6 faai3
 "They're even faster."

3. 嗰個湯仲靚。
go2 go3 tong1 zung6 leng3
"That soup is even better."

仲 is used like 好 in front of an adjective to form a comparison.

For Example:

1. 呢個餸好好。
ni1 go3 sung3 hou2 hou2
"This dish is even better."
2. 嗰個餸仲好。
go2 go3 sung3 zung6 hou2
"This dish is even better."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In the Kitchen with Cantonese Cooking

Guangdong sits at the confluence of East and West and draws diverse ingredients from a variety of regions. This lends to the fact that Cantonese cuisine is varied, intricate, and subtle at the same time. Cantonese people are renowned throughout China for cooking almost anything and everything. There is a saying that goes "If it has four legs and is not a chair, two wings and flies and is not an airplane, and if it swims and is not a submarine, the Cantonese will eat it."

Cantonese cuisine relies heavily on steaming and stir-frying as the two most common techniques for cooking due to their convenience and rapidity and their ability to bring out the flavor of the freshest ingredients. A number of ingredients are prominently used such as spring onion, sugar, salt, soy sauce, rice wine, cornstarch, vinegar, and sesame oil.

Due to Guangdong's location on the southern coast of China, fresh, live seafood is a specialty in Cantonese cuisine. Going to a restaurant in Guangdong, don't be surprised to

find a long row of fish tanks lining the front of the restaurant filled with a wide variety of sea life.

After a meal, the traditional dessert consists of a "sweet soup." A red bean soup with taro is standard.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24 Being Told You're Really Ugly in Cantonese

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 廣東話點講 ugly呀？
2. 樣衰。
3. 哦，「你好樣衰！」
4. ...
5. 啱唔啱呀？
6. 啱。

JYUTPING

1. gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2 UGLY aa3?
2. joeng2 seoi1.
3. o2, "nei5 hou2 joeng2 seoi1!"
4. ...
5. ngaam1 m4 ngaam1 aa3?
6. ngaam1.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. How do you say "ugly" in Cantonese?
2. Joeng2 seoi1
3. Oh,"you're very ugly"!
4.
5. Is it right?
6. Yes.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 點講 | dim2 gong2 | how to say | phrase |
| 熱 | jit6 | hot | adjective |
| 樣衰 | joeng2 seoi1 | ugly | adjective |
| 肥 | fei4 | fat | adjective |
| 瘦 | sau3 | thin | adjective |
| 啱 | ngaam1 | correct | adverb |
| 高 | gou1 | tall | adjective |
| 矮 | ai2 | short | adjective |
| 凍 | dung3 | cold | adjective |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>呢個點講？ <i>ni1 go3 dim2 gong2?</i></p> <p>How do you say this?</p> | <p>太陽晒著炎熱的沙漠。 <i>taai3 joeng4 saai3 zoek6 jim4 jit6 dik1 saa1 mok6</i></p> <p>The sun is heating the hot desert.</p> |
| <p>佢唔樣衰。 <i>keoi5 m4 joeng2 seoi1 °</i></p> <p>He's not ugly.</p> | <p>你肥咗。 <i>nei5 fei4 zo2 °</i></p> <p>You gained weight.</p> |
| <p>我瘦咗。 <i>ngo5 sau3 zo2 °</i></p> <p>I lost weight.</p> | <p>你啱。 <i>nei5 ngaam1 °</i></p> <p>You're right.</p> |
| <p>嗰個辦公室有好多好高嘅人。 <i>go2 go3 baan6 gung1 sat1 jau5 hou2 do1 hou2 gou1 ge3 jan4.</i></p> <p>There are many tall people in that office.</p> | <p>生得高都唔一定係好事。 <i>saang1 dak1 gou1 dou1 m4 jat1 ding6 hai6 hou2 si6.</i></p> <p>Being tall is not always great.</p> |
| <p>佢又高又瘦。 <i>keoi5 jau6 gou1 jau6 sau3 °</i></p> <p>She's tall and thin.</p> | <p>佢又肥又矮。 <i>keoi5 jau6 fei4 jau6 ai2 °</i></p> <p>She's fat and short.</p> |
| <p>加拿大好凍。 <i>gaa1 naa4 daai6 hou2 dung3.</i></p> <p>Canada is cold.</p> | |

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is a review of grammatical patterns

你好樣衰 *nei5 hou2 joeng2 seoi1*

"You're very ugly"

好 *hou2* is an adverb of degree meaning "very". In Cantonese it functions to connect the subject of the sentence with the object. For example 你好靚 - "you are very pretty". The subject 你 is connected to the object 靚 (*leng3*) by the adverb 好. Another example involving Jackie Chan is 成龍好靚仔 (*sing4 lung4 hou2 leng3 zai2*) - "Jackie Chan is very handsome."

Two other adverbs of degree that have been covered in the Absolute Beginner series are 太 ("too") and 仲 ("even more"). These two words function in the same manner as 好, being placed in between the subject and object.

Examples:

1. 呢個太貴。
ni1 go3 taai3 gwai3
"That is too expensive."
2. 呢個太大。
ni1 go3 taai3 daai6
"That is too big."
3. 我唔可以食，太熱啦。
ngo5 m4 ho2 ji5 sik6 , taai3 jit6 laa6
"It's too hot, I can't eat it."
4. 佢仲慢。
keoi5 zung6 maan6
"He's even slower."
5. 我仲矮。
ngo5 zung6 ai2
"I'm even shorter."
6. 嗰個仲凍。
go2 go3 zung6 dung3
"That one is even colder."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Honest and Direct

It is not uncommon to experience surprisingly blunt and pointed comments while in China. Observations about your body shape, weight, physical appearance, and decision-making skills will be brought to the table by strangers. "You have never met me before" might be the first thought that comes to your mind, but after some time, these seemingly rude inquiries will seem commonplace. After interacting with some locals, you will soon see this is how they treat each other, and not just the out of place "Westerner." Soon you may find yourself asking personal questions such as "are you married?" and "how much do you make?" of random strangers. While in Guangdong these questions may come in higher numbers, Hong Kong's exposure to Western practices has diminished this noisy practice.

In mainland China, the history of the communist party has created an environment where there are no secrets, and the sense of community means everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Even in traditional Chinese culture there were no locked doors in the house. So fair warning: expect your privacy to be invaded.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25

Drinks on Me in Cantonese

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Cantonese
 - Main
 - English
 - Jyutping
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#25

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 今晚去酒吧飲酒？
2. 啊...
3. 我請。
4. 一定到。

ENGLISH

1. How about we have a drink in the bar tonight?
2. Uh...
3. My treat.
4. I'll definitely be there.

JYUTPING

1. gam1 maan5 heoi3 zau2 baa1 jam2 zau2?
2. aa6 ...
3. ngo5 ceng2.
4. jat1 ding6 dou3.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 夜晚 | je6 maan5 | night | noun |
| 一定 | jat1 ding6 | definitely | adverb |
| 我請 | ngo5 ceng2 | my treat | phrase |
| 酒吧 | zau2 baa6 | bar | noun |
| 尋日 | cam4 jat6 | yesterday | noun |
| 聽日 | ting1 jat6 | tomorrow | noun |
| 今日 | gam1 jat6 | today | noun, adverb |
| 尋晚 | cam4 maan5 | last night | noun |
| 聽晚 | ting1 maan5 | tomorrow night | noun |
| 今晚 | gam1 maan1 | tonight | noun |
| 白日 | baak6 jat6 | day | noun |
| 到 | dou3 | to arrive | verb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>我夜晚去酒吧。</p> <p><i>ngo5 je6 maan5 heoi3 zau2 baa1.</i></p> <p>I go to bars at night.</p> | <p>我一定請你飲嘢。</p> <p><i>ngo5 jat1 ding6 ceng2 nei5 jam2 je5.</i></p> <p>I'll definitely buy you a drink.</p> |
| <p>我請你飲嘢。</p> <p><i>ngo5 ceng2 nei5 jam2 je5.</i></p> <p>I'll buy you a drink.</p> | <p>在酒吧喝酒</p> <p><i>zoi6 zau2 baa1 hot3 zau2</i></p> <p>drink at a bar</p> |
| <p>前邊有間酒吧。</p> <p><i>cin4 bin1 jau5 gaan1 zau2 baa1.</i></p> <p>There's a bar in front.</p> | <p>你尋日遲到。</p> <p><i>nei5 cam4 jat6 ci4 dou3.</i></p> <p>You were late yesterday.</p> |
| <p>聽日放假。</p> <p><i>ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3.</i></p> <p>"Tomorrow is a holiday."</p> | <p>今日遊行。</p> <p><i>gam1 jat6 jau4 hang4.</i></p> <p>The parade is today.</p> |
| <p>今日特別炎熱。</p> <p><i>gam1 jat6 dak6 bit6 jim4 jit6.</i></p> <p>"Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day."</p> | <p>我今日見到你。</p> <p><i>ngo5 gam1 jat6 gin3 dou2 nei5.</i></p> <p>I saw you today.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| 你尋晚去咗邊? <i>nei5 cam4 maan5 heoi3 zo2 bin1?</i> Where were you last night? | 佢哋聽晚返。 <i>keoi5 dei6 ting1 maan5 faan1.</i> They'll be back tomorrow night. |
| 我哋今晚去玩。 <i>ngo5 dei6 gam1 maan1 heoi3 waan2.</i> We're going out tonight. | 佢白日做野。 <i>keoi5 baak6 jat6 zou6 je5.</i> he works in the day. |
| 我地一定到。 <i>ngo5 dei6 jat1 ding6 dou3.</i> We'll be there. | |

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is time words 今晚 *gam1 maan5* ("Tonight")

今晚去酒吧飲酒? *gam1 maan5 heoi3 zau2 baa1 jam2 zau2?*

"How about we have a drink in the bar tonight?"

This grammar point focuses on where to place time words in a Cantonese sentence. In a Cantonese sentence, the time word is placed at the beginning of the sentence. If the sentence has a subject, you can place the time word either before or after the subject. If the subject is omitted then the time word simply goes at the beginning of the sentence.

For example, 我而家口渴 (*ngo5 ji4 gaa1 hau2 hot3*) - "I'm thirsty right now." The time word 而家 (*ji4 gaa1*) - "right now" is placed in front of the verb. If taken word for word, the sentence looks like "I right now to be very thirsty."

Examples:

1. 你今日忙唔忙?

nei5 gam1 jat6 mong4 m4 mong4

"Are you busy today?"

Time word: 今日

2. 我尋晚去左。

ngo5 cam4 maan5 heoi3 zo2

"I went there last night."

Time word: 尋晚

3. 今晚我們去酒吧飲酒?

gam1 maan5 ngo5 mun4 heoi3 zau2 baa1 jam2 zau2

"How about we go out for a drink tonight?"

Time word: 今晚

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A View from the Top

A view of Victoria Harbor goes well with an immaculately made drink at one of Hong Kong's many luxury bars.

Starting with the grandfather of the harbor view bars, Felix offers wide sweeping views of the neon lit harbor while lighting up the colonial-style Peninsula hotel. It's an old-school high roller place that bans kids and enforces a strict dress code, but get past the elitism and you'll find yourself in Hong Kong's most classic harbor view bar.

At Aqua Spirit, enjoy the floor-to-ceiling view of the harbor as you battle vertigo. Sip the Aquatini while observing every little detail of Northern Hong Kong island.

Perched on the top floor of the Excelsior, you will find the restaurant ToTT (Talk of the Town). Here you can enjoy champagne brunches and special occasion dinners. Enjoy a fruity cocktail on the roof terrace during one of those clear Hong Kong summer nights.



- | | |
|--|--|
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| 1 What's in a Cantonese Name? | 14 Out for a Cantonese Movie |
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