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Cantonese

Beginner



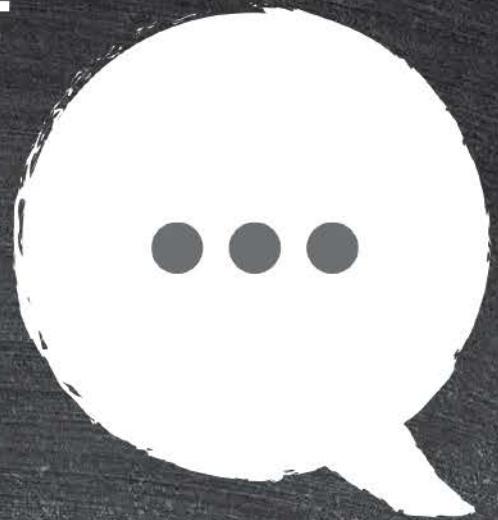
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LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #1

Fighting Mosquitoes in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

#1

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 有蚊啊！……死咗！
2. 搞錯啊，你打我？
3. 打蚊啊！唔好郁！
4. 哎呀！你塊面都有蚊啊。

JYUTPING

1. Jau5 man1 aa3 ! ……sei2 zo2 !
2. Gaau2 co3 aa3, nei5 daa2 ngo5 ?
3. Daa2 man1 aa3 ! m4 hou2 juk1 !
4. Aai1 jaa3 ! nei5 faai3 min6 dou1 jau5 man1 aa3。

ENGLISH

1. There's a mosquito! ...It's dead.
2. What on earth? You hit me!
3. I'm hitting the mosquitoes! Don't move.
4. Aar! There's mosquitoes on your face too.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
打	daa2	to hit	verb
塊	faai3	measure word for face	quantifier
面	min6	face	noun
蚊	man1	mosquito	noun
郁	juk1	to move	verb
搞錯	gaau2 co3	to get something wrong	verb
都	dou1	also	adverb
唔好	m4 hou2	don't	expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你唔好打人。 <i>nei5 m4 hou2 daa2 jan4.</i> "Don't hit people."	佢塊面好滑。 <i>Keoi5 faai3 min6 hou2 waat6.</i> "His face is very smooth."
你塊面好瘦。 <i>Nei5 faai3 min6 hou2 sau3.</i> "Your face is so slim."	我俾蚊咬。 <i>ngo5 bei2 man1 ngaau5.</i> I got mosquito bites.
呢度好多蚊。 <i>Ni1 dou6 hou2 do1 man1.</i> "There are lots of mosquitoes here."	郁下張凳。 <i>Juk1 haa5 zoeng1 dang3.</i> Move the chair a bit.
你唔好郁嚟郁去。 <i>Nei5 m4 hou2 yuk1 lei4 yuk1 heoi3.</i> Don't move around so much.	有冇搞錯呀？ <i>jau5 mou5 gaau2 co3 aa3?</i> Are you kidding me?
我都鍾意佢。 <i>ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5.</i> I also like him(/her/it).	你唔好郁嚟郁去。 <i>Nei5 m4 hou2 yuk1 lei4 yuk1 heoi3.</i> Don't move around so much.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This lesson is on Saying "don't" in Cantonese

打蚊啊！唔好郁！

"I'm hitting the mosquitoes! Don't move!"

Our grammar focus this lesson is on learning a very simple sentence structure you can use to tell other people not to do things. In our dialogue, we see this in the line 唔好郁 *m4 hou2 yuk1* ("don't move"). The structure here is starting a sentence with 唔好 ("don't") and then following it with a verb like 郁 ("to move"). In our dialogue one of the speakers was telling someone else not to move. But you can use this pattern with any verb. Other common examples might include the sentences, 唔好喊 *m4 hou2 haam3* ("don't cry") or 唔好笑 *m4 hou2 siu3* ("don't laugh"). As a relatively informal way of speaking, the seriousness of the request depends heavily on your tone of voice.

On a final note: while this sentence pattern is used to give negative orders, you can always follow it with a positive verb if you want to tell someone exactly what to do. A good example of this is the sentence we used in our podcast: 唔好瞓, 做嘢 *m4 hou2 fan3, zou6 je5* ("Don't sleep, work!") which Gimmy frequently heard from her former boss. In this case the subject "you" is implied and it isn't necessary to specify to whom you are talking.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

An Ever-present Pest

The weather in Hong Kong is renowned for being hot and humid year round. While long-time residents often take pride in their ability to deal with the island's extreme heat and humidity, few have any fondness for the dreaded Hong Kong mosquitoes. Although you will run into these insects year round, they are especially common during the island's wet season, which lasts from June through August each year. Conditions are also slightly worse on the mainland than in the outlying islands, where reasonably strong ocean breezes often keep the creatures in check.

Practically speaking, there is little one can do to deal with mosquitoes on a day-to-day basis. Most island residents handle mosquitos the same way they deal with Hong Kong's heat and humidity: retreating into a world of air conditioned offices and transit vehicles. And while mosquitoes these days may be little more than a nuisance, when renting an apartment or turning in for the night in a cheaper hotel room it is wise to check the windows to ensure they are properly screened.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #2

Friday in Hong Kong

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

#2

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 今日係星期幾?
2. 星期五，做咩?
3. 聽日放假喇!

JYUTPING

1. Gam1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?
2. Sing1 kei4 ng5, zou6 me1?
3. Ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3 laa3!

ENGLISH

1. What day is it today?
2. Friday, why?
3. Tomorrow is a holiday!

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
尋日	cam4 jat6	yesterday	noun
今日	gam1 jat6	today	noun
聽日	ting1 jat6	tomorrow	noun

做咩	zou6 me1	what (to do)	phrase
係	hai6	to be	verb
星期	sing1 kei4	week	noun
幾	gei2	how many	interrogate
放假	fong3 gaa3	to be on holiday	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你尋日去咗邊？ <i>nei5 cam4 jat6 heoi3 zo2 bin1?</i> Where did you go yesterday?	今日係星期一。 <i>Gam1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 jat1.</i> "It's Monday today."
聽日放假。 <i>ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3.</i> "Tomorrow is a holiday."	佢哋做咩㗎？ <i>keoi5 dei6 zou6 me1 gaa3?</i> What do they do?
我係學生。 <i>Ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1.</i> "I am a student."	四個星期。 <i>sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.</i> "Four weeks."
聽日係星期幾？ <i>Ting1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?</i> What day will it be tomorrow?	我下星期三放假，不如一齊食飯。 <i>ngo5 haa6 sing1 kei4 saam1 fong3 gaa3, bat1 jyu4 jat1 cai4 sik6 faan6.</i> I am on holiday next Wednesday, how about having dinner together?
幾時開始放假？ <i>gei2 si4 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3?</i> When will the holiday begin?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is All About Why

星期五，做咩？ "Friday, why?"

In this lesson we learn the useful question 做咩 (*zou6 me1*), which literally means, "do what?" This question has two major usages in modern Cantonese. The first usage is to ask the question "why," as in the example in our dialogue. The second usage is related. 做咩 is also used to ask *what someone has done*, as with the following example:

1. 你尋日做咩？
Nei5 cam4 jat6 zou6 me1?
"What did you do yesterday?"

This division between asking why and what is more natural in English than in Cantonese. Note that even in this second example there is really an implied question about why things happened the way they did tucked into the tone of the question. Why were you acting so weird yesterday? What happened? What did you do? This sense of probing for underlying reasons gives 做咩 a very colloquial and conversational sense. Consider how natural the following examples are:

1. 你做咩咁忙？
Nei5 zou6 me1 gam3 mong4?
"Why are you so busy?"
2. 你做咩返工？今日星期六。
Nei5 zou6 me1 faan1 gung1? Gam1 jat6 sing1 kei4 luk6.
"Why are you working? It's Saturday today."

Bonus Point

Another common way of asking "why" in Cantonese is to use 點解 (*dim2 gaai2*), which literally means, "how to solve it." We use this in sentences like 你點解咁忙 *nei5 dim2 gaai2 gam3 mong4* ("Why are you so busy?").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bank Operating Hours

In Hong Kong, banks are open on all weekdays and (most) on Saturday mornings. They are closed on Sundays and on general public holidays.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #3

The Hong Kong Music Scene

CONTENTS

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

#3

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 噃？你識彈吉他㗎？
2. 少少啦。
3. 你學咗幾耐啊？
4. 三個月度。
5. 彈得幾好㗎。
6. 多謝。

ENGLISH

1. A : Huh? You know how to play guitar?
2. B : A bit.
3. A : How long have you been learning?
4. B : About three months.
5. A : You play pretty well.
6. B : Thanks.

JYUTPING

1. ji2? nei5 sik1 taan4 git3 taa1 gaa4?
2. siu2 siu2 laa1
3. nei5 hok6 zo2 gei2 noi6 aa3?
4. saam1 go3 jyut6 dou2.
5. taan4 dak1 gei2 hou2 wo3.
6. do1 ze6.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
少少	siu2 siu2	a little	adjective
彈	taan4	to play	verb
多謝	do1 ze6	thanks	verb
吉他	git3 taa1	guitar	noun
度	dou2	about	adverb
幾耐	gei2 noi6	how long	phrase
學	hok6	to learn	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我識少少中文。 <i>Ngo5 sik1 siu2 siu2 zung1 man2.</i> I know a bit of Chinese.	佢高少少。 <i>keoi5 gou1 siu2 siu2.</i> He's a little bit taller.
我想學彈吉他！ <i>Ngo5 soeng2 hok6 taan4 git3 taa1.</i> I want to learn to play guitar.	多謝誇獎！ <i>Do1 ze6 kwaa1 zoeng2.</i> Thank you for the compliments!
多謝合作。 <i>Do1 ze6 hap6 zok3.</i> Thank you for cooperating.	佢好鍾意彈吉他。 <i>keoi5 hou2 zung1 ji3 taan4 git3 taa1.</i> He likes playing guitar very much.
呢批貨空運三日度就到。 <i>ni1 pai1 fo3 hung1 wan6 saam1 jat6 dou2 zau6 dou6.</i> The goods will ship by air transport, in about three days.	要幾耐先去到嗰度？ <i>Jiu3 gei2 noi6 sin1 heoi3 dou2 go2 dou6?</i> How long does it take to get there?
我學過跳舞。 <i>ngo5 hok6 gwo3 tiu3 mou5.</i> I've learned dancing.	

GRAMMAR

Lengths of Time in Cantonese

三個月度。

"Around three months."

In earlier lessons we taught you the most useful nouns for talking about times and dates. The most useful of these words are 今日 *gam1 jat6* ("today"), 聽日 *ting1 jat6* ("tomorrow") and 尋日, *cam4 jat6* ("yesterday"). But what if you want to describe how long it took you to do something rather than the date on which something happened?

In this lesson we learn exactly this: the rules for talking about specific lengths of time in Cantonese. The good news is that the language used to do this is very simple. The bad news is that the grammar is somewhat inconsistent. Sometimes Cantonese speakers will use a measure word in these expressions and sometimes they will omit one. Compare 三個星期 *saam1 go3 sing1 kei4* ("three weeks") with 兩日 *leong5 jat6* ("two days"), for instance. The former includes the measure word 個 between the number and the time noun, while the latter leaves it out.

Fortunately, Cantonese is consistent on this point. And the general rule is that you omit the measure word when talking about minutes, days or years. And you leave it in for everything else: hours, weeks, months or semesters. To review:

The following do not require a measure word:

分鐘 *fan1 zung1* ("minute")
日 *jat6* ("day")
年 *nin4* ("year")

The following require the measure word 個 (*go3*):

鐘 *zung1* ("hour")
星期 *sing1 kei4* ("week")
月 *jyut6* ("month")
學期 *hok3 kei4* ("semester")

There is no good way to learn these rules other than memorization. That said, you should quickly internalize the rules just from exposure to daily conversation. For more examples, consider the following sample sentences:

1. 三個月
saam1 go3 jyut6
"Three months"
2. 兩個星期
leong5 go3 sing1 kei4
"Two weeks"
3. 六個月
luk6 go3 jyut6
"Six months"
4. 四個星期
sei3 go3 sing1 kei4
"Four weeks"
5. 五日
ng5 jat6
"Five days"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Pleasant Surprise

Hong Kong people are sweetly credulous when it comes to foreigners learning Cantonese. If anyone asks you 你學咗廣東話幾耐 ("How long have you studied Cantonese"), try answering 兩日 ("two days"). You'll be surprised how many people will believe you and be really impressed.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #4

Running Late in Hong Kong

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

4

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 哎呀，就遲到喇。
2. 而家幾點呀？
3. 就快兩點喇。
4. 咁就要快啲啦！

JYUTPING

1. Aai1 jaa3 , zau6 ci4 dou3 laa3 .
2. Ji4 gaa1 gei2 dim2 aa3 ?
3. Zau6 faai3 loeng5 dim2 laa3 .
4. Gam2 zau6 jiu3 faai3 di1 laa3 !

ENGLISH

1. Ar, we are going to be late!
2. What time is it?
3. Almost two.
4. Then we have to hurry.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
就快	zau6 faai3	almost	adverb
兩點	loeng5 dim2	two (o'clock)	phrase
快啲	faai3 di1	quicker, promptly	expression
準時	zeon2 si4	to be on time	verb
幾點	gei2 dim2	what time	phrase
遲到	ci4 dou3	to be late	adjective
而家	ji4 gaa1	now	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

就快搞掂。 <i>zau6 faai3 gaau2 dim6.</i> It's almost done.	而家兩點正。 <i>Ji4 gaa1 leong5 dim2 zing3.</i> It's exactly two o'clock now.
講快啲。 <i>gong2 faai3 di1.</i> Speak faster.	你邋邋成咁，即刻去沖涼先啦！ <i>nei5 laat6 taat3 seng4 gam3, zik1 hak1 heoi3 cung1 loeng4 sin1 laa1.</i> You are so filthy, go take a shower immediately.
就嚟要落雨啦，快啲返屋企。 <i>zau6 lai4 jiu3 lok6 jyu5 laa3, faai3 di1 faan1 uk1 kei2.</i> It's going to rain soon, go home quickly.	行慢啲定行快啲？ <i>Haang4 maan6 di1 ding6 haang4 faai3 di1?</i> Should we slow down or hurry up?

記得每個月準時交租。 <i>gei3 dak1 mui5 go3 jyut6 zeon2 si4 gaau1 zou1</i>。 Remember to pay rent on time every month.	幾點呀？ <i>gei2 dim2 aa3?</i> What time is it?
你又遲到。 <i>nei5 jau6 ci4 dou3.</i> You're late again.	我而家好忙。 <i>ngo5 ji4 gaa1 hou2 mong4.</i> I am very busy now.
我而家好開心。 <i>Ngo5 ji4 gaa1 hou2 hoi1 sam1</i>。 I'm very happy now.	

GRAMMAR

The Tricks of How Many and How Much

而家幾點呀？

"What time is it?"

Our grammar focus this lesson is learning how to ask questions using the character 幾 *gei2* ("how many/how much"). This question word is typically followed by nouns or adjectives. For example, we can ask 幾點 *gei2 dim2* ("what time is it"), 幾歲 *gei2 sei3* ("how old are you"). In those sentences 點 refers the number of hours in the current day while 歲 refers to years of age. In the sentence 你幾高 *nei5 gei2 gou1* ("how tall are you"), 高 is an adjective meaning "tall."

- 而家幾點啊？

Ji4 gaa1 gei2 dim2 aa3?

"What time is it now?"

As mentioned above, the question 幾點 (*gei2 dim2*) literally means how many hours. In conversational Cantonese it is common to add the word 而家 *ji4 gaa1* ("now") at the end of the sentence, making the full question 幾點啊而家 ("what time is it now")? Here are a few more examples:

1. 你個細路幾歲?
Nei5 go3 sai3 lou6 gei2 sei3?
"How old is your child?"
2. 生日快樂! 你幾歲啊?
Saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6! Nei5 gei2 sei3 aa3?
"Happy birthday! How old are you?"

Bonus Point:

In addition to adjectives and nouns, 幾 (*gei2*) can also be followed by measure words in order to ask how many things there are or how much of something you would like. For instance 幾個人 *gei2 go3 jan4* means "how many people", 幾杯 *gei2 bui1* asks "how many glasses" and 幾杯酒 *gei2 bui1 zau2* asks "how many glasses of wine."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Telling Time in Hong Kong

Telling the time in Hong Kong is easy: you're always running late. If you need to handle talking about it though, the rule is to say the hour plus 點 (*dim2*), followed by the number of minutes past the hour. For instance, if it's 10:15 you can say 十點三 (*sap6 dim2 saam1*), while at 6:45 you can say 六點九 (*luk6 dim2 gau2*). As with the United States, Hong Kong follows a twelve hour cycle in which the time repeats itself in both the morning and afternoon.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #5

Wrong Number in China

CONTENTS

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

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 喂? 喂? 搵邊個呀?
2. 叫外賣。
3. 打錯呀。

JYUTPING

1. Wai2 ? Wai2 ? Wan2 bin1 go3 aa3?
2. Giu3 ngoi6 maai6.
3. Daa2 co3 aa3.

ENGLISH

1. A: Hello? Hello? Who are you looking for?
2. B: I want take-out.
3. A: Wrong number.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
錯	co3	wrong	adjective
叫	giu3	to be called; call	verb
搵	wan2	to look for	verb

邊個	bin1 go3	who	pronoun
打	daa2	to dial	verb
外賣	ngoi6 maa16	take-out	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

嗰個係錯嘅答案。 <i>go2 go3 hai6 co3 ge3 daap3 on3.</i> That is the wrong answer.	我買錯書！ <i>Ngo5 maa15 co3 syu1!</i> I bought the wrong book!
我要叫外賣。 <i>Ngo5 jiu3 giu3 ngoi6 maa16.</i> I am calling for take-out.	我叫Nicole。 <i>ngo5 giu3 Nicole.</i> I'm (called) Nicole.
你叫咩名？ <i>nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?</i> What's your name?	我要搵你哋經理。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 wan2 nei5 dei2 ging1 lei5.</i> I'm looking for your manager.
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> I don't care who is calling, you cannot use the phone here.	你係邊個？ <i>nei5 hai6 bin1 go3?</i> Who are you?
我要打個電話。 <i>Ngo5 jiu3 daa2 go3 din6 waa2.</i> I need to make a call.	打俾我。 <i>daa2 bei2 ngo5.</i> Call me.
我叫錯外賣！ <i>Ngo5 giu3 co3 ngoi6 maa16 !</i> I've got the wrong take-out!	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Calling for Food or Help

叫外賣。

"Call for take out."

In this lesson's grammar point, we want to spend a bit of time reviewing how to call for things in Cantonese. We do this using the verb 叫 (*giu3*) which means both "to call for" as well as "to shout." And this is not the first time we have seen this verb. Previously we ran into it in our absolute beginner series when we learned that 叫 (*giu3*) can be followed by a name and suggest the sense of "to be called..." as in the sentence 我叫劉德華 *Ng5 giu3 lau4 dak1 waa4* ("I'm called Andy Lau").

But 叫 is not just used for personal names. As we see in this lesson, we can follow it by all sorts of objects that people routinely call for, such as:

1. 叫的士
giu3 dik1 si2
"to call for a taxi"
2. 叫外賣
giu3 ngoi6 maai6
"to call for takeout"
3. 叫醫生
giu3 ji1 saang1
"to call for a doctor"
4. 叫白車
giu3 baak6 ce1
"to call for an ambulance"
5. 叫救命
giu3 gau3 meng6
"to call for help"

On a final note, pay attention to the lack of a preposition in these Cantonese phrases. In English we have to explicitly add the word "for" in these sentences. This is not needed in Cantonese where the verb implies the necessary sense of direction and purpose.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What to do in an Emergency

Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world when it comes to safety from personal assault. In the unlikely event that you run into trouble, the thing to shout is 搶嘢呀 *ceong2 je5 aa3* ("robbery"), 救命呀 *gau3 meng6 aa3* ("help") or 報警呀 *bou3 ging2 aa3* ("call the police"). And don't forget that the emergency number here is 999.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #6

Taking photos in Hong Kong

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

6

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 咪郁!
2. 我都有郁。
3. 笑下啦。
4. 得唔得?
5. 一，二，三……
6. 俾我睇下。

JYUTPING

1. mai5 juk1!
2. ngo5 dou1 mou5 juk1.
3. siu3 haa5 laa1.
4. dak1 m4 dak1?
5. jat1, ji6, saam1……
6. bei2 ngo5 tai2 haa5.

ENGLISH

1. A: Don't move!

CONT'D OVER

2. B: I didn't move.
3. A: Smile a bit!
4. B: Is this okay?
5. A: One, two, three...
6. B: Let me take a look.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
得唔得	dak1 m4 dak1	okay or not	phrase
咪	mai5	don't	imperative
下	haa5	a bit	adverb
睇	tai2	to watch	verb
郁	juk1	to move	verb
俾	bei2	to give	verb
都	dou1	also	adverb
笑	siu3	to smile	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

唔好笑，得唔得？ <i>m4 hou2 siu3, dak1 m4 dak1 ?</i> Can you stop laughing?	咪亂講嘢。 <i>mai5 lyun6 gong2 je5.</i> Don't say the wrong thing.
--	--

考慮下啦？ <i>Haau2 leoi6 haa5 laa1?</i> Think about it a bit?	我成日睇呢個電視節目。 <i>ngo5 sing4 jat6 tai2 ni1 go3 din6 si6 zit3 muk6.</i> I always watch this TV show.
我通常唔睇體育賽事嘅，但係琴日例外。 <i>ngo5 tung1 soeng4 m4 tai2 tai2 juk6 coi3 si6 ge3, daan6 hai6 kam4 jat6 lai6 ngoi6.</i> "Usually, I don't watch any sports but I made an exception yesterday."	不如睇戲？ <i>bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?</i> How about seeing a movie?
郁下張凳。 <i>Juk1 haa5 zoeng1 dang3.</i> Move the chair a bit.	你唔好郁嚟郁去。 <i>Nei5 m4 hou2 juk1 lei4 juk1 heoi3.</i> Don't move around so much.
打俾我。 <i>daa2 bei2 ngo5.</i> Call me.	俾呢本書我。 <i>Bei2 ni1 bun2 syu1 ngo5.</i> Give me this book.
你都好可愛。 <i>Nei5 dou1 hou2 ho2 oi3.</i> You are also very cute.	我都鍾意佢。 <i>ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5.</i> I also like him(/her/it).
笑口常開。 <i>Siu3 hau2 soeng4 hoi1.</i> Keep smiling all the time.	

GRAMMAR

Our Grammar Focus is Just "a bit" Tricky

笑下啦。

"Smile a bit!"

Our grammar focus today is on how to do things just a bit by using the verb complement 下

(*haa5*). The structure for doing this is fairly easy: just add 下 (*haa5* ("a bit")) immediately after your single-character action verb.

The character 下 (*haa5*) here is a colloquial shortening of the phrase 一下 (*jat1 haa5*), which means one time. In its full form the verb complement literally meant that you would be doing something one time, as in the phrases 打一下 *daa2 jat1 haa5* ("to hit once"), or 踢一下 *tek3 jat1 haa5* ("to kick once"). Gradually it became common to drop the number one and this shortened phrase picked up the more vague sense of "doing something for a little bit of time," as in the following examples:

1. 笑下啦！
siu3 haa5 laa1
"Smile a bit!"
2. 睇下啦！
tai2 haa5 laa1!
"Look a bit!"
3. 俾我睇下啦！
bei2 ngo5 tai2 haa5 laa1!
"Let me have a look."
4. 試下
si3 haa5
"Have a try."
5. 試下，好味㗎！
si3 haa5, hou2 mei6 gaa3
"Try it. It tastes good."

Bonus Point

Our lesson today focuses on single-character verbs. But what happens when you want to use multiple-character verbs? In cases where those verbs consist of a verb and then its object, we simply split them apart and stick our verb complement right in the middle. 行街 (*haang4 gaai1*) "to go shopping" thus becomes 行下街 (*haang4 haa5 gaai1*), while 食飯 (*sik6 faan6*) "to have dinner" becomes 食下飯 (*sik6 haa5 faan6*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Put a Smile on Somebody's Face

"Cheese" is what English speakers say when taking photographs, while 茄子 ("eggplant") is what most Mandarin speakers use. But what about Cantonese? When you're in Hong Kong, try saying 笑下啦 (*siu3 haa5 laa1*). This is the most simple and common way to get people smiling.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #7

Hot in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

#7

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 靚女，你好索！
2. 多謝。
3. 可唔可以俾你電話號碼我？
4. 唔可以。

ENGLISH

1. A : Pretty girl. You are so hot!
2. B : Thank you.
3. A : Can you give me your number?
4. B : No, I can't.

JYUTPING

1. leng3 neoi5, nei5 hou2 sok3!
2. do1 ze6.
3. ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 bei2 nei5 din6 waa2 hou6 maa5 ngo5?
4. m4 ho2 ji5.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
電話	din6 waa2	telephone	noun
可以	ho2 ji5	can	verb
索	sok3	hot	adjective
靚女	leng3 neoi5	pretty girl	noun
多謝	do1 ze6	thanks	verb
俾	bei2	to give	verb
號碼	hou6 maa5	number	noun
電話號碼	din6 waa2 hou6 maa5	Phone number	noun
唔可以	m4 ho2 ji3; m4 ho2 ji5	can't; not to allow	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

打電話 <i>daa2 din6 waa2</i> make a telephone call	我要打個電話。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 daa2 go3 din6 waa2.</i> I need to make a call.
我要買電話卡。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 maa5 din6 waa2 kaat1.</i> I want to buy a telephone card.	唔該接電話。 <i>m4 goi1 zip3 din6 waa2.</i> Please answer the phone.
你可唔可以門咗個窗？ <i>nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji3 saan1 zo2 go2 go3 coeng1?</i> Can you close that window, please?	我可以搭巴士。 <i>ngo5 ho2 ji3 daap3 baa1 si2.</i> I can take the bus.
我哋可以一齊去。 <i>ngo5 dei6 ho2 ji5 jat1 cai4 heoi3.</i> We can go together.	你女友好索。 <i>Nei5 neoi2 jou5 hou2 sok3.</i> Your girlfriend is hot!
我姐姐係一個靚女。 <i>ngo5 ze4 ze1 hai6 jat1 go3 leng3 neoi5.</i> My sister is a pretty girl.	嘉玲好靚女。 <i>gaa1 ling4 hou2 leng3 neoi5.</i> Carling Lau is very good-looking.
多謝誇獎！ <i>Do1 ze6 kwaa1 zoeng2.</i> Thank you for the compliments!	多謝合作。 <i>Do1 ze6 hap6 zok3.</i> Thank you for cooperating.

俾呢本書我。 <i>Bei2 ni1 bun2 syu1 ngo5.</i> Give me this book.	打俾我。 <i>daa2 bei2 ngo5.</i> Call me.
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> Can you give me your phone number?	你電話號碼幾多？ <i>nei5 din6 waa2 hou6 maa5 gei2 do1?</i> What's your phone number?
你電話號碼幾多？ <i>nei5 din6 waa2 hou6 maa5 gei2 do1?</i> What's your phone number?	火車唔可以飛。 <i>fo2 ce1 m4 ho2 ji3 fei1.</i> Trains can't fly.
呢度唔可以用人民幣。 <i>ni1 dou6 m4 ho2 ji5 jung6 jan4 man4 bai6.</i> The RMB cannot be used here.	

GRAMMAR

Asking for Permission in Cantonese

可唔可以俾你電話號碼我？

"Can you give me your number?"

Our grammar focus in this lesson is on asking permission or asking someone to do you a favor using the magic phrase 可唔可以 (*ho2 m4 ho2 ji5*), which literally translates as, "can or cannot." The most common way to use this phrase is to put it at the beginning of a request, as in the question 可唔可以幫下我, *ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 bong1 haa5 ngo5* ("Can you help me a bit?"). If it is clear what you are asking from context, you can also simply say 可唔可以 and leave the rest of the question implied. The subject of the question is usually left unstated and implied, but if you need to provide it, place it at the start of the question.

For Example:

1. 可唔可以幫我忙？

Ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 bong1 ngo5 mong4?

"Can you help me?"

2. 可唔可以請假？

Ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 ceng2 gaa3?

"Can I have some time off?"

3. 可唔可以俾你電郵地址我？

Ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 bei2 nei5 din6 jau4 dei6 zi2 ngo5?

"Can you give me your email address?"

The proper way to answer this question is to simply answer 可以 (*ho2 ji5*) in the affirmative or 唔可以 (*m4 ho2 ji5*) in the negative.

Another way of asking permission is to use the phrase 得唔得 (*dak1 m4 dak1*), which can also mean "can or cannot," or "Does it work?" You can simply replace 可唔可以 with 得唔得 in most situations. The major difference is that unlike 可唔可以, 得唔得 is positioned at the end of a sentence. Our example sentence about asking for help would thus become 幫下我, 得唔得, *bong1 haa5 ngo5, dak1 m4 dak1* ("Help me out, is that okay?").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Being Polite in Cantonese

可唔可以 is a fairly polite way to ask for permission but you can never really be too polite when you're speaking Cantonese, so let us give you a few extra words and phrases that can work like magic when you're asking for something. First of all, remember to say "please" and "thank you" by saying 唔該 (*m4 goi1*). You can also say 麻煩 (*maa4 faan4*) and 請 (*cing2*) to ask someone to do something for you, following this by 你 (*nei5*) if you want to be very specific. And when someone does you a favor, be sure to say 辛苦晒 (*san1 fu2 saai3*) or 多谢 (*do1 ze6*) to thank them for their time and effort.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #8

Cantonese Coworkers

CONTENTS

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

#8

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 你忙唔忙呀？
2. 麻麻咁啦。
3. 幫我查啲資料吖？
4. 查咩呀？
5. 等陣話你知。
6. 咁我得閒先查喇。

ENGLISH

1. A : Are you busy?
2. B : A little.
3. A : Can you help me find some info?
4. B : Find what?
5. A : I'll tell you later.
6. B : Then I'll search when I'm free.

JYUTPING

1. Nei5 mong4 m4 mong4 aa3 ?
2. Maa4 maa2 dei2 laa1 .
3. Bong1 ngo5 caa4 di1 zi1 liu2 aa1 ?
4. Caa4 me1 aa3 ?
5. Dang2 zan6 waa6 nei5 zi1
6. Gam2 ngo5 dak1 haan4 sin1 caa4 laa3 .

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
等陣	dang2 zan6	later	adverb
幫	bong1	to help	verb
忙	mong4	busy	adjective
資料	zi1 liu2	information, materials	noun
咩	me1	what	pronoun
得閒	dak1 haan4	to be available, to be free	phrase
查	caa4	to find, to search, to check	verb
麻麻地	maa4 maa2 dei2	a little/sort of, so-so	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我等陣去書店。 <i>Ngo5 dang2 zan6 heoi2 syu1 dim3.</i> I'll go to the bookshop later.	告士打普話佢可以幫忙。 <i>gou3 si6 daa2 pou2 waa6 keoi5 ho2 ji3 bong1 mong4.</i> Gustavo said he could help.
個店員幫咗我。 <i>go3 dim3 jyun4 bong1 zo2 ngo5.</i> The shop assistant helped me.	佢嘅生存意義就係幫人。 <i>keoi5 ge3 sang1 cyun4 ji3 ji6 zau6 hai6 bong1 jan4.</i> Her purpose in life was to help other people.
多謝你幫我。 <i>do1 ze6 nei5 bong1 ngo5.</i> Thank you for helping me.	唔該幫下我。 <i>m4 goi1 bong1 haa5 ngo5.</i> Please help me.
火車站成日都咁繁忙。 <i>fo2 ce1 zaam6 sing4 jat6 dou1 gam3 faan4 mong4.</i> The train station is always busy.	你星期六忙唔忙？ <i>nei5 sing1 kei4 luk6 mong4 m4 mong4?</i> Are you busy on Saturday?
我工作好忙。 <i>ngo5 gung1 zok3 hou2 mong4.</i> I have a busy job.	忙咩啊？ <i>mong4 me1 aa3?</i> What are you busy with?
我要睇好多資料。 <i>Ngo5 jiu3 tai2 hou2 do1 zi1 liu2.</i> I have to read a lot of materials.	發生咩事？ <i>Faat3 saang1 me1 si6 ?</i> What happened?

你叫咩名？ <i>nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?</i> What's your name?	MARK通常上晝都得閒。 <i>MARK tung1 soeng4 soeng6 zau3 dou1 dak1 haan4.</i> Mark is always free in the morning.
我得閒就去書店。 <i>Ngo5 dak1 haan4 zau6 heoi3 syu1 dim3.</i> I go to bookshops whenever I am free.	得閒去兜風。 <i>dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1.</i> (When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.
聽講海關而家查得好嚴。 <i>teng1 gong2 hoi2 gwaan1 ji4 gaa1 caa4 dak1 hou2 jim4.</i> I hear customs is checking everything carefully now.	幫我查啲資料。 <i>Bong1 ngo5 caa4 di1 zi1 liu2.</i> Help me search for some info.
佢啲廣東話麻麻哋。 <i>keoi5 di1 gwong2 dung1 waa2 maa4 maa2 dei2.</i> His Cantonese skill is so-so	佢麻麻哋有錢。 <i>Keoi5 maa4 maa2 dei2 jau5 cin2.</i> He's sort of rich.

GRAMMAR

Asking Questions with Adjectives

你忙唔忙呀？

"Are you busy?"

Our grammar focus today is on asking yes/no questions using adjectives. The structure for doing this is very simple—start the sentence with the subject of the question, and then follow this with the adjective, then the character 唔 (*m4*), and then repeat the adjective. In the dialogue we saw this in our very first line, in which one of the speakers asked the other if they were busy using the question 你忙唔忙呀, (*nei5 mong4 m4 mong4 aa3*) "Are you busy?". For more examples, consider the following two questions:

1. 中文難唔難？

(*zung1 man2 naan4 m4 naan4?*)

"Is Chinese difficult?"

2. 工作煩唔煩？

(*gung1 zok3 faan4 m4 faan4?*)

"Is work bothersome?"

Bonus Point

The structure above is only used for single-character adjectives. In the case of two-character adjectives, the trick is to say only the first character and then our negation word 唔 (*m4*) and then the whole adjective again. For example, 新鮮 (*san1 sin1*) means "fresh" and is turned into a question such as 新唔新鮮 (*san1 m4 san1 sin1*). If you want to know whether a piece of fruit is fresh or not, you should ask 水果新唔新鮮, *seoi2 gwo2 san1 m4 san1 sin1* ("Is the fruit fresh?").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where to Find Wireless Internet

Wi-Fi is more and more pervasive in Hong Kong and is by now available in many public places and even outdoor areas like Kowloon Park. If you don't have your own laptop or smartphone but need to get online, one good option is finding a public library. All Hong Kong libraries have computers with Internet access you can use for free. The largest of these is the Hong Kong Central Library, located at 66 Causeway Rd. The computers at this branch can be found on the ground and first floors and can be reserved in advance by calling 852/2921 0384. A list of all other public libraries along with their addresses can be found at <http://www.hkpl.gov.hk>.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #9 Lost in Hong Kong

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- 2 Dialogue - Cantonese
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

#9

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 請問課室喺幾樓？
2. 喺三樓。
3. 唔該！
4. 唔使客氣。

ENGLISH

1. A: Excuse me, on which floor is the classroom?
2. B: On the third floor.
3. A: Thank you!
4. B: You're welcome.

JYUTPING

1. cing2 man6 fo3 sat1 hai2 gei2 lau2?
2. hai2 saam1 lau2
3. m4 goi1!

CONT'D OVER

4. m4 sai2 haak3 hei3

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
請問	ceng2 man6	excuse me	expression
喺	hai2	to be (somewhere); to be located at	verb
課室	fo3 sat1	classroom	noun
客氣	haak3 hei3	polite	adjective
唔該	m4 goi1	thank you	verb, phrase
樓	lau2	floor	noun
幾	gei2	how many	interrogate
唔使	m4 sai2	no need to	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

唔好意思，請問郵局喺邊？ <i>m4 hou2 ji3 si1, cing2 man6 jau4 guk2 hai2 bin1 ?</i> Excuse me, where is the post office?	請問你叫咩名？ <i>Ceng2 man6 nei5 giu3 me1 meng2?</i> Excuse me, what's your name?
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間酒店喺遊樂場附近。 <i>gaan1 zau2 dim3 hai2 jau4 lok6 coeng4 fu6 gan6.</i> The hotel is located near the amusement park.	你喺邊？ <i>nei5 hai2 bin1?</i> Where are you?
成日坐喺一個課室好悶呀。 <i>sing4 jat6 co5 hai2 jat1 go3 fo3 sat1 hou2 mun6 aa3.</i> It's so boring to sit in the same classroom the whole day.	學生正在課室。 <i>hok6 sang1 zing3 zoi6 fo3 sat1 °</i> The kids are in the classroom.
你真客氣！ <i>Nei5 zan1 haak3 hei3.</i> You are so polite.	唔該晒你幫手！ <i>m4 goi1 saai3 nei5 bong1 sau2!</i> Thank you for your help!
唔該晒你！ <i>ng4 goi1 saai3 nei5 !</i> Thank you very much!	你住喺五樓，係咪？ <i>nei5 zyu6 hai2 ng5 lau2, hai6 mai6?</i> You live on the fifth floor, don't you?
戲院喺七樓。 <i>hei3 jyun2 hai2 cat1 lau2.</i> The cinema is on the seventh floor.	聽日係星期幾？ <i>Ting1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?</i> What day will it be tomorrow?
唔使咁緊張。 <i>m4 sai2 gam3 gan2 zoeng1.</i> No need to be so anxious.	失戀啫，唔使咁鬱結㗎。 <i>sat1 lyun2 ze1, m4 sai2 gam2 wat1 git3 bo3.</i> You don't need to be depressed just because you broke up with your girlfriend.

GRAMMAR

How to Talk about Building Floors in Cantonese

㗎幾樓

"Which floor?"

Our grammar focus today is on asking for locations in buildings using the phrase 㗎幾樓 (*hai2 gei2 lau2*). This literally translates as "to be at how many floors." We start with the verb 㗎 (*hai2*), which is used to introduce locations as with 㗎學校 *hai2 hok6 hau6* ("to be at school"), or 㗎醫院 *hai2 ji1 jyun2* ("to be in the hospital"). 幾 (*gei2*) is our question word asking "how much/many," while 樓 (*lau2*) refers to both buildings as well as the stories within buildings. Consider the following examples:

1. 㗎幾樓?
hai2 gei2 lau2
"On which floor?"
2. 㗎三樓。
hai2 saam1 lau2
"On the 3rd floor."
3. 㗎四樓。
hai2 sei3 lau2
"On the 4th floor."
4. 㗎五樓
hai2 ng5 lau2
"On the 5th floor."
5. 㗎十七樓。
hai2 sap6 cat1 lau2
"On the 17th floor."
6. 㗎地下。
hai2 dei6 haa5
"On the ground floor."

If you need to specify the exact room in an address, provide the room information after the floor. In English we might say "Room 3 on Floor 2." This order is reversed in Cantonese, where the same address is spoken as 二樓三號房 *ji6 lau2 saam1 hou6 fong2* ("second floor, room three"). Note that you can use 室 (*sat1*) interchangeably with 房 (*fong2*) when referring to rooms in buildings.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What Floor is That?

Hong Kong tends to follow British conventions when it comes to naming floors, with the first floor in Hong Kong referring to what in the United States would be considered the second floor. In Cantonese, the first floor in any building is known as the "G/F" (ground floor) or 地下 (*dei6 haa5*)

Also, note that some buildings skip the 4/F, 14/F, and 24/F because four is an unlucky number that sounds similar to "death."

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #10

The Hong Kong Soccer Team

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

10

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 睇咗場波未?
2. 睇咗，激死我喇。
3. 點解啫?
4. 又輸波囉!
5. 好正常吖。

JYUTPING

1. Tai2 zo2 coeng4 bo1 mei6 ?
2. Tai2 zo2, gik1 sei2 ngo5 laa3.
3. Dim2 gaai2 zek1 ?
4. Jau6 syu1 bo1 lo1!
5. Hou2 zing3 soeng4 aa1.

ENGLISH

1. Have you watched the match yet?
2. Yes, I'm very upset.
3. Why?

CONT'D OVER

4. We lost again!
5. That's normal.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
又	jau6	again	adverb
未	mei6	yet, never	adverb
激	gik1	to anger	verb
贏	jeng4	to win	verb
正常	zing3 soeng4	normal	adjective
輸	syu1	to lose	verb
點解	dim2 gaai2	why	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你又食麥當勞? <i>nei5 jau6 sik6 mak6 dong1 lou4?</i> You are eating at McDonalds again?	做完未? <i>Zou6 jyun4 mei6.</i> Have you finished yet?
你開始放假未呀? <i>Nei5 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3 mei6 aa3?</i> Has your holiday started yet?	如果你哋我，你會激嬲我。 <i>jyu4 gwo2 nei5 ngaak1 ngo5, nei5 wui5 gik1 nau1 ngo5.</i> If you cheat me, you'll anger me.
我又贏錢啦。 <i>Ngo5 jau6 jeng4 cin2 laa3.</i> I won money again.	贏小小就好喇，唔好咁貪心。 <i>jeng4 siu2 siu2 zau6 hou2 laa6, m4 hou2 gam3 taam1 sam1.</i> Winning a bit is fine, don't get greedy.

一切正常。 <i>Jat1 cai3 zing3 soeng4.</i> Everything is normal.	中國隊又輸波。 <i>Zung1 gwok3 deoi2 jau6 syu1 bo1.</i> The Chinese team lost again.
我尋日打麻雀輸咗十幾萬。 <i>ngo5 cam4 jat6 daa2 maa4 zoek2 syu1 zo2 sap6 gei2 maan6.</i> I lost 100 thousand playing mahjong yesterday.	點解你唔嚟？ <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lei4?</i> Why don't you come?
點解你件衫咁污糟嘅？ <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 gin6 saam1 gam3 wu1 zou1 ge2?</i> Why are your clothes so dirty?	點解咁認真？ <i>dim2 gaai2 gam3 jing6 zan1?</i> Why so serious?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "yet" in Cantonese with 未 (*mei6*)

睇咗場波未？

"Have you watched the game yet?"

Our grammar focus in this lesson is building questions with 未 (*mei6*) that communicate the idea of "yet" in Cantonese. This sentence pattern is easy to use. Simply put the character 未 (*mei6*) at the end of any verb or verb phrase to turn what was originally a statement into a question asking whether something has been done yet. Look at the following two examples:

- 睇咗場波未？

Tai2 zo2 ceong4 bo1 mei6?

"Have you seen the match yet?"
- 食咗未？

Sik6 zo2 mei6?

"Have you eaten yet?"

In our dialogue, 睇 (*tai2*) is the verb, which 咗 (*zo2*) puts into the past tense. 場 (*ceong4*) is

the measure word for 波 (*bo1*), which means "game" or "match." 睇咗場波 (*tai2 zo2 ceong4 bo1*) is thus a standalone verb phrase in the past tense and also a statement saying that someone watched some sort of game. By adding 未 (*mei6*) to the end we make it instantly a question, which asks whether someone has watched a game yet. A few similar examples follow:

1. 你做完(咗)未?
Zou6 jyun4 (zo2) mei6?
"Have you finished yet?"
2. 你食咗未?
Nei5 sik6 zo2 mei6?
"Have you eaten yet?"
3. 你睇咗未?
Nei5 tai2 zo2 mei6?
"Have you watched it yet?"

Language Tip

未 (*mei6*) has the negative meaning of "not yet" when used in front of a verb in a statement. For example: 我未食 (*ngo5 mei6 sik6*) means "I haven't eaten yet." This sentence pattern can be used to respond to the questions we built earlier with 未 (*mei6*). If you're ever asked "Have you watched the film yet?" and it is a movie you haven't seen, you can always answer 我未睇 (*ngo5 mei6 tai2*) "I haven't watched it yet."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Have You Seen A Hong Kong Commercial Yet?

Many commercials and adverts in Hong Kong use the 未 question structure introduced in this lesson as commercial slogans. For instance, 你今日飲咗未啊 (*nei5 gam1 jat6 jam2 zo2 mei6 aa3*), "have you drunk it today yet" is a clichéd advertising slogan for beverages, while 你投咗票未呀 (*nei5 tau4 zo2 piu3 mei6 aa3*), "have you voted yet" is often used around elections. The reason this pattern is so popular is because of a traditional greeting among Cantonese speakers, 食咗飯未 (*sik6 zo2 faan6 mei6*) "have you had dinner yet," or 食咗未 (*sik6 zo2 mei6*), "have you eaten yet." Please note that the answer to this question is

always supposed to be 食咗喇 (*sik6 zo2 laa3*) "yes, I've eaten" regardless of whether that's the truth.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #11

Getting News in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

11

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 喂，今日上咗網未呀？
2. 未㗎，有咩新聞？
3. 冇呀，都係咁啦，你自己睇囉。

JYUTPING

1. Wai3, gam1 jat6 soeng5 zo2 mong5 mei6 aa3?
2. Mei6 wo3, jau5 me1 san1 man4?
3. Mou5 aa3, dou1 hai6 gam2 laa1, nei5 zi6 gei2 tai2 lo1.

ENGLISH

1. A: Hey, have you been online today yet?
2. B: Not yet, any news?
3. A: None, nothing's changed. Take a look yourself.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
自己	zi6 gei2	oneself	pronoun
今日	gam1 jat6	today	noun, adverb
上網	soeng5 mong5	to go online	verb

電視	din6si6	television	noun
報紙	bou3 zi2	newspaper	noun
新聞	san1 man4	news	noun
網絡	mong5 lok3	Internet	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你自己煮飯食。 <i>Nei5 zi6 gei2 zyu2 faan6 sik6.</i> You cook for yourself.	今日遊行。 <i>gam1 jat6 jau4 hang4.</i> The parade is today.
今日特別炎熱。 <i>gam1 jat6 dak6 bit6 jam4 jit6.</i> "Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day."	我今日見到你。 <i>ngo5 gam1 jat6 gin3 dou2 nei5.</i> I saw you today.
我屋企可以上網。 <i>ngo5 uk1 kei2 ho2 ji5 soeng5 mong5.</i> You can get online at my place.	唔好成日睇電視啦！ <i>m4 hou2 sing4 jat6 tai2 din6 si6 laa1!</i> Don't watch television all day!
家人在一起看電視。 <i>Gaa1 jan4 zoi6 jat1 hei2 hon3 din6si6.</i> The family is watching television.	一路食早餐，一路睇報紙。 <i>jat1 lou6 sik6 zou2 can1, jat1 lou6 tai2 bou3 zi2.</i> Reading the newspaper while eating breakfast.
今日有咩新聞？ <i>Gam1 jat6 jau5 me1 san1 man4?</i> Any news today?	網絡上有好多詐騙案。 <i>mong5 lok3 soeng6 jau5 hou2 do1 zaa3 pin3 on3.</i> There is a lot of internet fraud.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Talk About the Past Tense in Cantonese
喂，今日上咗網未呀？

喂，今日上咗網未呀？

"Hey, have you been online today yet?"

In our grammar section today, we want to review how to put sentences into the simple past tense, or what is known in Cantonese as the past aspect. This requires the use of something called an "aspectual particle." The most important of these is the aspectual particle used to tell us that a verb action has been completed, or took place sometime in the past. This is the particle 咗 (zo2). To use it simply add 咗 after simple verbs to indicate that the action has been completed. Look at the following examples:

1. 買
maai5
"to buy."
2. 買咗
maai5 zo2
"to have bought."
3. 我買咗
ngo5 maai5 zo2
"I've bought it."
4. 佢買咗
Keoi5 maai5 zo2
"He's bought it."

1. 睇
tai2
"to watch."
2. 睇咗
tai2 zo2
"to have watched."
3. 睇咗新聞
tai2 zo2 san1 man4
"to have watched the news."

4. 你睇咗新聞未?
nei5 tai2 zo2 san1 man4 mei6?
"Have you watched the news?"

This transformation works for both single-character and double-character verbs. Note that for verbs which consist of a verb/object compound, we stick 咗 right after the verb and before the object, meaning that compounds such as 上網 *soeng5 mong5* ("to go online") becomes *soeng5 zo2 mong5* 上咗網 ("to have been online"). There is no easy rule for differentiating between which two-character verbs are standalone verbs and which are verb-object combinations. This requires a familiarity with the meaning of individual characters.

Language Tip

We have covered additional aspectual particles in previous lessons. 過 (*gwo3*) is the major alternate particle used to communicate aspect completion, as with the sentence 我去過香港 *ngo5 heoi3 gwo3 hoeng1 gong2* ("I've been to Hong Kong"). While both 咗 and 過 are indicators of past tense, 咗 stresses the neutral completion of the action while 過 emphasizes that the action has been done in the past.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The News Landscape in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a major press center in Asia. The leading Chinese language newspapers in the city are the Oriental Daily News, Apple Daily and the Sun Daily, while the leading financial newspaper is the Hong Kong Economic Times. The most prestigious English language newspaper is the South China Morning Post, referred to locally as the acronym SCMP. It is dominated in circulation figures by the Hong Kong Standard, a lower-market tabloid that tends to highlight local and tabloid news.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #12

Asking for Directions in Cantonese

CONTENTS

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

12

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 邊度有銀行?
2. 前面直行，然後轉左。
3. 行幾耐?
4. 十分鐘度。

JYUTPING

1. Bin1 dou6 jau5 ngan4 hong4?
2. Cin4 min6 zik6 haang4, jin4 hau6 zyun3 zo2.
3. Haang4 gei2 noi6?
4. Sap6 fan1 zung1 dou2.

ENGLISH

1. Where is the bank?
2. Go straight, then turn left.
3. How long is the walk?
4. About ten minutes.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
直行	zik6 haang4	to go straight	verb
轉	zyun3	to turn	verb
前	cin4	front	noun
後	hau6	back	noun
左	zo2	left	adverb
右	jau6	right	adverb
然後	jin4 hau6	then; afterwards	adverb
銀行	ngan4 hong4	bank	noun
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

直行就到門口㗎啦! <i>zik6 haang4 zau6 dou3 mun4 hau2 gaa3 laa3.</i> Just go straight, and you will see the entrance.	一路直行就到郵局㗎喇。 <i>jat1 lou6 zik6 hang4 zau6 dou3 jau4 guk6 gaa3 laa3.</i> If you go straight you will finally arrive at the post office.
向前直行大概一百米。 <i>hoeng3 cin4 zik6 haang4 daai6 koi3 jat1 baak3 mai5.</i> Walk straight for about one hundred meters.	如果你喺呢度轉左，會係條死路。 <i>jyu4 gwo2 nei5 hai2 ni1 dou6 zyun3 zo2, wui5 hai6 tiu4 sei2 lou6.</i> If you turn left here, you will come to a dead end.
當佢每次轉身，我都會心跳加速。 <i>dong1 keoi5 mui5 ci3 zyun3 san1, ngo5 dou1 wui5 sam1 tiu3 gaa1 cuk1.</i> Every time she turns around, my heart rate raises.	喺前面街口轉右。 <i>hai2 cin4 min6 gaai1 hau2 zyun3 jau6.</i> Turn right at the next corner.

飯後唔好即刻運動。 <i>faan6 hau6 m4 hou2 zik1 hak1 wan6 dung6.</i> Do not exercise directly after a meal.	我左邊有張櫈。 <i>ngo5 zo2 bin1 jau5 zoeng1 dang3.</i> There is a chair on my left side.
就喺左邊。 <i>zau6 hai2 zo2 bin1.</i> It's right on the left.	我用右手寫字。 <i>ngo5 jung6 jau6 sau2 se2 zi6.</i> I use my right hand to write.
紅綠燈轉右。 <i>hung4 luk6 dang1 zyun3 jau6.</i> Turn right at the stop light.	我要默默咁努力，然後一鳴驚人！ <i>ngo5 jiu3 mak6 mak6 gam2 nou5 lik6, jin4 hau6 jat1 ming4 ging1 jan4 !</i> I want to work hard, then startle people!
佢要搵間服務好啲嘅銀行。 <i>keoi5 jiu3 wan2 gaan1 fuk6 mou6 hou2 di1 ge3 ngan4 hong4.</i> He has to find a bank that offers a better service.	聽講呢間銀行尋日俾人打劫。 <i>teng1 gong2 ni1 gaan1 ngan4 hong4 cam4 jat6 bei2 jan4 daa2 gip6.</i> I heard that this bank was robbed yesterday.
你聽晚去邊度？ <i>nei5 ting1 maan5 heoi3 bin1 dou6?</i> Where are you going tomorrow night?	去咗邊度？ <i>heoi3 zo2 bin1 dou6?</i> Where did (you) go?

GRAMMAR

Giving Directions in Cantonese

前面直行，然後轉左。

"First go straight, then turn left."

Our grammar focus today is learning how to chain directions together in Cantonese. This involves using the words 首先 (*sau2 sin1*) for "first" and 然後 (*jin4 hau6*) for "then" and chaining them together in sequence. The exact pattern is identical to the way we use it in English, and as with English, there is no limit how to many instances of 然後 you can use in a sentence. Consider the following examples:

1. 首先去銀行，然後買飲品。
sau2 sin1 heoi3 ngan4 hong4, jin4 hau6 maai5 jam2 ban2.
 First go to the bank, then buy a drink.
2. 首先睇戲，然後飲嘢。
sau2 sin1 tai2 hei3, jin4 hau6 jam2 je5.
 First a movie, then a bar.
3. 首先直行，然後轉左。
sau2 sin1 zik6 haang4, jin4 hau6 zyun3 zo2.
 First go straight, then turn left.
4. 首先轉左，然後轉右。
sau2 sin1 zyun3 zo2, jin4 hau6 zyun3 jau6.
 First turn left, then turn right.
5. 首先轉左，然後轉右，然後直行，然後再轉左。
sau2 sin1 zyun3 zo2, jin4 hau6 zyun3 jau6, jin4 hau6 zik6 haang4, jin4 hau6 zoi3 zyun3 zo2.
 First turn left, then turn right, then go straight, then turn left again.

If you're spending a lot of time in more casual situations, it's worth remembering that 首先 (*sau2 sin1*) is a relatively formal word, so in colloquial Cantonese speakers will often abbreviate it to 先 instead. A more casual way of saying the sentence in our dialogue would thus be 先轉左，然後轉右 *sin1 zyun3 zo2, jin4 hau6 zyun3 jau6* ("first turn left, then turn right"). Equally, a colloquial alternative to 然後 is the word 再 (*zoi3*), which means "again" or "later" as in the phrase 再見 *zoi3 gin3* ("goodbye" or "see you later"). This gives us three general patterns which are interchangeable:

1. 首先 ... 然後 ...
2. 先 ... 然後 ...
3. 先 / 首先 ... 再 ...

Language Tip

What if you have a final options? If you want to stress a final action which should be taken, add

最後 (*zeoi3 hau6*) to the end of your sentence, followed by the last piece of information.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

People in Hong Kong are really tremendously polite. So don't worry that much if you don't understand the directions someone gives you the first time around. What you should be concerned about is that if you don't understand after several efforts, you might have someone go out of their way to physically show you how to get somewhere, even going so far as to "force" you to follow their advice and take the minibus when you really want to take the subway.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #13

At the Hong Kong Airport

CONTENTS

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

13

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我哋班機幾點呀?
2. 仲有半個鐘度。
3. 希望今次準時，唔好遲啦。
4. 遲咗，都有辦法。

JYUTPING

1. Ngo5 dei6 baan1 gei1 gei2 dim2 aa3?
2. Zung6 jau5 bun3 go3 zung1 dou2.
3. Hei1 mong6 gam1 ci3 zeon2 si4, m4 hou2 ci4 laa1.
4. Ci4 zo2, dou1 mou5 baan6 faat3.

ENGLISH

1. What time is our flight?
2. Another half an hour or so.
3. I hope it'll be on time this time, and not late.
4. If it is, there's nothing that can be done.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
登記	dang1 gei3	to check-in	verb
遲	ci4	to be late	verb
機場	gei1 ceong4	airport	noun
班機	baan1 gei1	flight	noun
希望	hei1 mong6	to hope	verb
幾點	gei2 dim2	what time	phrase
準時	zeon2 si4	to be on time	verb
飛機	fei1 gei1	airplane	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我喺邊度登記呀？ <i>Ngo5 hai2 bin1 dou6 dang1 gei3 aa3 ?</i> Where can I check in?	對唔住我嚟遲㗎。 <i>deoi3 m4 zyu6 ngo5 lai4 ci4 zo2.</i> Sorry I was late.
去機場搭飛機 <i>heoi3 gei1 coeng4 daap3 fei1 gei1</i> go to the airport to take a flight	因為打風，好多遊客滯留機場。 <i>jan1 wai6 daa2 fung1, hou2 do1 jau4 haak3 zai6 lau4 gei1 coeng4.</i> Many tourists are stranded in the airport, due to the stormy weather.
到機場要二百蚊。 <i>dou3 gei1 coeng4 jiu1 ji6 baak3 man1.</i> It's 200 HKD to go to the airport.	呢班機好離譜。 <i>ni1 baan1 gei1 hou2 lei4 pou2.</i> This flight was awful.
我班機幾點呀？ <i>Ngo5 baan1 gei1 gei2 dim2 aa6 ?</i> What time is my flight?	今次嘅活動真係意義重大，希望大家多多支持。 <i>Gam1 ci3 ge3 wut6 dung6 zan1 hai6 ji3 ji6 zung6 daai6, hei1 mong6 daai6 gaa1 do1 do1 zi1 ci4.</i> This activity is meaningful, I hope everyone will support it.

幾點呀?
gei2 dim2 aa3?

What time is it?

記得每個月準時交租。
gei3 dak1 mui5 go3 jyut6 zeon2 si4 gaau1 zou1。

Remember to pay rent on time every month.

而家飛機票唔貴。
Ji4 gaa1 fei1 gei1 piu3 m4 gwai3。

Plane tickets now are not expensive.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Making Wishes in Cantonese

希望今次準時，唔好遲啦。

"I hope it'll be on time this time, and not late."

If it is true that you need to ask before you will receive, then our grammar point today is tremendously important since we're going to cover how to wish for things in Cantonese. Doing this involves starting a sentence with the magic word 希望 (*hei1 mong6*), which literally translates as, "to wish" or "to hope". When using this structure, we typically follow our verb by a time phrase and then another verb.

For Example:

1. 希望今次準時。
Hei1 mong6 gaam1 ci3 zeon2 si4
"I hope this time it's on time."
2. 希望班機準時。
Hei1 mong6 baan1 gei1 zeon2 si4.
"I hope the flight is on time."
3. 希望有辦法。
Hei1 mong6 jau5 baan6 faat3.
"I hope there is a solution."

4. 希望我有遲到。
Hei1 mong6 ngo5 mou5 ci4 dou3.
"I hope I wasn't late."
5. 希望佢有辦法。
Hei1 mong6 keoi5 jau5 baan6 faat3.
"I hope he has a solution."

Note that while we've specified the subject as "I" in all of the above sentences, it would be equally valid to drop it and translate the sentences as starting "hopefully," implying a more vague sense that things would be better in this case. If you wish to provide a subject explicitly, you can always add 我 (*ngo5*) at the start of the sentence to make it perfectly clear you're talking about yourself.

Language Tip

希望 (*hei1 mong6*) is also a noun meaning "hope." It's one of the many verbs in Cantonese which also functions as a noun expressing the concept of the verb.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Tomorrow is Another Day!

The best known Cantonese phrase that has our magic word for today is probably 希望在明天 (*hei1 mong6 zoi6 ming4 tin1*), which literally translates as, "hope is in tomorrow," or perhaps, "tomorrow is another day." This is what you'll hear when someone tries to comfort you when you lose a sports match or are rejected by the girl or boy of your dreams. This phrase became particularly popular in the early 2000s when Vita (a popular beverage in Hong Kong) used it as the closing line in a popular commercial.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #14

A Visit To the Hospital in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

#14

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 醫生，我唔舒服。
2. 邊度唔舒服呀？
3. 度度都唔舒服。
4. 點解人人都咁講？

ENGLISH

1. A : Doctor, I'm not comfortable.
2. B : Where are you not comfortable?
3. A : Everywhere is not comfortable.
4. B : Why does everyone say the same thing?

JYUTPING

1. ji1 sang1, ngo5 m4 syu1 fuk6.
2. bin1 dou6 m4 syu1 fuk6 aa3?
3. dou6 dou6 dou1 m4 syu1 fuk6.
4. dim2 gaai2 jan4 jan4 dou1 gam2 gong2?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
醫院	ji1 jyun2	hospital	noun
醫生	ji1 sang1	doctor	noun
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
護士	wu6 si6	nurse	noun
舒服	syu1 fuk6	comfortable	adjective
點解	dim2 gaai2	why	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

發生緊急事件時，請立即到醫院求醫。 <i>faat3 sang1 gan2 gap1 si6 gin2 si4, cing2 laap6 zik1 dou3 ji1 jyun2 kau4 ji1.</i> If it's an emergency, go to the hospital right away.	醫務大樓 <i>ji1 mou6 daai6 lau4</i> hospital building
喺醫院ICU住咗一個月之後，我對所有嘢都重新欣賞。 <i>hai2 ji1 jyun2 ICU zyu6 zo2 jat1 go3 jyut6 zi1 hau6, ngo5 deoi3 so2 jau5 je5 dou1 cung4 san1 jan1 soeng2.</i> After being in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit for one month, I appreciate everything more.	呢度有冇醫院？ <i>ni1 dou6 jau5 mou5 ji1 jyun2 ?</i> Is there a hospital near here?
醫生 <i>ji1 sang1</i> medical doctor	醫生正在檢查腳部。 <i>ji1 sang1 zing3 zoi6 gim2 caa4 goek3 bou6</i> The doctor is examining the foot.
我姨丈係個醫生。 <i>ngo5 ji4 zoeng2 hai6 go3 ji1 sang1.</i> My uncle is a doctor.	睇醫生 <i>tai2 ji1 sang1</i> to go to see a doctor
我要睇醫生。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 tai2 ji1 sang1.</i> I need to see a doctor.	你屋企喺邊度？ <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hai2 bin1 dou6 ?</i> Where's your house?
邊度有廁所？ <i>bin1 dou6 jau5 ci3 so2 ?</i> Where is the washroom?	廁所喺邊度？ <i>ci3 so2 hai2 bin1 dou6?</i> Where is the toilet?
我朋友Cherry係個護士。 <i>ngo5 pang4 jau5 CHERRY hai6 go3 wu6 si6.</i> My friend Cherry is a nurse.	你見咗護士先。 <i>nei5 gin3 zo2 wu6 si6 sin1.</i> Why don't you see a nurse first.
我間屋麻雀雖小，五臟俱全，好舒服㗎。 <i>ngo5 gaan1 uk1 maa4 zoek3 seoi1 siu2, ng5 zong6 keoi1 cyun4, hou2 syu1 fuk6 gaa3.</i> My apartment may be small, but it is perfectly laid out and very cozy.	點解你件衫咁污糟嘅？ <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 gin6 saam1 gam3 wu1 zou1 ge2?</i> Why are your clothes so dirty?
點解你唔嚟？ <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lei4?</i> Why don't you come?	點解咁認真？ <i>dim2 gaai2 gam3 jing6 zan1?</i> Why so serious?

GRAMMAR

A Grammar Point You'll See Everywhere

度度都唔舒服。

"Everywhere is not comfortable."

Our grammar focus in this lesson involves learning a neat way to say "every" in Cantonese by duplicating the object to which we are referring. The example of this we see in our dialogue involves the character 度 (*dou6*) being used to refer to a place, as in the phrase 邊度 (*bin1 dou6*) which we have already learned. 度度 (*dou6 dou6*) thus literally translates as "place, place" but has the meaning "everywhere" or "all places." Although you can't use this with every single character noun, it is a very common pattern in Cantonese. Other examples include 人人 *jan4 jan4* ("every person") and 日日 *jat6 jat6* ("every day"). Consider the following examples:

1. 點解人人都咁講?
Dim2 gaai2 jan4 jan4 dou1 gam2 gong2?
"Why does everyone say the same thing?"
2. 我日日打電話俾你。
Ngo5 jat6 jat6 daa2 din6 waa2 bei2 nei5.
"I call you everyday."
3. 我年年都返屋企過聖誕。
Ngo5 nin4 nin4 dou1 faan1 uk1 kei2 gwo3 sing3 daan3.
"I go home for Christmas every year."
4. 佢次次都遲到。
Keoi5 ci3 ci3 dou1 ci4 dou3.
"He is late every time."

Language Tip

Another way to express the idea of "every" is to use the word 每 (*mui5*). You can use this word with any noun and avoid the need to duplicate characters. For instance, 每日 (*mui5 jat6*) means exactly the same thing as 日日 (*jat6 jat6*). 人人 (*jan4 jan4*) can also be replaced by 每人 (*mui5 jan4*). Although this second approach is probably easier to remember, you need to be aware of the first since it is used very often, especially when referring to people and times.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What to say When You're Injured in Hong Kong

Chinese speakers tend to use the phrase "uncomfortable" (唔舒服) as a catchbasket expression to refer to a general sense of malaise, and often fairly minor stomach discomfort and/or headaches. So be aware that while this word communicates that something is physically wrong, it does not carry a sense of urgency or imply that you need immediate assistance. If you are wounded or in pain and need help immediately, you are better off using the adjective 痛 (*tong1*), which means "painful" and is a much more forceful expression.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #15

The Perfect Chinese Boyfriend

CONTENTS

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

#15

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 你有冇車？
2. 有。
3. 你有冇樓？
4. 有。
5. 咁你做我男朋友啦。
6. 我仲有一個老婆。

ENGLISH

1. A : Do you have a car?
2. B : Yes.
3. A : Do you have a house?
4. B : Yes.
5. A : Will you be my boyfriend?
6. B : I also have a wife.

JYUTPING

1. nei5 jau5 mou5 ce1?
2. jau5.
3. nei5 jau5 mou5 lau2?
4. jau5.
5. gam2 nei5 zou6 ngo5 naam4 pang4 jau5 laa1.
6. ngo5 zung6 jau5 jat1 go3 lou5 po4.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
屋企	uk1 kei5	home	noun
車	ce1	car	noun
女朋友	nei5 pang4 jau5	girlfriend	noun
仲有	zung6 jau5	still to have; also have	phrase
老婆	lou5 po4	wife	noun
有冇	jau5 mou5	Do you have...?,is/are there any	phrase
老公	lou5 gung1	husband	noun
樓	lau2	house	noun
男朋友	naam4 pang4 jau5	boyfriend	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我返屋企喇。 <i>ngo5 faan1 uk1 kei5 laa3.</i> I'm going home.	你屋企喺邊度？ <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hai2 bin1 dou6 ?</i> Where's your house?
佢屋企喺地鐵站附近。 <i>keoi5 uk1 kei2 hai2 dei6 tit3 zaam6 fu6 gan6.</i> His house is close to the subway station.	你識唔識揸車呀？ <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 zaa1 ce1 aa3?</i> Do you know how to drive (a car)?
佢揀咗部藍色車。 <i>keoi5 gaan2 zo2 bou6 laam4 sik1 ce1.</i> He chose a blue car.	又要供車，又要供樓，好辛苦呀！ <i>jau6 jiu3 gung1 ce1, jau6 jiu3 gung1 lau2, hou2 san1 fu2 aa6!</i> (I) have to pay the car loan as well as the mortgage, it's so hard!
停車熄火。 <i>ting4 ce1 sik1 fo2.</i> Stop the car and turn off the engine.	我想買部二手車。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 ji6 sau2 ce1.</i> I want to buy a second-hand car.
前度女朋友 <i>cin4 dou6 nei5 pang4 jau5</i> ex-girlfriend	你有冇女朋友呢？ <i>nei5 jau5 mou5 nei5 pang4 jau5 ne1?</i> Do you have a girlfriend?
呢個係我女朋友。 <i>ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 nei5 pang4 jau5.</i> This is my girlfriend.	頭等飛仲有冇？ <i>tau4 dang2 fei1 zung6 jau5 mou5 ?</i> Do you have any first class tickets left?

佢老婆兩年前過身。呢個係我老婆。 <i>keoi5 lou5 pou4 loeng5 nin4 cin4 gwo3 san1.ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 lou5 po4.</i> His wife died two years ago.This is my wife.	嗰個係佢老婆。 <i>go2 go3 hai6 keoi5 lou5 po4.</i> That is his wife.
佢老婆大佢十年。 <i>keoi5 lou5 po4 daai6 keoi5 sap6 nin4.</i> His wife is older than him by ten years.	你有冇時間？ <i>nei5 jau5 mou5 si4 gaan3 ?</i> Do you have time?
佢唔單只係個好老公，仲係個好爸爸。 <i>keoi5 bat1 daan1 zi2 hai6 go3 hou2 lou5 gung1, zung6 hai6 go3 hou2 baa4 baa1.</i> He is not only a good husband, but also a great father.	呢個係佢老公。 <i>nei1 go3 hai6 keoi5 lou5 gung1.</i> This is her husband.
間樓而家出售。 <i>Gaan1 lau2 ji4 gaa1 ceot1 sau6.</i> The house is for sale.	你有冇男朋友呢？ <i>nei5 jau5 mou5 naam4 pang4 jau5 ne1?</i> Do you have a boyfriend?
我男朋友係老師。 <i>ngo5 naam4 pang4 jau5 hai6 lou5 si1.</i> My boyfriend is a teacher.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Living Your Dreams in Cantonese

我仲有一個老婆。

"I also have a wife."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is on reminding other people about things that you also have. The key phrase used to communicate this is the verb phrase 仲有 (*zung6 jau5*), which literally means "still to have." To use this in a sentence, simply place it after the subject and before the object in the sentence. Note that the subject can be included or omitted from the start of the second clause, as with the following examples:

1. 我有車，我仲有樓。

Ngo5 jau5 ce1, ngo5 zung6 jau5 lau2

"I have a car; I also have a house."
2. 我有車，仲有樓。

Ngo5 jau5 ce1, zung6 jau5 lau2

"I have a car, also a house."
3. 我有頭痛，仲有發燒。

Ngo5 jau5 tau4 tong3, zung6 jau5 faat3 siu1

"I've got a headache, and a fever."

Note that we can only use the verb phrase 仲有 (zung6 jau5) when the subject in both clauses is exactly the same. If our subject changes, as in the following examples, we need to use 都有 (dou1 jau5) instead of 仲有 (zung6 jau5):

1. 佢有問題，我都有問題。

Keoi5 jau5 man6 tai4, ngo5 dou1 jau5 man6 tai4

"He's got a problem; I've also got a problem."

2. 我有頭痛，佢都有頭痛。

Ngo5 jau5 tau4 tong3, keoi5 dou1 jau5 tau4 tong3

"I've got a headache; He's also got a headache."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Rental Prices in Hong Kong

Hong Kong has relatively high prices compared to most metropolitan areas, with the average price for buying property over 40,000 HKD per square meter, and with monthly rents in even uncompetitive parts of the island reaching more than 10,000 HKD. These high prices are the reason why over sixty percent of Hong Kong citizens live in rent-controlled or publicly-subsidized housing.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #16

Movies in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

16

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 買到飛未呀?
2. 未呀，仲排緊隊。
3. 仲有幾耐?
4. 唔使好耐，半個鐘度。

JYUTPING

1. Maai5 dou2 fei1 mei6 aa3 ?
2. Mei6 aa3, zung6 paai4 gan2 deoi2.
3. Zung6 jau5 gei2 noi6 ?
4. M4 sai2 hou2 noi6, bun3 go3 zung1 dou2.

ENGLISH

1. A: Have you bought tickets yet?
2. B: Not yet, still lining up.
3. A: How long is the line-up?
4. B: Not very long, about half an hour.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
仲有	zung6 jau5	still to have; also have	phrase
耐	noi6	a long time	adjective
飛	fei1	ticket	noun
排隊	paai4 deoi2	to line up	verb
買	maai5	to buy	verb
戲院	hei3 jyun2	cinema	noun
賣	maai6	to sell	verb
唔使	m4 sai2	no need	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

頭等飛仲有冇? <i>tau4 dang2 fei1 zung6 jau5 mou5 ?</i> Do you have any first class tickets left?	呢個網站我好耐冇上嘞。 <i>ni1 go3 mong5 zaam6 ngo5 hou2 noi6 mou5 soeng5 la6.</i> I haven't been to this website for quite a while.
幾耐到? <i>gei2 noi6 dou3 ?</i> How long (does it take) to get there?	請問喺邊度買飛? <i>cing2 man6 hai2 bin1 dou6 maai5 fei1 ?</i> May I ask where I can buy the ticket?
我諗聽日先去買飛嘅話一定買唔到。 <i>ngo5 lam2 ting1 jat6 sin1 heoi3 maai5 fei1 ge3 waa2 jat1 ding6 maai5 m4 dou2.</i> I don't think you'll be able to buy a ticket tomorrow.	有冇飛? <i>jau5 mou5 fei1 ?</i> Do you have any tickets?
記得要排隊啊。 <i>gei3 dak1 jiu3 paai4 deoi2 aa3.</i> Remember to line up.	佢會買一間喺河邊嘅屋。 <i>keoi5 wui5 maai5 jat1 gaan1 hai2 ho4 bin1 ge3 uk1.</i> He will buy a house next to the river.

我想買架新車。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 gaa3 san1 ce1.</i> I want to buy a new car.	要買三個先有優惠。 <i>jiu3 maai5 saam1 go3 sin1 jau5 jau1 wai6.</i> You have to buy three if you want to get the discount.
你下次買多啲餸啦。 <i>nei5 haa6 ci3 maai5 do1 di1 sung3 laa1.</i> Why don't you buy more groceries next time?	我肚餓嗰陣成日都會買好多餸。 <i>ngo5 tou5 ngo6 go2 zan6 sing4 jat6 dou1 wui5 maai5 hou2 do1 sung3.</i> I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry.
佢想買部好快嘅車。 <i>keoi5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 hou2 faai3 ge3 ce1.</i> He wants to buy a fast car.	我買。 <i>ngo5 maai5.</i> I'll buy it.
呢度有冇戲院？ <i>ni1 dou6 jau5 mou5 hei3 jyun2 ?</i> Is there a cinema near here?	賣嘢需要特別技巧。 <i>maai6 je5 sei1 jiu3 dak6 bit6 gei6 haau2.</i> You need a special skill to sell something.
唔賣。 <i>m4 maai6.</i> I'm not selling it.	唔使客氣。 <i>m4 sai2 haak3 hei3.</i> You're welcome. (No need to be polite)

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Another Grammar Point that is Also Good to Have

仲有幾耐？

"How long is the line-up?"

Our grammar point in this lesson picks up where our last one left off. In our last lesson we learned how to use 仲有 (*zung6 jau5*) to mean "still to have" as in sentences like 我有車, 我仲有樓 *ngo5 jau5 ce1, ngo5 zung6 jau5 lau2* "I have a car, and also have a house"). In this lesson we are expanding on the usage of this verb phrase, which can also mean "still to have," indicating that time has passed but the condition has not changed. For examples, consider the following:

1. 仲有幾耐？
Zung6 jau5 gei2 noi6?
"How long is still left until we finish"
2. 仲有幾遠？
Zung6 jau5 gei2 jyun5
"How far is it still until we get there"
3. 仲有咩食？
Zung6 jau5 me1 sik6?
"What's left to eat?"

To answer all of these questions, simply say 仲有 and then add the distance, or time, or the amount of food or money remaining, as follows:

1. 仲有十分鐘。
Zung6 jau5 sap6 fan1 zung1
"There is still ten minutes left."
2. 仲有兩百蚊。
Zung6 jau5 loeng5 baak3 man1
"There is still two hundred dollars."

A Final Tip

Did you know that 仲有 (*zung6 jau5*) can also be used to start a sentence? For instance, if you're giving a speech and have already made a few points, a good way to continue is by saying 仲有, 我要講下 (*zung6 jau5, ngo5 jiu3 gong2 haa5*) which means "In addition, I'd like to talk about...."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Information for Cinema Buffs

Love film? While Western blockbusters are increasingly released simultaneously in Hong Kong as in America, most Western films that make it to Hong Kong end up taking a more

meandering route, appearing months and even occasionally years after their original theatrical release. Raucous comedies and art films rarely make it to Hong Kong cinemas, but animated films and family comedies abound. That said, Hong Kong has the most dynamic film industry in Asia and it is common for films to be released into theaters with both English and Chinese subtitles. So the next time you head out for a film, why not consider seeing something local?

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #17

Eating Out in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

17

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 你想食咩餸?
2. B: 是但啦。
3. A: 雞肉定牛肉?
4. B: 乜都得啦。

JYUTPING

1. A: Nei5 soeng2 sik6 me1 sung3?
2. B: Si6 daan6 laa1.
3. A: Gai1 yuk6 ding6 ngau4 yuk6?
4. B: Mat1 dou1 dak1 laa1.

ENGLISH

1. A: What do you want to eat?
2. B: Whatever.
3. A: Chicken or beef?
4. B: Everything is fine.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
餸	sung3	food (dish)	noun
想	soeng2	to want	verb
食	sik6	to eat	verb
牛肉	ngau4 yuk6	beef	noun
雞肉	gai1 yuk6	chicken	noun
是但	si6 daan6	whatever	pronoun
定	ding6	or	conjunction
羊肉	joeng4 yuk6	lamb	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

今晚有三個餸。 <i>Gam1 maan5 jau5 saam1 go3 sung3.</i> We have three dishes tonight.	我唔想啲細路用晒啲錢買糖。 <i>ngo5 m4 soeng2 di1 sai3 lou6 jung6 saai3 di1 cin2 maa5 tong2.</i> "I don't want my children to spend all their money on sweets."
你想我繼續嗎? <i>nei5 soeng2 ngo5 gai3 zuk6 maa3?</i> Do you want me to continue?	佢想要呢個。 <i>keoi5 soeng2 jiu3 ni1 go3.</i> He wants this one.
每日都應該食起碼三餐。 <i>mui5 jat6 dou1 jing1 goi1 sik6 hei2 maa5 saam1 caan1.</i> We are supposed to eat at least three times a day.	一齊食嘢。 <i>jat1 cai4 sik6 je5.</i> Eat together.
好多遊客嚟買牛肉乾。 <i>hou2 do1 jau4 haak3 lei4 maa5 ngau4 yuk6 gon1.</i> Many tourists come to buy beef jerky.	呢塊牛肉好細。 <i>Nei1 faai3 ngau4 yuk6 hou2 sai3.</i> This piece of beef is very small.

佢想要啲雞肉。 <i>Koi5 soeng2 jiu3 di1 gai1 juk6.</i> He wants some chicken.	是但啦。 <i>Si6 daan6 laa1.</i> Whatever.
電影定話劇? <i>Din6 jing2 ding6 waa2 kek6?</i> Movie or play?	羊肉已經賣晒。 <i>Joeng4 juk6 ji2 ging1 maai6 saai3.</i> The lamb is sold out.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "Everything"

乜都得啦。

"Everything is fine."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is learning how to say "everything." In our dialogue, we do this by using the phrase 乜都 (*mat1 dou1*) to refer to "everything." We'll give you examples in a moment, but before we do it's important to point out that the typical placement for this word is at the beginning of a sentence, where it can act as the subject of the sentence, as in the line from our dialogue 乜都得啦 ("everything is fine"). For two more examples, consider the sentences below:

1. 乜都好。
"Everything is good."
2. 我乜都食。
"I eat everything."

Two somewhat tricky points to note. The first is that this can refer to "anything" as well as "everything," and figuring out exactly what is meant requires an awareness of the context. The second thing to be aware of is the placement of this word in the sentence when it functions as a direct object, as in our second sentence. Here, we typically place 乜都 after the subject but before the verb in question. This is a different word order than is common in English, and while it is easy, be aware of the difference.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Although people can find food from almost all over the world in Hong Kong, the most popular restaurants are still those that provide traditional Hong Kong cuisine. When it comes to eating out, Hong Kong people often go to Wellington Street (威靈頓街), where the top three recommended restaurants are Yung Kee (鏞記酒家) which is famous for its roast duck, Lotus House (蓮香樓) which is a typical Guangdong restaurant which is more than 100 years old, and The Ninth's (九記) which is renowned for being a favorite for the family of HKSAR Chief Executive Donald Tsang (曾蔭權).

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #18

Can't You See I'm Busy in Hong Kong?

CONTENTS

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

#18

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. 你做緊咩？
2. 而家開緊會。
3. 等緊你放工呀。
4. 等多陣啦。

ENGLISH

1. A : What are you doing?
2. B : I'm having a meeting now.
3. A : I'm waiting for you to get off work.
4. B : Just wait for a little while.

JYUTPING

1. Nei5 zou6 gan2 me1?
2. Ji4 gaa1 hoi1 gan2 wui2?
3. Dang2 gan2 nei5 fong3 gung1 aa3.
4. Dang2 do1 zan6 laa1.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
等陣	dang2 zan6	to wait a while	verb
請假	ceng2 gaa3	to take time off	verb
開會	hoi1 wui2	to hold a meeting	verb
做咩	zou6 me1	what (to do)	phrase
返工	faan1 gung1	to go to work	verb
而家	ji4 gaa1	now	adverb
放工	fong3 gung1	to get off work	verb
散會	saan3 wui2	to end a meeting	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

等我一陣。 <i>Dang2 ngo5 jat1 zan6.</i> Wait for me a while.	你介意我聽日請假嘛？ <i>Nei5 gaai3 ji3 ngo5 ting1 jat6 cing2 gaa3 maa3?</i> Do you mind if I take tomorrow off?
我哋會星期六開會。 <i>Ngo5 dei6 wui2 sing1 kei4 luk6 hoi1 wui2.</i> We will hold a meeting on Saturday.	佢哋做咩嘅？ <i>keoi5 dei6 zou6 me1 gaa3?</i> What do they do?
禮拜一要返工。 <i>Lai5 baai3 jat1 jiu3 faan1 gung1.</i> On Monday, we have to work.	我哋而家要去醫院！ <i>ngo5 dei6 ji4 gaa1 jiu3 heoi3 ji1 jyun2!</i> We have to go to the hospital now!
你而家喺邊？ <i>Nei5 ji4 gaa1 hai2 bin1?</i> Where are you now?	我而家就要！ <i>ngo5 ji4 gaa1 zau6 jiu3!</i> I want it now!
我打算放工之後同女朋友去睇電影。 <i>ngo5 daa2 syun3 fong3 gung1 zi1 hau6 tung4 nei5 pang4 jau5 heoi3 tai2 din6 jing2.</i> I plan to go see a movie with my girlfriend after work.	尋日五點散會。 <i>cam4 jat6 ng5 dim2 saan3 wui2.</i> The meeting ended at 5:00 yesterday.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Particle 緊 (*gan2*)

你做緊咩？

Nei5 zou6 gan2 me1?

"What are you doing?"

Our grammar focus in this lesson is on the particle 緊 (*gan2*). This particle is used to communicate the continuous aspect. Simply place it after the verb to communicate the idea that the action of that verb is ongoing. To provide a few examples, 做緊 (*zou6 gan2*) means "to be doing," 開緊 (*hoi1 gan2*) means "to be opening" and 等緊 (*dang2 gan2*) means "to be waiting." Extra attention is needed when modifying verb phrases that consists of verbs bundled with objects. In cases like this, we stick the particle 緊 (*gan2*) in between the verb and the object. For instance, 開緊會 (*hoi1 gan2 wui2*) means "to be holding a meeting" and 食緊飯 (*sik6 gan2 faan6*) means "to be eating a meal." Look at the following sentences for further examples:

1. 而家開緊會。

ji4 gaa1 hoi1 gan2 wui2

"We're holding a meeting now."

2. 我睇緊戲。

ngo5 tai2 gan2 hei3

"I'm watching a movie"

3. 我等緊巴士

ngo5 dang2 gan2 baa1 si2

"I'm waiting for the bus."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Living to Work

According to official government research from 2010, employees in Hong Kong have the longest working hours of the entire global labor market. Of the roughly four million office workers in the city, around one million people work 48 hours each week, while 250,000 people work sixty hours per week and 38,300 work 72 hours per week. Research also shows that even service jobs in places like restaurants tend to involve longer hours than those in other countries.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #19

Turn Down the Volume in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

19

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 細聲啲。
2. 咩話?
3. 我話...
4. 聽唔到呀。
5. 電視細聲啲!

JYUTPING

1. Sai3 seng1 di1.
2. Me1 waa2?
3. Ngo5 waa6...
4. Teng1 m4 dou2 aa3.
5. Din6 si6 sai3 seng1 di1!

ENGLISH

1. A: Turn down the volume.
2. B: What?
3. A: I said....

CONT'D OVER

4. B: I can't hear you.
5. A: Turn down the volume of the TV!

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
音樂	jam1ngok6	music	noun
大聲	daai6 seng1	high (volume)	adjective
細聲	sai3 seng1	low (volume)	adjective
話	waa2, waa6	to say	verb
電視	din6si6	television	noun
收音機	sau1jam1gei1	radio	noun
聽	teng1	to listen to, to hear	verb
音響	jam1hoeng2	stereo	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

如果你想瞓得好啲，可以聽輕音樂放鬆下。 <i>jyu4 gwo2 nei5 seong2 fan3 dak1 hou2 di1, ho2 ji5 teng1 heng1 jam1 ngok6 fong3 sung1 haa5.</i> If you want to sleep well, listen to light music to relax.	大聲講嘢冇禮貌。 <i>Daai6seng1 gong2 je5 mou5 lai5maau6.</i> It's impolite to speak loudly.
佢好細聲。 <i>Keoi5 hou2 sai3 seng1</i> She speaks softly.	佢話佢會等埋我㗎。 <i>keoi5 waa6 keoi5 wui5 dang2 maai4 ngo5 dei6.</i> He said that he would wait for us.

"Seafood"廣東話點講? "Seafood" gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2 ? How do you say "seafood" in Cantonese?	唔好成日睇電視啦! m4 hou2 sing4 jat6 tai2 din6 si6 laa1! Don't watch television all day!
家人在一起看電視。 Gaa1 jan4 zoi6 jat1 hei2 hon3 din6 si6. The family is watching television.	我鍾意聽收音機。 Ngo5 zung1 ji3 teng1 sau1 jam1 gei1. I like listening to the radio.
嗰隻歌好好聽。 go2 zek3 go1 hou2 hou2 teng1. That song sounds really good.	呢套音響好高級。 Ni1 tou3 jam1 hoeng2 hou2 gou1 kap1. This stereo is really classy.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Trying and Failing

我聽唔到呀!

"I cannot hear!"

Have you ever tried to do something but failed? Our grammar focus in this lesson is learning how to communicate this idea in Cantonese. To do it, we want to use the phrase 唔到 (m4 dou2) which loosely translates as "not to be able" and more literally means "not to arrive." While this can be used as a standalone verb phrase in other contexts, to suggest the notion of trying and failing to accomplish something we need to put it in front of another verb. For instance, 睇唔到 (tai2 m4 dou) means that someone has tried and failed to see something.

Take a look at the following example sentences, which pair this with a number of different verbs:

- 唔該大聲啲, 我聽唔到。

M4 goi1 daai6 seng1 di1, ngo5 teng1 m4 dou2.

"Please turn it up a bit. I cannot hear it."
- 唔該攤俾我, 我睇唔到。

M4 goi1 lo2 bei2 ngo5, ngo5 tai2 m4 dou2.

"Please give it to me. I cannot see."

3. 我架車壞咗。我今日去唔到。
Ngo5 gaa3 ce1 wuaai6 zo2. ngo5 gaam1 jat6 heoi3 m4 dou2.
"My car broke down. I cannot go there today."

One thing to be careful about is that 到 (*dou2*) actually has two tones. In addition to the second tone *dou2* that we hear in this lesson, the character is sometimes pronounced with the third tone (*dou3*) where it means "to arrive." There are a very small subset of verbs like 估 (*gu2*) where native Cantonese speakers will switch to the third tone even in the context of this grammar point. The sentence 估唔到你識廣東話 (*gu2 m4 dou3 nei5 sik1 gwong2 dung1 waa2*) thus means "I wouldn't have guessed that you speak Cantonese" even though 到 is being pronounced in the third tone.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Living by the Rules in Hong Kong

Hong Kong people pay a lot of attention to civility and there are many rules which people are supposed to follow that govern what is considered acceptable public behavior. Among these, there is absolutely no smoking permitted in public places, people are expected to stand on the right side of escalators and let those in a rush pass on the left, and there is no eating or drinking on the subway or in any bus stations. Hong Kong people also tend to stay quiet when eating, standing in lines or taking buses and subways.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #20

Comparing in Cantonese

CONTENTS

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

20

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 買呢個呀。
2. 我想要嗰個。
3. 呢個好過嗰個㗎。
4. 呢個都貴過嗰個。

JYUTPING

1. maai5 ni1 go3 aa3.
2. ngo5 soeng2 jiu3 go2 go3.
3. ni1 go3 hou2 gwo3 go2 go3 wo3.
4. ni1 go3 dou1 gwai3 gwo3 go2 go3.

ENGLISH

1. A: Buy this one.
2. B: I want that one.
3. A: This one is better than that one.
4. B: This one is also more expensive (than that one).

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
嗰個	go2 go3	that one	pronoun
呢個	ni1 go3	this one	pronoun
買	maai5	to buy	verb
貴	gwai3	expensive	adjective
平	peng4	cheap	adjective
賣	maai6	to sell	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

嗰個幾錢? <i>go2 go3 gei2 cin2?</i> How much is that?	我要呢個。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 ni1 go3.</i> I want this one.
佢會買一間喺河邊嘅屋。 <i>keoi5 wui5 maai5 jat1 gaan1 hai2 ho4 bin1 ge3 uk1.</i> He will buy a house next to the river.	我想買架新車。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 gaa3 san1 ce1.</i> I want to buy a new car.
要買三個先有優惠。 <i>jiu3 maai5 saam1 go3 sin1 jau5 jau1 wai6.</i> You have to buy three if you want to get the discount.	你下次買多啲餸啦。 <i>nei5 haa6 ci3 maai5 do1 di1 sung3 laa1.</i> Why don't you buy more groceries next time?
我肚餓嗰陣成日都會買好多餸。 <i>ngo5 tou5 ngo6 go2 zan6 sing4 jat6 dou1 wui5 maai5 hou2 do1 sung3.</i> I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry.	佢想買部好快嘅車。 <i>keoi5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 hou2 faai3 ge3 ce1.</i> He wants to buy a fast car.
我買。 <i>ngo5 maai5.</i> I'll buy it.	佢買咗成間鋪最貴嘅酒。 <i>keoi5 maai5 zo2 seng4 gaan1 pou3 zeoi3 gwai3 ge3 zau2.</i> He got the most expensive wine in the liquor shop.

架車太貴，我唔會買。 gaa3 ce1 taai3 gwai3, ngo5 m4 wui5 maa15. That car is too expensive; I won't buy it.	而家飛機票唔貴。 Ji4 gaa1 fei1 gei1 piu3 m4 gwai3. Plane tickets now are not expensive.
住喺東京好貴。 zyu6 hai2 dung1 ging1 hou2 gwai3. It is expensive to live in Tokyo.	搭渡輪過海最平，而且都好方便。 daap3 dou6 leon4 gwo3 hoi2 zeoi3 peng4, ji4 ce2 dou1 hou2 fong1 bin6. It's cheapest to cross the harbor by ferry, and it's convenient.
點解呢個五日遊套餐咁平？ dim2 gaai2 ni1 go3 ng5 jat6 jau4 tou3 caan1 gam3 peng4 ? How is this five-day travel package so inexpensive?	賣嘢需要特別技巧。 maai6 je5 seoi1 jiu3 dak6 bit6 gei6 haau2. You need a special skill to sell something.
唔賣。 m4 maa16. I'm not selling it.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Comparisons.

呢個好過嗰個。

"This one is better than that one."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is making comparisons in Cantonese using the particle 過 (gwo3). We can do this by adding this particle to the end of any adjective. This is used in constructions of the sort that "A is better than B." Our pattern is very easy: subject A + adjective + 過 (gwo3) + subject B. Consider the following examples:

- 呢個都貴過嗰個。
nei1 go3 dou1 gwai3 gwo3 go2 go3.

"This one is also more expensive than that one."

2. 我高過你。
ngo5 gou1 gwo3 nei5.
"I'm taller than you."
3. Peter矮過John.
Peter ngai2 gwo3 John.
"Peter is shorter than John."
4. 橙平過蘋果。
caang2 peng4 gwo3 ping4 gwo2.
"Oranges are cheaper than apples."

Language Tip

You don't always need to provide a point of comparison to say that something is superior or inferior in some way. For instance, if you're comparing A with another object which is implied you can simply leave B out of your sentence by saying something along the lines of A好睇啲 (*A hou2 tai2 di1*). The pattern here is subject + adjective + 啲.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bag a Bargain with Cantonese

There are several places you can bargain when shopping in Hong Kong. The most important are Temple Street (廟街) and Women's Street (女人街). When shopping in these two areas, the best bargaining strategy is telling the shop owner your ideal price and then walking away if he or she does not agree to your price. Repeat this technique by increasing your price until you reach the market rate. If you are shopping for jewelry you can also bargain in shops like Chaw Sang Sang (周生生) and Chow Tai Fook (周大福). While the price of gold is the same in Hong Kong as in other places, there is a processing fee charged by most shops where you can save a lot of money. In some cases, it is not difficult to get 40% off if you ask.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #21

Going to a Hong Kong Wedding

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

21

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 你就嚟結婚，恭喜晒㗎。
2. B: 多謝晒。
3. A: 祝你哋白頭到老。
4. B: 你咁老土㗎。

JYUTPING

1. A: Nei5 zau6 lai4 git3 fan1, gung1 hei2 saai3 wo3.
2. B: Do1 ze6 saai3.
3. A: Zuk1 nei5 dei6 baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5.
4. B: Nei5 gam2 lou5 tou2 gaa3.

ENGLISH

1. A: You are getting married soon, congratulations!
2. B: Thank you.
3. A: Here's wishing you two grow old together.
4. B: You are so old-fashioned.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
結婚	git3 fan1	to get married	verb, phrase
祝	zuk1	to wish	verb
白頭到老	baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5	to grow old together	phrase
生日快樂	saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6	happy birthday	phrase
恭喜	gung1 hei2	congratulations	Phrase
就嚟	zau6 lai4	soon	adv
咁	gam3	so	adjective, adverb
老土	lou5 tou2	old-fashioned	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

今年好多人結婚。 <i>gam1 nin2 hou2 do1 jan4 git3 fan1.</i> Many people are getting married this year.	祝你身體健康。 <i>Zuk1 nei5 san1 tai2 gin6 hong1.</i> Wishing you good health.
個個都想白頭到老。 <i>Go3 go3 dou1 soeng2 baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5.</i> Everyone wants to grow old with someone.	祝佢生日快樂。 <i>Zuk1 keoi5 saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6.</i> Happy birthday to him.
恭喜發財。 <i>Gung1 hei2 faat3 coi4.</i> Wishing you prosperity!	就嚟要落雨啦，快啲返屋企。 <i>zau6 lai4 jiu3 lok6 jyu5 laa3, faai3 di1 faan1 uk1 kei2.</i> It's going to rain soon, go home quickly.
成日咁多人。 <i>seng4 jat6 gam3 do1 jan4.</i> There're always so many people.	有咩辦法唔老土？ <i>Jau5 me1 baan6 faat3 m4 lou5 tou2.</i> Is there any way to not be so old-fashioned?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Congratulate People in Cantonese

祝你哋白頭到老

"Here's wishing you two grow old together."

Our focus in this lesson is on using Cantonese to congratulate others. We see the verb "to congratulate" itself in this lesson as 恭喜 (*gung1 hei2*) as in the simple phrase 恭喜你 (*gung1 hei2 nei5*) "congratulations to you." This verb is not terribly versatile, though, since more often than not we see it in self-contained phrases. This is why we cover the most important phrases using it in this lesson. These are: 祝你 (*zuk1 nei5*) or "wishing you," a phrase which can be followed by any good wishes you want to say for the occasion. The subject of 祝你 (*zuk1 nei5*) is usually "I" or "we" and is left unspoken, although you could always if somewhat awkwardly say 我祝你 (*ngo5 zuk1 nei5*)...

For more examples of conventional well-wishing, look at our following examples:

1. 祝你快樂。
Zuk1 nei5 faai3 lok6.
"Wishing you happiness"
2. 祝你聖誕快樂。
Zuk1 nei5 sing3 daan3 faai3 lok6.
"Wishing you a Merry Christmas."
3. 祝你新年快樂。
Zuk1 nei5 san1 nin4 faai3 lok6.
"Wishing you a Happy New Year."
4. 祝你農曆新年快樂。
Zuk1 nei5 nung4 lik6 san1 nin4 faai3 lok6.
"Wishing you a Happy Chinese New Year."
5. 祝你春節快樂。
zuk1 nei5 cun1 zit3 faai3 lok6.
"Wishing you a happy Spring Festival."

On more formal occasions, you may hear people use the more polite word 恭祝 (*gung1 zuk1*) to pass along well-wishes as well. 恭祝 (*gung1 zuk1*) is a combination of 恭喜 (*gung1 hei2*) and 祝賀 (*zuk1 ho6*). It can be followed by sentences and phrases as with its less formal and more common counterpart. For instance, the most traditional phrase Cantonese

speakers use to wish their elders a happy birthday is 恭祝你福如東海，壽比南山 (*gung1 zuk1 nei5 fuk1 jyu4 dung1 hoi2, sau6 bei2 naam4 saan1*), which means that one is wishing happiness that is "as vast as the Eastern Sea" and a longevity as "great as the Southern Mountain."

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #22

Leaving Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

22

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 佢聽日飛呀?
2. B: 係啫，唔知呀。
3. A: 飛邊度呀?
4. B: 我估泰國啫。

JYUTPING

1. A: keoi5 ting1 jat6 fei1 aa4?
2. B: hai6 gwaa3, m4 zi1 aa3.
3. A: fei1 bin1 dou6 aa3?
4. B: ngo5 gu2 taai3 gwok3 gwaa3.

ENGLISH

1. A: Is he flying tomorrow?
2. B: Maybe, I don't know.
3. A: Where is he flying to?
4. B: I guess maybe Thailand?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
估	gu2	to guess	verb
泰國	taai3 gwok3	Thailand	noun
今日	gam1 jat6	today	noun, adverb
聽日	ting1 jit6	tomorrow	noun
飛	fei1	to fly	verb
唔知	m4 zi1	not to know	phrase
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
尋日	cam4 jat6	yesterday	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

唔好博估。 <i>m4 hou2 bok3 gu2.</i> Don't rely on guessing.	泰國好玩。 <i>Taa3 gwok3 hou2 waan2.</i> Thailand is fun.
今日遊行。 <i>gam1 jat6 jau4 hang4.</i> The parade is today.	今日特別炎熱。 <i>gam1 jat6 dak6 bit6 jam4 jit6.</i> "Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day."
我今日見到你。 <i>ngo5 gam1 jat6 gin3 dou2 nei5.</i> I saw you today.	今日唔知聽日事。 <i>Gam1 jat6 m4 zi1 teng1 jat6 si6.</i> (We) don't know what will happen tomorrow in today.
後日飛香港。 <i>Hau6 jat6 fei1 hoeng1 gong2.</i> (I'm) flying to Hong Kong the day after tomorrow.	我唔知你喺度。 <i>ngo5 m4 zi1 nei5 hai2 do6.</i> I didn't know you were here.

廁所喺邊度? <i>ci3 so2 hai2 bin1 dou6?</i> Where is the toilet?	你屋企喺邊度? <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hai2 bin1 dou6 ?</i> Where's your house?
邊度有廁所? <i>bin1 dou6 jau5 ci3 so2 ?</i> Where is the washroom?	你尋日去咗邊? <i>nei5 cam4 jat6 heoi3 zo2 bin1 ?</i> Where did you go yesterday?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Guess When You're Uncertain

我估泰國㗎

"I guess maybe Thailand?"

In this grammar section, we discuss the sentence pattern 估 ... 㗎, which is used to make educated guesses about something you don't really know. To use this construction simply add the verb 估 after your subject, follow this with your guess, and then end the sentence with 㗎. This will be understood as an uncertain guess, something we hear in our dialogue in the sentence 我估泰國㗎 ("I guess maybe Thailand").

The verb 估 literally means to guess, but as you hear in our dialogue, the real emotional power in this construction comes from adding the final particle 㗎 (*gwaa3*) to the end of the sentence. In colloquial Cantonese, this 㗎 (*gwaa3*) sound is enough to suggest a guess. It is so powerful it can be used out of context, without the trappings of a surrounding sentence, as in the following examples:

1. 泰國㗎。
Taa3 gwok3 gwaa3.
 "Thailand, maybe."
2. 係㗎。
Hai6 gwaa3.
 "Maybe."

3. 唔係啫。
M4 hai6 gwaa3.
"Maybe not."

When speaking more formally, be sure to use the complete construction, as in these sentences. As with many constructions like this, note that the subject of the middle clause (what you are guessing about) can be omitted if it is clear who or what you are talking about:

1. 我估中國啫。
Ngo5 gu2 zung1 gwok3 gwaa3.
"I guess maybe China."
2. 我估佢會去啫。
Ngo5 gu2 keoi5 wui5 heoi3 gwaa.
"I guess he might go."
3. 我估佢會嚟啫。
Ngo5 gu2 keoi5 wui5 lai4 gwaa.
"I guess he might come."
4. 我估佢可能係機師啫。
Ngo5 gu2 keoi5 ho2 nang4 hai6 gei1 si1 gwaa3.
"I guess he might be a pilot."

Bonus Point

估唔到 (gu2 m4 dou2) literally means "I cannot guess," or "I guessed, but I did not get it right." You can use this phrase when asked to take a guess 估下 (gu2 haa5) "take a guess" but honestly have no idea what the answer might be. Another way to use it is if you are really surprised on learning something, in which case you can say 真係估唔到 (zan1 hai6 gu2 m4 dou2) "I wouldn't have thought..." or "I didn't see that coming."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Weekend in Thailand

Hong Kong people love to travel to Thailand for several reasons. The first is obviously that

Thailand has beautiful beaches and palaces. The fact that it is so convenient to get to Thailand from Hong Kong has also made the country the default vacation getaway, especially over the weekend. From Hong Kong, there are more than 20 flights to three major cities in Thailand every single day, and the flights only take around 2 hours and 20 minutes. Ticket prices are also relatively cheap, with return fares running around 1200 HKD.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #23

Working Late in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

23

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 仲有幾耐做完?
2. B: 就嚟搞掂。
3. A: 快啲啦!
4. B: 就得啦。

JYUTPING

1. A: Zung6 jau5 gei2 noi6 zou6 jyun4 ?
2. B: Zau6 lai4 gaau2 dim1.
3. A: Faai3 di1 laa1 !
4. B: Zau6 dak1 laa3.

ENGLISH

1. A: How long do you have left?
2. B: I'll be finished soon.
3. A: Faster!
4. B: Almost done.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
得	dak1	okay	adjective
幾耐	gei2 noi6	how long	phrase
仲有	zung6 jau5	still to have; also have	phrase
搞掂	gaau2 dim6	to resolve	verb
快	faai3	fast	adjective
啖	aai3	to ask	verb
做完	zou6 jyun4	to finish	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你鍾意點都得。 <i>Nei5 zung1 ji3 dim2 dou1 dak1.</i> Whatever you want to do is okay.	英文課上咗幾耐? <i>Jing1 man2 fo3 soeng5 zo2 gei2 noi6?</i> How long is the English class?
頭等飛仲有冇? <i>tau4 dang2 fei1 zung6 jau5 mou5 ?</i> Do you have any first class tickets left?	仲未搞掂? <i>Zung6 mei6 gaau2 dim1 ?</i> Still haven't completed yet?
講快啲。 <i>gong2 faai3 di1.</i> Speak faster.	點解佢哋唔啖我去尋晚個party啊? <i>Dim2 gaai2 keoi5 dei6 m4 aai3 ngo5 heoi3 cam4 maan5 go3 party aa3?</i> Why didn't they ask me to the party last night?
做完未? <i>Zou6 jyun4 mei6.</i> Have you finished yet?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Talking about When Something is Happening Soon in Cantonese....

就嚟搞掂。

"It'll be done soon."

In our grammar point in this lesson, we want to review how to communicate the idea that something will be happening "soon" using the word 就嚟 (*zau6 lai4*). Translated literally, this word means something like "immediately coming," but in practice you should treat it as a phrase and not overanalyze it. Simply put 就嚟 (*zau6 lai4*) before any verb you wish to modify, as in the following examples:

1. 我就嚟搞掂。
Ngo5 zau6 lai4 gaau2 dim6
"I'm almost done."
2. 我哋就嚟放工。
Ngo5 dei6 zau6 lai4 fong3 gung1
"We are getting off work soon."
3. 你就嚟放工。
Nei5 zau6 lai4 fong3 gung1
"You are getting off work soon."
4. 佢就嚟結婚。
Keoi5 zau6 lai4 git3 fan1
"She's getting married soon."
5. 班機就嚟飛。
Baan1 gei1 zau6 lai4 fei1
"The flight is taking off soon."

Bonus Point

Synonyms of 就嚟 (*zau6 lai4*) include 就快 (*zau6 faai3*), 即刻 (*zik1 haak1*) and 馬上 (*maa5 seung6*). While these are almost equivalents, the word 即刻 (*zik1 haak1*) is probably the most immediate, since it means "in an instant." The other three suggest that someone will be happening soon, but don't imply immediately. But since all four of these words are adverbs they are totally interchangeable grammatically, so you can say either 班機就嚟飛 or 班機就快飛 if your flight is taking off soon, for instance.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Working Hours in Hong Kong

Hong Kong people are famous for working long hours. According to the latest research from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (香港工聯會), 62% of office workers, 53.3% of retail workers and 45.5% of catering workers routinely work overtime. Although so many workers are required to work overtime, overtime pay itself is not common. At present, the government is considering legislation to deal with the problem, with many people in Hong Kong looking to South Korea as a model in this regard.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #24

A Cooking Class in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

24

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 條魚要蒸幾耐?
2. B: 大概十分鐘。
3. A: 咁豬肉呢?
4. B: 差唔多廿分鐘。

JYUTPING

1. A: tiu4 jyu2 jiu3 zing1 gei2 noi6 ?
2. B: daai6 koi3 sap6 fan1 zung1
3. A: gam2 zyu1 juk6 ne1 ?
4. B: caa1 m4 do1 jaa6 fan1 zung1

ENGLISH

1. A: How long does it take to steam the fish?
2. B: About ten minutes.
3. A: How about the pork?
4. B: About twenty minutes.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
豬肉	zyu1 juk6	pork	noun
蒸	zing1	to steam	verb
分鐘	fan1 zung1	minutes, minute	noun
鐘 (頭)	zung1 tau4	hours	noun
廿	jaa6	twenty	noun
差唔多	caa1 m4 do1	more or less	adverb
大概	daai6 koi3	around	adverb
魚	jyu2	fish	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

豬肉三斤。 <i>Zyu1 juk6 saam1 gan1.</i> Three jin(=1.5 kilograms) of pork.	蒸水蛋嘅材料好簡單，而且好易整。 <i>zing1 seoi2 daan2 ge3 coi4 liu2 hou2 gaan2 daan1, ji4 ce2 hou2 ji3 zing2.</i> The ingredients for Chinese steamed eggs are very simple, and it's very easy to make.
俾一分鐘我，唔該。 <i>bei2 jat1 fan1 zung1 ngo5, m4 goi1.</i> Give me a minute, please.	六分鐘就夠。 <i>Luk6 fan1 zung1 zau6 gau3.</i> Six minutes is enough.
我等咗你成個鍾！ <i>Ngo5 dang2 zo2 nei5 cing4 go3 zung1!</i> I've been waiting for you for one hours!	佢廿歲離開香港。 <i>Keoi5 jaa6 seoi3 lei4 hoi1 hoeng1 gong2.</i> He left Hong Kong at twenty years old.
差唔多就得。 <i>Caa1 m4 do1 zau6 dak1.</i> Being average is okay.	大概三百蚊。 <i>daai6 koi3 saam1 baak3 man1.</i> About three hundred yuan.

鷹突然撲下來抓魚。

jing1 dat6 jin4 pok3 haa6 loi4 zaa1 jyu4

The eagle is flying and swooping for fish.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Discuss Lengths of Time in Cantonese

十分鐘。

"Ten minutes."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is talking about lengths of time in Cantonese, as with 十分鐘 (*sap6 fan1 zung1*) "ten minutes" or 三秒鐘 (*saam1 miu5 zung1*) "three seconds." Before we get to the heart of this discussion though, let's first review the most common time words we encounter in Cantonese:

1. 秒
miu3
"second"
2. 分
fan1
"minute"
3. 小時
siu2 si4
"hour" (written)
4. 鐘
zung1
"hour" (colloquial)
5. 月
jyut6
"month"

6. 季度
gwai3 dou6
"season"

7. 年
nim4
"year"

Now that we've reviewed these common time words, let's review the two most common structures we have for indicating lengths of time. The latter is the more colloquial of the two:

1. number + time word
2. number + time word + 鐘

What makes time tricky in Cantonese is that some time words must also be preceded by the measure word 個 (*go3*) when indicating lengths of time. There is no easy rule for remembering these time words: 鐘 (*zung1*) "hour (colloquial)," 鐘 (*zung1*) "hour (colloquial)," 季度 (*gwai3 dou6*) "season." For instance, to say "ten hours" we are required to say 十個鐘 (*sap6 go3 zung1*). This is a somewhat arbitrary rule, but you will need to internalize it in order to speak natural Cantonese.

For further examples, consider the following sample sentences:

1. 廿分鐘
jaa6 fan1 zung1
"20 minutes"
2. 半個鐘
bun3 go3 zung1
"half an hour"
3. 一個鐘
jat1 go3 zung1
"one hour"
4. 兩個鐘
leung5 go3 zung1
"two hours"

5. 一個半鐘
jat1 go3 bun3 zung1
"one and a half hours"

Language Tip

In addition to 個 (*go3*), another colloquial and common measure word you can use for "hour" is 粒 (*nap1*). So "one hour" can be either 一個鐘 or 一粒鐘. "Eight hours" can be either 八個鐘 or 八粒鐘.

On a final point, there are a very few cases in Cantonese where these rules don't apply. The most common example is the phrase "24 hours," which is a set expression in Cantonese: 廿四小時 (*jaa6 sei3 siu2 si4*) and thus drops the measure word. The sentence "7-11 opens 24 hours a day" is thus translated as 七十一廿四小時都開 (*cat1 sap6 jat1 jaa6 sei3 siu2 si4 dou1 hoi1*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Learn to Cook in Hong Kong!

Hong Kong is considered a culinary paradise, and not only for its amazing restaurants but also for its huge variety of cooking classes. Just as you can find restaurants providing different kinds of global cuisine on the island, so can you find an incredibly international array of culinary classes. Some professional chefs from other countries even travel to Hong Kong to receive training in how to prepare Chinese food, Thai food, Indian food, Southeast Asian food, and even breads and beverages.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #25

The Cantonese Boss

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- Dialogue - Cantonese
 - Main
 - English
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- Sample sentences
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#25

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. A : 佢成日講大話，冇句真話。
2. B : 你當佢講故仔囉。
3. A : 總之唔好信佢。
4. B : 收到。

ENGLISH

1. A : He's always lying, and never tells the truth.
2. B : Just take it as a joke.
3. A : All in all, don't trust him.
4. B : Got it.

JYUTPING

1. A : Keoi5 sing4 jat6 gong2 daai3 waa6, mou5 geoi6 zaan1 waa2.
2. B : Nei5 dong3 keoi5 gong2 gu2 zai2 lo1.
3. A : Zung2 zi1 m4 hou2 seon3 keoi5.
4. B : Sau1 dou2.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
收到	sau1 dou2	got it	phrase
講	gong2	to speak	verb
大話	daai6 waa6	a lie	noun
當	dong3	to assume	verb
真話	zan1 waa2	the truth	noun
故仔	gu2 zai2	story	noun
總之	zung2 zi1	all in all	conjunction
成日	sing4 jat6	always	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我今日收到你嘅信。 <i>Ngo5 gam1 jat6 sau1 dou2 nei5 ge2 seon3.</i> I received your letter today.	你識唔識講廣東話？ <i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2?</i> Do you speak Cantonese?
我好憎人講大話。 <i>Ngo5 hou2 zang1 jan4 gong2 daai6 waa6.</i> I hate when people lie.	你唔好當佢唔知道。 <i>Nei5 m4 hou2 dong3 keoi5 m4 zi1 dou3.</i> Don't assume he doesn't know.
我希望你講真話。 <i>Ngo5 hei1 mong6 nei5 gong2 zan1 waa2.</i> I hope you'll tell the truth.	呢個故仔好得意。 <i>ni1 go3 gu2 zai2 hou2 dak1 ji3.</i> This story is very interesting.
總之講大話就唔得。 <i>Zung2 zi1 gong2 daai6 waa6 zau6 m4 dak1.</i> All in all, telling lies is not OK.	佢成日都反口，真係信唔過。 <i>keoi5 sing4 jat6 dou1 faan2 hau2, zan1 hai6 seon3 m4 gwo3.</i> He always goes back on his word, I found him untrustworthy.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is A Seasonal Review!

Congratulations on making it to the end of our Beginner series. Considering that this is the last lesson in our first Beginner series, rather than give you a lengthy new grammar point to remember, we wanted to take a bit of time and review some of the more difficult things we've covered in this session. Since this is a review, we'll also be keeping the detailed discussion of the grammar points themselves. For details on each one, listen to our podcast. Here, we want to give you a lot of examples we didn't have the time to mention.

Ways to say "Don't":

1. 唔好 (*m4 hou2*), "don't"
2. 唔好講大話 (*m4 hou2 gong2 daai6 waa6*), "Don't tell a lie."
3. 咪 (*mai5*) "don't"
4. 咪講大話 (*mai5 gong2 daai6 waa6*) "Don't tell a lie."

Ways to ask "How Many":

1. 幾 (*gei2*), "how many"
2. 幾歲 (*gei2 sei3*), "how old"
3. 你幾歲 (*nei5 gei2 sei3*), "how old are you"

4. 你幾高 (*nei5 gei2 gou1*), "how tall are you"

The Simple Past Tense:

1. 買咗 (*maai5 zo2*), "bought"
2. 食咗 (*sik6 zo2*), "ate"
3. 睇咗 (*tai2 zo2*), "watched"

The Continuous Tense:

1. 買緊 (*maai5 gan2*), "buying"
2. 食緊 (*sik6 gan2*), "eating"
3. 睇緊 (*tai2 gan2*), "watching"

Making Comparisons:

1. 我睇咗套戲 (*ngo5 tai2 zo2 tou3 hei3*), "I watched a movie."
2. 我睇緊套戲 (*ngo5 tai2 gan2 tou3 hei3*), "I'm watching a movie."

Everything and Everyone:

1. 人人 (*jan4 jan4*), "every person"
2. 日日 (*jat6 jat6*), "everyday"
3. 年年 (*nin4 nin4*), "every year"

A Versatile Word:

1. 我有車，我仲有樓 (*ngo5 jau5 ce1, ngo5 zung6 jau5 lau2*), "I have a car. I also have a house."
2. 你仲有十分鐘 (*nei5 zung6 jau5 sap6 fan1 zung1*), "You still have ten minutes."

A Bonus Point:

1. 下個季度見啦 (*haa6 go3 gwai3 dou6 gin3 laa1*), "See you next season!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cantonese Stories

Speaking of fiction, did you know that many people in Hong Kong enjoy listening to traditional Cantonese stories as a sort of performance art? This kind of storytelling is known as 講故仔, with many of the local tales involving stories about kungfu fighters, swashbuckling heroes and historical legends. The most famous performer of this type of storytelling is Zhang Yuekai (張悅楷), whose popular stories include *A Story in Luding Mountain* (鹿鼎記), *The Yang Family* (楊家將) and *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (三國演義).



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