

UC Berkeley

Spring 2008

Cantonese Decal

Beginning

Student Edition

Facilitators:
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&
Mel Lo

Introduction

Welcome to the Cantonese De-cal!

The Chinese language has many different dialects, Cantonese is one such dialect. It has evolved with time and the addition of new vocabulary and new slang terms. While it is mostly a spoken dialect, newspapers, magazines and other media do make use of the written form of Cantonese, which is made up of a mixture of standard Chinese characters and Cantonese characters. The Cantonese characters, like much of the Chinese written language, are often based on sounds, though not in the way of an alphabet. Cantonese is a tonal language with nine tones, making the differentiation between words often difficult to distinguish to the untrained ear. At the same time, the tonal quality of the language combined with the finite number of pronunciations make this dialect particularly conducive to puns.

Cantonese is widely spoken not only in Guangdong province, but also in Hong Kong and Macau, as well as throughout various Chinese communities in the world. Movies and music in this dialect are a major genre of popular culture particularly in Asian communities. Most notable in this genre dubbed “Canto-pop” are movies and popular music originating from Hong Kong with its own unique character.

Through this De-cal, we hope that you will gain some useful conversational skills and an appreciation for the singular individuality of the Cantonese dialect. Most importantly, we hope that you have an enjoyable experience. Remember, the key to learning a language is confidence and practice; don't be afraid to try out phrases and words learned in class!

Beginning and Intermediate Lessons written by Gary Lee

Edited by Jeannie Fong Fall 2007 / Spring 2008

Cantonese DeCal – Beginning / Intermediate (2 units)

Course meeting times and rooms:

Beginning: MW 5-6:30 PM -> 234 Dwinelle

TuTh 5-6:30 PM -> Class 1: 174 Barrows Class 2: 185 Barrows

Intermediate: MW 5-6:30 PM -> 2066 VLSB

TuTh 5-6:30 PM -> 175 Barrows

Faculty Sponsor: Sau-Ling Wong

Course Coordinator: Jeannie Fong & Mel Lo

Course Website: <http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~canto/>

Instructors:

E-mail address:

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites to the beginning course. However, we do not encourage native Cantonese speakers to join the class. The class is tailored to students who have little or no knowledge of the language.

For the intermediate course, students can either:

1. have taken the beginner's course
2. have some exposure (from parents, friends, and various types of media), and be able to at least introduce themselves in Cantonese

Introduction: Students might want to take this class because:

- Although mainland China is enjoying the economic spotlight, Hong Kong is still one of the major economic powerhouses of China, and Cantonese is heavily spoken there.
- Many students who already speak Mandarin might understand Cantonese, but does not know how to speak it.
- Students might simply want to learn another language!

Whatever the reason, we are willing to teach students who have the curiosity and motivation to learn Cantonese

Purpose & Objectives: This course is solely for the basis to learn how to hold a conversation in Cantonese. Students will work in groups to practice Cantonese with teaching assistants, and will be given both written and visual material to work with. This class will also cover aspects of Cantonese culture and how they differ from other Chinese cultures. The main goal for this course is to have students hold a simple conversation in Cantonese.

Course Organization: We will occasionally have students perform skits simulating practical everyday situations. In addition, field trips will be utilized in order to enhance their understanding of Cantonese culture. Lastly, music and video clips will also be incorporated into the lesson plans.

Materials: Course reader and additional handouts

Grading Scheme: Since this is a conversational course, active participation will be expected. This is a P/NP [pass / not pass] course, and students can take from 1-2 units (Coursework and attendance are the same no matter how many units you choose). There are two 1.5 hour sessions per week.

Below are the percentages of each category:

- **50% participation** – students are required to participate in skits, practice out loud in class, and raise questions, if any. Since this is a conversational class, STUDENTS CANNOT BE ABSENT MORE THAN 2 TIMES.

- Students can have at most 2 unexcused absences.
 - Students must inform instructors ahead of time (24 hrs before class, unless it's an emergency) if they need to be absent in order for the absence to be excused.
 - Students more than 15 minutes late to class will receive a tardy.
 - Students with excess absences/tardies will also risk receiving a NP for the class.
- **30% homework and weekly quizzes** – students are to take weekly quizzes at the second session about last week's material. These quizzes can be either oral or listening
 - **10% cultural presentation** – all students are required to present about Hong Kong / Cantonese culture. More details will be released later in the course
 - **10% final exam** – the final is comprehensive – it will require students to perform a skit or take an oral/listening exam. Format will be determined by instructors

As we are expecting many students to have interest in both the beginning and intermediate course, students are required to turn in application forms at enrollment session in order to be considered enrollment. Attendance on the first day of class is also required. Students may be dropped from the class if they are absent on the first day.

- The cultural presentations are individual / pair presentations about any Chinese or Hong Kong cultural issues of student's interests. More information will be given to students later in the course.
- The midterm and final is cumulative and will have two components – oral and written.

**Students are to abide by the academic code of conduct even in a DeCal class. Plagiarism will result in a non-passing grade.

Tentative Class Schedules:

Beginning Level:

Week 1: Course overview, introduction, basic phrases (greetings)
 Week 2: Lesson 1: Introductions
 Week 3: Lesson 2: Introductions part II
 Week 4: Quiz 1 & Activities
 Week 5: Lesson 3: Family
 Week 6: Lesson 4: Date & Time
 Week 7: Midterm & Activities
 Week 8: Presentations
 Week 9: Lesson 5: Hobbies
 Week 10: Quiz 2 & Activities
 Week 11: Lesson 6: Transportation
 Week 12: Review and Final

Intermediate Level:

Week 1: Course overview, introduction, basic phrases (greetings)
 Week 2: Lesson 1: Introductions
 Week 3: Lesson 2: Dining & Lesson 3: School Life
 Week 4: Quiz 1 & Activities
 Week 5: Lesson 4: Shopping
 Week 6: Lesson 5: Going out with friends
 Week 7: Midterm & Activities
 Week 8: Presentations
 Week 9: Lesson 6: Music
 Week 10: Quiz 2 & Activities
 Week 11: Lesson 7: Movies
 Week 12: Review and Final

Pronunciation

The Cantonese pronunciation in this book is romanized using the Yale system, which is one of the main Romanization schemes used for the instruction of Cantonese for foreign students. Below is the layout of the Yale system with the corresponding transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Initial Consonants		Vowels	
Yale	IPA	Yale	IPA
b	p	i	i:
p	ph	yu	e (before ng, k)
m	m	u	y:
f	f	e	u:
d	t	o	o (before ng, k)
t	th	eu	ɛ:
n	n	a (with final)	ɔ:
l	l	a/aa	oe:
g	k	iu	ø (before n, t)
k	kh	eui	ɐ
ng	ŋ	ui	a:
h	h	ei	iw
j	ts	oi	øʷ
ch	tsh	ou	uʷ
s	s	ai	ej
y	j	au	oj
gw	kw	aai	ow
kw	kwh	aaui	ɐj
w	w	aaui	ɐw
			a:j
			a:w

Final Consonants	
Yale	IPA
m	m
n	n
ng	ŋ
p	p
t	t
k	k

Notes: (1) The consonants (except for *ch* and *j*) are identical to their pronunciations in English. (2) The consonant [y] + vowel [yu] → [yu], example: yu 'fish'. (3) The consonants m and ng may also occur as independent syllables.

Tones

Cantonese is a tonal language, which means that a syllable pronounced at different pitches indicates a different word. There are traditionally 9 basic (lexical) tones in Cantonese – 6 distinctive tones and 3 for consonants ending in p, t, or k. In addition, there are contexts in which a word changes its basic tone due to morphological or semantic reasons.

The tones in this book will be marked after the syllable with the numbers 1-6, which denote the respective tones listed in the chart below. Pitch values are based on

the 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest pitch and 1 being the lowest pitch. (Note: For those who may have learned Yale, it traditionally uses accent marks and the letter h instead of numbers; however, this course will use numbers.)

Tones (illustrated with the syllable *si*)

<i>Tone Number</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Example Word</i>	<i>English Meaning</i>
1	55	High level	si ¹	Silk
2	35	High rising	si ²	Feces
3	33	Mid level	si ³	To try
4	21	Low level	si ⁴	Time
5	23	Low rising	si ⁵	Market
6	22	Low level	si ⁶	A matter

Tones with p, t, k finals

<i>Tone Number</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Example Word</i>	<i>English Meaning</i>
1	5	High level	sik ¹	To know
3	3	Mid level	sit ³	Sit (a surname)
6	2	Low level	sik ⁶	To eat

Changed tones:

Examples:

mun ⁴ 'door'	→	hou ⁶ mun ² 'back door'; chin ⁴ mun ² 'front door'
dip ⁶ 'dish'	→	fei ¹ dip ² 'Frisbee (lit. flying dish)'
geng ³ 'mirror'	→	ngaan ⁵ geng ² 'eyeglasses'
maan ³ 'slow'	→	maan ³ maan ¹ 'slowly (adverb)'

Note: In certain areas such as Guangzhou, there also exists a high-falling tone (53), which is not considered distinct from the Tone 1 (high-level 55), due to free variation among speakers. Therefore, this tone will not be marked in this text.

Pronunciation Variations

Due to ongoing sound change in Cantonese, certain sounds may be pronounced differently depending on speaker. The effect of such changes is leading to the loss of certain sound distinctions. Generally speaking, younger speakers, especially in Hong Kong, tend to have this pronunciation, dubbed "lazy speech". Here is a list of common variations you may encounter:

- 1) Loss of initial *ng-*, example: ngo⁵ 'I' → o⁵
- 2) Initial *n* → l, example: nei⁵ 'you' → lei⁵
- 3) Syllabic *ng* → m, example: ng⁵ 'five' → m⁵ 'five'
- 4) Initial *gw* → *g* before *o* or *u*: gwok³ 'country' → 'gok³', gwo³ 'to pass' → 'go³'
- 5) Final *ng* → *n*, example: saang¹ 'live' → saan¹
- 6) Final *k* → *t*, example: baak³ 'hundred' → baat³

Pronunciation Tips

These tips are meant to be approximations, since actual pronunciation may vary. Remember that Cantonese has dialectal variation*, just as English has dialectal variation. So, even the English used here is not the same with all speakers. Imitating what you hear will be most helpful.

Consonants

Initial consonants are pronounced similarly as they would be in English, with the exception of *j/ch*

Consonants	Sound in English
b	b in bat
p	p in pat
m	m in mat
f	f in fat
d	d in dad
t	t in tack
n	n in no
l	l in low
g	g in game
k	k in kid

Consonants	Sound in English
ng	like ng in sing
h	h in ham
j	ds in dads ; close to j in jeep
ch	ts in rats ; close to ch in cheap
s	s in see
y	y in yes
gw	gu in the name Guam
kw	qu in quite , queen
w	w in wait

Final consonants are also pronounced similarly as they would be in English, that means they aren't released (no puff of air) at the end.

Consonants	Sound in English
p	p in map
t	t in mat
k	k in tick

Consonants	Sound in English
ng	ng in sing
m	m in ram
n	n in soon

Vowels

Vowels are a bit tougher, some sounds are not apparent in English, and some may not exist.

Consonants	Sound in English
i	ee in meet
i (before k ng)	i in tick
yu	like <i>German ii</i> ; make it by rounding ee in meet
u	oo in moon
u (before k, ng)	oo in cook
e	e in end
o	~ o in <i>British Eng</i> pork
ou	ow in row
ai	i in night
aai	i in high
aau	ow in cow

Consonants	Sound in English
eu	~ i in <i>British Eng</i> dirt; make it by rounding e in end
eu before t, n	make it by rounding i in tick
a with final	u in duck
a/aa	a in father
iu	close to <i>English</i> "Eww!" (showing disgust)
eui	-
au	ou in out
ui	-
ei	ey in hey!
oi	oy in boy
ew	-

Pronunciation Practice

Basic Syllables

-a

ba pa ma fa da ta na la ga ka nga ha gwa kwa wa ja cha sa ya

-e

be pe me fe ne le ge ke je che se ye

-i

ni li ji chi si yi

-u

fu gu ku wu

-o

Bo po mo fo do to lo go ko ngo ho gwo wo jo cho so

Finals -p/-t/-k

di dip dit dik

Finals -n/-m vs -ng

din dim san sam sang

Vowels w/multiple pronunciations: -i, -u, -eu Pay attention to bracketed words

si	sip/sit	sim/sin	[sik/sing]
wu	wut	wun	[fuk/fung]
seu	seut	seun	[seuk/seung]

Long vs Short -a: -a/-aa -ai/aa, -au/-aau Long in brackets

sat	[saat]	sang	[saang]	bak	[baak]
sai	[saai]	lap	[laap]	bat	[baat]
jau	[jaau]	kau/gau		[kaau]/[gaau]	

Difficult Vowels

-yu

yu syu jyu jyut tyut syut hyut

-eui

seui jeui keui heui deui teui

-ui

wui gui mui pui bui

-ew

dew jew

Other Vowels

-ou

dou hou mou bei nei sei

-oi

hoi goi noi

-iu

giu miu piu chiu liu

References

Hutton, C., & Bolton, K. (2005). *A Dictionary of Cantonese Slang*. Singapore: Singapore University Press.

Matthews, S., Yip, V. (1994). *Cantonese: A Comprehensive Grammar*. Rutledge: New York.

Numbers

0 Zero	零	ling ⁴	10 Ten	十	sap ⁶
1 One	一	yat ¹	11 Eleven	十一	sap ¹ yat ¹ Lit. <i>ten and one</i>
2 Two	二	yi ⁶	12 Twelve	十二	sap ¹ yi ⁶ Lit. <i>ten and two</i>
3 Three	兩	leung ⁵ (<i>before noun/counter</i>)	20 Twenty	二十	yi ⁶ sap ⁶ Lit. <i>two tens</i>
4 Four	四	saam ¹		廿	ya ⁶ (<i>colloq short form</i>)
5 Five	五	sei ³	30 Thirty	三十	saam ¹ sap ⁶ ; sa ¹ a ⁶ <i>colloq</i>
6 Six	六	m ⁵	100 One Hundred	一百	yat ¹ baak ³
7 Seven	七	luk ⁶	1,000 One Thousand	一千	yat ¹ chin ¹
8 Eight	八	chat ¹	10,000 Ten thousand	一萬	yat ¹ maan ⁶
9 Nine	九	baat ³		-th	dai ⁶ + (number)
		gau ²		½ half	bun ³

Numbers from 10 to 99 are formed by multiplying tens, eg. 52 = 5 x 10 + 2

52 fifty two 五十二 m⁵ sap⁶ yi⁶

Short Forms

二十 (20) is commonly pronounced 廿 ya⁶ (or ye⁶) instead of yi⁶ sap⁶, provided it is followed by another number, a measure word, or a noun

十 (10) sap⁶ can be shortened to a⁶ in numbers from 31 to 99, when it is followed by another number or measure word, or a noun.

四十一 (41) sei³ sap⁶ yat¹ or sei³ a⁶ yat¹

Similarly, you can say sa¹ a⁶ for 三十 saam¹ sap⁶ when it is followed by another number, a measure word, or a noun

三十八 (38) saam¹ sap⁶ baat³ or sa¹ a¹ baat³

Numbers and the Tones of Cantonese

Since the tone values of each of the Cantonese Numbers 0-9 are different, they can be used to remember the tones in Cantonese.

Tone	Description	Number w/ corresponding tone
1 st	55 high level	3 – saam¹
2 nd	35 high rising	9 – gau²
3 rd	33 mid level	4 – sei³
4 th	21 low falling	0 – ling⁴
5 th	23 low rising	5 – ng⁵
6 th	22 low level	2 – yi⁶
short tones with -p/-t/-k endings		
1 st	5 high	1 – yat¹
3 rd	3 mid	8 – baat³
6 th	2 low	6 – luk⁶ or 10 – sap⁶

Again, the sequence is **3-9-4-0-5-2**, each representing the tones 1 to 6, and then **1-8-6** for the short tones 1, 3, and 6.

Common Phrases

Hey! wai/wei6 喂	Hello? (on the phone) wai/wei2 喂	Hello (fml.) nei5 hou2 你好
How are you/What's up? dim2 a3? 點呀		
How are you? (fml.) nei5 hou2 ma3? 你好嗎		
How have you been lately? ni1paai4 dim2 a3? 呢排點呀 <i>or</i> jeui3gan6 dim2 a3? 最近點呀?		
How have you been lately? (fml.) ni1paai4/jeui3gan6 gei2 hou2 ma? 呢排/最近幾好嗎		
Good morning jou2san4 早晨		Good night jou2tau2 早啱
Bye! baai1baai3 拜拜	(fml.) joi3gin3 再見	See you later! chi4di1gin3 遲啲見
See you tomorrow! ting1yat6 gin3 聽日見		
My name is... ngo5 giu3 ____ 我叫 ____		
I'm... years old ngo5 ____ sei3 我...歲		
I'm from... ngo5 hai2 ____ lei4 ga3 我係 ____ 嚟架		
Thank you! m5goi1 唔該 (<i>for a favor/service</i>) do1je6 多謝 (<i>for a gift, huge favors, metaphorically</i>)		
You're welcome m4sai2 haak3hei3 唔使(客氣)		
Have you eaten yet? (a greeting) nei5 sik6 jo2 faan6 mei6 a3? 你食咗飯未呀?		
How do you say __ in Cantonese? __ yung6 gwong2dung1wa2 dim2 gong2 a3? __用廣東話點講呀?		
Do you understand? nei5 ming4 m4 ming4 a3? 你明唔明呀?		
Can you understand (what was said)? nei5 teng1 dak1 ming4 ma3? 你聽得明嗎?		
Sorry! m4hou2 yi3si1/3 唔好意思 (more seriously, at fault) deui3m4jyu6 對唔住		
I don't understand ngo5 m4 ming4 我唔明		
I can't understand (what was said) ngo5 teng1 m4 ming4 我聽唔明		
Any questions? yau5mou5 man6tai4 有冇問題		
Could you speak slower? cheng2 nei5 gong2 maan6 di1 請你講慢啲		
Could you speak louder? cheng2 nei5 gong2 daai6seng1 di1 請你講大聲啲		
Could you say that once again? cheng2 nei5 joi3 gong2 do1 yat1 ci3 請你再講多一次		
Could you please...? cheng2/ma4faan4 nei5.... 請/麻煩你...		Please...! m4goi1.! 唔該...!
Excuse me, I wanna ask... cheng2man6,... 請問,... <i>or</i> m4goi1, ngo5 seung2 man6..., 唔該, 我想問...		

Common Phrases 2

English

Yale Romanization

Characters

[RUNNING INTO A FRIEND...]

What are you up to?	jou ⁶ gan ² mat ¹ ye ⁵ a ³	做緊乜野呀?
Where are you going?	heui ³ bin ¹ dou ⁶ a ³	去邊到呀?
Are you going to class?	nei ⁵ hai ⁶ m ⁴ hai ⁶ heui ³ seung ⁵ tong ⁴ a ³ ?	你係咪去上堂呀?
Are you going home?	nei ⁵ hai ⁶ m ⁴ hai ⁶ faan ¹ uk ¹ kei ² a ³ ?	你係咪返屋企呀?
Do you want to study together?	yat ¹ chai ⁴ wan ¹ syu ¹ hou ² m ⁴ hou ² a ³ ?	一齊溫書好唔好呀?
Let's go grab some dim sum sometime	dak ¹ haan ⁴ cheut ¹ lai ⁴ yam ² cha ⁴	得閒出黎飲茶
Call me!	dak ⁴ haan ⁴ ko ¹ ngo ⁵ / dak ¹ haan ⁴ da ² (din ⁶ wa ⁶) bei ² ngo ⁵	得閒 Call 我/ 得閒打俾我

[COMMENTS & EMERGENCY]

Awesome!	hou ² sai ¹ lei ⁶	好犀利
Put on more clothes (stay warm)	jeuk ³ do ¹ gin ⁶ saam ¹	著多件衫
You look good today	nei ⁵ gam ¹ yat ⁶ hou ² leng ³ wo ³	你今日好靚喎
Hurry up!	faai ³ di ¹ la ¹	快 d 啦
Help!	gau ³ meng ⁶	救命
Where is the nearest restroom?	fu ⁶ gan ⁶ bin ¹ dou ³ yau ⁵ sai ² sau ² gaan ¹ /chi ³ so ² ? 附近邊到有洗手間/廁所	

[BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR CANTO-PROFICIENCY...]

I don't speak Cantonese	ngo ⁵ m ⁴ sik ¹ gong ² gwong ² dung ¹ wa ⁶	我唔識講廣東話
I speak a little Cantonese	ngo ⁵ sik ¹ gong ² siu ² siu ² gwong ² dung ¹ wa ⁶	我識講少少廣東話
I speak Cantonese fluently	ngo ⁵ di ¹ gwong ² dung ¹ wa ⁶ hou ² lau ⁴ lei ⁶ ga ³ !	我 d 廣東話好流利嫁

[SHARING OUR FEELINGS....]

I want to go home	ngo ⁵ seung ² faan ¹ uk ¹ kei ²	我想返屋企
I don't feel well.	ngo ⁵ m ⁴ syu ¹ fuk ⁶	我唔舒服
I am happy	ngo ⁵ hou ² hoi ¹ sam ¹	我好開心
I am unhappy	ngo ⁵ hou ² m ⁴ hoi ¹ sam ¹	我好唔開心
I am angry	ngo ⁵ hou ² nau ¹	我好嬬
I am sleepy	ngo ⁵ hou ² ngaan ⁵ fan ³	我好眼瞓
I want to cry	ngo ⁵ seung ² ham ³	我想喊
I like ___ (sleeping / play video games / a person etc.)	ngo jung ¹ yi ³ ___ (fan ³ gaau ³ /我鍾意 ___ da ² gei ¹ / nei ⁵)	(瞓覺/ 打機/ 你)
I miss _____ (someone e.g. you)	ngo ⁵ hou ² gwa ³ jyu ⁶ _____ (nei ⁵)	我好掛住 _____ (你)

Common Phrases 3

<u>English</u>	<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Characters</u>
[SHOPPING PHRASES]		
How much is it?	gei ² do ¹ chin ⁴ a ³	幾多錢呀?
Cheaper, please?	peng ⁴ di ¹ dak ¹ m ⁴ dak ¹ a ³ ?	平 d 得唔得呀?
So expensive?!	gam ³ gwai ³ ?	咁貴?
Very cheap	hou ² peng ⁴	好平
Is there any other colors?	yau ⁴ mou ⁵ dai ⁶ yi ⁶ (jek ³ / jung ²) ngaan ⁴ sik ¹ a ³ ?	有冇第二(隻/ 種)顏色呀?
What size do you have?	ching ² man ⁶ yau ⁴ mat ¹ ye ⁵ ma ⁵ a ³ ?	請問有乜野碼呀?
Excuse me, where is the fitting room?	m ⁴ goi ¹ , si ³ san ¹ sat ¹ hai ² bin ¹ dou ⁶ a ³ ?	唔該,試身室係邊到呀?

[MEASURE WORD FOR CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES]

Tops (shirt/t-shirt/sweater/jacket/etc.)	gin6	件
Bottoms (dress/skirt/pants/jeans/etc.)	tiu4	條
Accessories (belt/scarf/tie/necklace/underwear)	tiu4	條
Shoes (pair of leather shoes/sandals/boots/high heels)	deui3	對
(if only a single shoe, we use jek3)		
Accessories (socks/gloves/earrings)	deui3	對

[IN THE RESTAURANT]

How many people?	gei ² do ¹ wai ² a ³ ?	幾多位呀?
Table for (# of people), please	m ⁴ goi ¹ (#) wai ²	唔該(#)位
What do you want to eat?	nei ⁵ seung ² sik ⁶ di ¹ mat ¹ ye ⁵ a ³ ?	你想食 d 乜野呀?
It doesn't matter	mou ⁵ so ² wai ⁶	冇所謂
Any recommend dishes?	yau ⁴ mat ¹ ye ⁵ hou ² gai ³ siu ⁶ a ³ ?	有乜野好介紹呀?
I'd like to order...and....	ngo ⁵ seung ² yiu ³ ...tung ⁴ maai ⁴ ...	我想叫...同埋...
May I have a ____?	m ⁴ goi ¹ yat ¹ (go ³) ____.	唔該一(個)____.
Check, please?	m ⁴ goi ¹ maai ⁴ daan ¹	唔該埋單
Let me get the bill	dang ² ngo ⁵ bei ² la ¹	等我俾啦
Don't fight for it (the bill)	m ⁴ hou ² jaang ¹ la ¹	唔好掙啦

[MEASURE WORD FOR FOOD/DRINK]

Bottle	jeun ¹ , ji ¹	樽, 支
Cup, glass	bui ¹	杯
Bowl	wun ²	碗
Dish	dip ⁶	碟
Can	gun ³	罐

[EXPRESSING YOUR FEELING]

Full

baau²

飽

Hungry

tou⁵ ngo⁶

肚餓

Thirsty

hau² hot³/ geng² hot³

口渴/頸渴

*Original Made By Mel Lo & Kelly Lau Fall 2007

Lesson 1: Introductions I

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ hou²!

B: nei⁵ hou²!

A: nei⁵ giu³ mat¹ye⁵ meng² a³?

B: ngo⁵ giu³ John. nei⁵ ne¹?

A: ngo⁵ giu³ Mary.

English Translation

A: Hello!

B: Hello!

A: What is your name?

B: My name is John. How about you?

A: My name is Mary.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

nei⁵

hou²

giu³

mat¹ye⁵

meng²

a³

ngo⁵

ne¹

Part of Speech

PN

Adj

V

QW

N

Part.

PN

Part.

English Meaning

You

good, fine

to call

what?

name

[question particle]

I, me

[question: what about?]

Dialogue 2

Yale Romanization

Mark: ching²man⁶, nei⁵ gwai³sing³ a³?

Jenny: ngo⁵ sing³ Chan⁴. nei⁵ ne¹?

Mark: ngo⁵ sing³ Wong⁴. ngo⁵ giu³ Mark. nei⁵ giu³ mat¹ye⁵ meng² a³?

Jenny: ngo⁵ giu³ Jenny.

English Translation

Mark: May I ask, what's your surname?

Jenny: My surname is Chan. And you?

Mark: My surname is Wong. My name is Mark. What is your name?

Jenny: My name is Jenny.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

ching²man⁶

gwai³sing³

sing³

Chan⁴, Wong⁴

Part of Speech

Expression

Expression

V

English Meaning

May I ask, Excuse me...?

honorable surname

to have the surname...

Chan, Wong (common surnames)

Dialogue 3

Yale Romanization

John: wai⁶ David!

David: wai⁶ John! ni¹paai⁴ dim² a³?

John: gei² hou² a³, nei⁵ ne¹?

David: m⁴ cho³ a¹.

John: dang² ngo⁵ gaai³siu⁶-ha⁵, ni¹ go³ hai⁵ ngo⁵ go³ pang⁴yau⁵, Mary.

Mary: nei⁵ hou²!

David: nei⁵ hou²! ngo⁵ hai⁶ a³ David!

English Translation

John: Hey David!

David: Hey John! How have things been going?

John: Pretty good, how about you?

David: Not bad.

John: Allow me to introduce. This is my friend Mary.

Mary: Hi!

David: Hi! I'm David.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

wai⁶/wei⁶

ni¹paai⁴

dim²

Part of Speech

Expression

Time Word

QW

English Meaning

Hey!

recently; lately

how?

gei ² (+adj.)	Adv.	quite
m ⁴	Neg.	not; do not
m ⁴ cho ³	Expression (adj.)	not bad
a ⁶ /a ¹	Part.	[statement particle]
dang ²	V (imperative)	Let/Allow...
gaai ³ siu ⁶	V	to introduce
ni ¹	Particle	this
go ³	Dem.	measure for person or thing
hai ⁶	MW	to be
pang ⁴ yau ⁵	V	friend
a ³	N	prefix added to names

Supplementary Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

keui ⁵	Pronoun	he/she
-dei ⁶	suffix	plural for pronouns
jeui ³ gan ⁶	Time Word/Adv	recently; lately
gan ⁶ paai ²	Time Word	recently; lately
fei ¹ seung ⁴ (ji ¹)	Adv	extremely
hou ² (+adj.)	Adv	very
tung ⁴ hok ⁶	N	classmate

Grammar

1) Cantonese Word Order

The general word order of Cantonese is Subject-Verb-Object.

ngo ⁵	giu ³	John	keui ⁵	jung ¹ yi ³	ping ⁴ gwo ²
<i>I am</i>	<i>called</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>he/she</i>	<i>likes</i>	<i>apples</i>
S	V	O	S	V	O

2) Pronouns

	Singular		Plural	
1st	ngo ⁵	I, me	ngo ⁵ dei ⁶	We, us
2nd	nei ⁵	You	nei ⁵ dei ⁶	You
3rd	keui ⁵	He/she/him/her	keui ⁵ dei ⁶	They, them

Pronouns in Cantonese do not distinguish masculine and feminine, so gender is determined from context. The plural marker only applies to pronouns and fixed expressions, i.e. yan⁴dei⁶ 'others'.

3) Question Particles a³ and ne¹

The question particle a³ is used for neutral questions, generally to soften the tone.

nei⁵ go³ pang⁴yau⁵ giu³ mat¹ye⁵ meng² a³? What is your friend's name?

The question particle ne¹ is used in follow questions based on previous context (what about.../how about...?), or to indicate a sense of wonder, like when one thinks to oneself.

keui⁵ ne¹? What about him?

gam¹yat¹ (today) tin¹hei³ (weather) dim² ne¹?
 (I wonder) how's the weather today?

4) Verb *hai6*

The verb *hai6* connects nouns and noun phrases, but unlike English, it cannot be used to link a noun and an adjective in a general statement.

ngo⁵ hai⁶ hok⁶saang¹. I am a student.

*ngo⁵ hai⁶ hou² lek¹(smart) a³. I (really) am very smart.
 (As a general statement, this is ungrammatical. Cases in which this is grammatical will be introduced later)

5) Adjectives in general

In Cantonese, there are cases in which the adjectives may function as a verb. As such, they do not use the verb *to be* in forming sentences as English does. However, if they are used in the predicate (the portion of the sentence that contains the verb), then they usually must be preceded by some sort of modifier.

ni¹ go³ hou² gwai³ a³! This one is (very) expensive.

ngo⁵ ni¹paai⁴ gei² hou²! I'm doing quite well lately.

6) Asking how one is doing

The use of *nei⁵ hou²* 'Hello!' and *nei⁵ hou² ma³?* 'How are you doing?' is typically used between strangers or in a formal polite setting. Between friends and close acquaintances, a speaker will use *wai6* followed by the person's name to greet the listener and *dim² a³?* 'How are you doing?'

Example:

wai⁶ a³ John! jeui³gan⁶ dim² a³?

Hey John! How have you been doing (recently)?

Lesson 2: Introductions II

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ hai⁶ Paak³ Hak¹ Loi⁴ ge³ hok⁶ saang¹ ma³?

B: hai⁶ a⁶.

A: nei⁵ gam¹ nin² dai⁶ gei² nin⁴ a³?

B: ngo⁵ gam¹ nin² dai⁶ yi⁶ nin⁴. nei⁵ ne¹?

A: ngo⁵ gam¹ nin² dai⁶ sei³ nin⁴. gam² nei⁵ jyu² sau¹ bin¹ fo¹ a³?

B: ngo⁵ jyu² sau¹ ging¹ jai³ hok⁶. nei⁵ ne¹?

A: ngo⁵ jyu² sau¹ sang¹ mat⁶ hok⁶

English Translation

A: Are you a Berkeley student?

B: Yes.

A: What year are you (this year)?

B: I'm a second year (this year). How about you?

A: I'm a fourth year. So...what are you majoring in?

B: I'm majoring in Economics. How about you?

A: I'm majoring in Biology.

Other ways to ask about one's major/studies

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ hai⁶ mat¹ ye⁵ major a³?

B: ngo⁵ hai⁶ yi⁶ kon¹

A: nei⁵ duk⁶ mat¹ ye⁵ (fo¹) a³?

B: ngo⁵ duk⁶ po¹ li¹ saai¹

English Translation

A: What major are you?

B: I'm an economics major.

A: Which subject do you study?

B: I study Political Science.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Paak³ Hak¹ Loi⁴

gam¹ nin²

dai⁶

gei²

nin⁴

jyu² sau¹

duk⁶

bin¹

ging¹ jai³ hok⁶

fo¹

sang¹ mat⁶ hok⁶

Part of Speech

Proper Name

Time Word

Part.

QW

N

V

V

QW

N

N

N

English Meaning

Berkeley

this year

numerical prefix

how many?

year

to major in

to read, to study

which

subject; field

Economics

Biology

Dialogue 2

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ hai⁶ m⁴ hai⁶ hai² Lo⁴ Saang² lei⁴ ga³?

B: m⁴ hai⁶ a³.

A: o⁴, gam² nei⁵ hai² bin¹ dou⁶ lei⁴ ga³?

B: ngo⁵ hai² Saam¹ Faan⁴ Si⁵ lei⁴ ga³.

English Translation

A: Are you from Los Angeles?

B: Nope.

A: Oh, so then, where are you from?

B: I'm from San Francisco

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

hai²

Lo⁴ Saang²

lei⁴

ga³ (fusion of ge³ + a³)

o⁴

gam²

bin¹ dou⁶

Part of Speech

Prep.

Proper Name (N)

V

Part.

Interjection

Interjection

QW

English Meaning

from, at

Los Angeles

to come

used as question particle here

Oh!

so then..., well then...

where?

Supplementary Vocabulary

<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
sin ¹ saang ¹	N	teacher; sir
lou ⁵ si ¹	N	teacher (formal title)
gaau ³ sau ⁶	N	professor
hok ⁶ haau ⁶	N	school
jo ⁶ gaau ³	N	assistant instructor (TA)
daai ⁶ hok ⁶	N	university
Paak ³ Hak ¹ Loi ⁴ Ga ¹ Daai ⁶	Proper Name	UC Berkeley
fu ³ sau ¹	V	to minor in

Place Names

<u>Place</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>English</u>
Mei ⁵ Gwok ³	United States	Ying ¹ Gwok ³	England
Ga ¹ Na ⁴ Daai ⁶	Canada	Dak ¹ Jau ¹	Texas
Mak ⁶ Sai ¹ Go ¹	Mexico	Nau ² Yeuk ³	New York
Heung ¹ Gong ²	Hong Kong	(Naam ⁴ /Bak ¹)	(Southern/Northern)
		Ga ¹ Jau ¹	California
Jung ¹ Gwok ³	China	Waan ¹ Keui ¹	Bay Area
Uk ¹ Leun ⁴	Oakland	Toi ⁴ Waan ¹	Taiwan

Dialogue 3**Yale Romanization**

A: nei⁵yi⁴ga¹jyu⁶hai²bin¹dou⁶a³?

B₁: ngo⁵yi⁴ga¹jyu⁶hai²suk¹se⁵dou⁶.

B₂: ngo⁵yi⁴ga¹jyu⁶dorm.

A: o⁵, bin¹jo⁶a³?

B: Unit Two. gam²nei⁵ne¹? nei⁵jyu⁶hai²

bin¹dou⁶a³?

A: ngo⁵yi⁴ga¹jyu⁶paak¹man².

English Translation

A: Where are you living at now?

B₁: I'm living in the dorms.

B₂: (colloquial)

A: Oh, I see which one?

B: Unit Two. So, how about you? Where are you living at now?

A: I'm living in an apartment now.

Vocabulary

<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
yi ⁴ ga ¹	Time Word	now; currently
jyu ⁶	V	to live, to reside in
hai ²	Prep	at
suk ¹ se ⁵	N	dorms
bin ¹	QW	Which...?
jo ⁶	MW	measure for buildings
paak ¹ man ²	N	apartment

Grammar**1) Yes/No Question Types: particle *ma³* and A-not-A pattern**

In this lesson, you have learned two ways to solicit a yes/no answer from the listener. The first form is the sentence-final question particle *ma³*, which placed at the end of a statement to turn it into a question. This form tends to me have a more formal and polite tone to it.

nei⁵hai⁶sin¹saang¹ma³? Are you a teacher?

a) To simply answer 'yes' to the above question, use *hai⁶*
 hai⁶. Yes (I am)

b) To simply answer 'no' to the above question, you add m^4 in front of hai^6 to negate it.
 $m^4 hai^6 . ngo^5 hai^6 hok^6 saang^1 .$ No (I'm not). I'm a student.

The second form is the A-not-A pattern, which is more commonly used than the ma^3 form. It is formed by using adding a negative to the verb and then repeating the verb: verb + m^4 + verb. (Don't forget the a^3 add the end to form a question!) To show this, let's use the earlier question: *Are you a teacher?*

$nei^5 hai^6 m^4 hai^6 sin^1 saang^1 a^3?$ *Literally: Are you (or are you not) a teacher?*

To reply to the question, use the same forms for 'yes' and 'no' listed above.

2) Preposition hai^2 'from', 'at'

Depending on the context, hai^2 placed before a location word can mean 'from' or 'at'.

hai^2 meaning 'from'

$ngo^5 hai^2 Faat^3 Gwok^6 lei^4 ga^3 .$ I am from France.

$hai^2 ni^1 dou^6 heui^3 Uk^1 Leun^4 yun^5 m^5 yun^5 a^3?$
 Is it far [to go] from here to Oakland? (yun^5 : far, $heui^3$: to go)

hai^2 meaning 'at'

$ngo^5 hai^2 ni^1 dou^6 jyu^6 .$ I live here. (*lit*: I live at this place)

$a^3 John hai^2 m^5 hai^2 dou^6 a^3?$ Is John here [or not]?

Note: Unlike in English, the verb hai^6 'to be' is not needed in these sentences, so the preposition basically acts as the verb of the sentence.

Usage Patterns for preposition hai^2 'at':

[a] Subject + hai^2 + Location + (Localizer) + Verb + (Object)

$keui^5 hai^2 Mei^5 Gwok^3 duk^6 syu^1 .$ ($duk^6 syu^1$ 'to attend school; to read')
 I go to school in America.

[b] Subject + Verb + hai^2 + Location + Localizer

This construction places the location after the verb, but is more limited to certain verbs and tends requires a localizer.

$keui^5 kei^5 hai^2 mun^4 hau^2 dou^6 .$ He/she is standing by/at the door.

3) Localizer dou^6

This will be discussed more in detail later. The localizer particle functions with hai^2 to express a spatial relationship. While hai^2 is placed *before* the location, the localizer is *placed* after the location.

dou^6 can both mean 'over there' or 'over here', but it's more of dummy, which means 'at'. In conversation, it's sometimes omitted. For example:

David $dit^3 dou^2 hai^2 lau^4 tai^1$ (dou^6). ($dit^3 dou^2$ 'fell down'; $lau^4 tai^1$ 'stairs')
 David fell down on the stairs.

4) Basic Negative *m*⁴

The basic way to negate a verb is to place *m*⁴ before the verb. This translates into something like “do not V” or when used to negate *hai*⁶ ‘to be’ or an adjective, it means “to not be~”

keui⁵ *m*⁴ leng³. (*leng*³ ‘pretty’) He/she is not pretty.

sou³hok⁶ *m*⁴ yung⁴yi⁶ (*yung*⁴yi⁶ ‘easy’) Math is not easy.

ngo³ *m*⁴ jung¹yi³ sang¹mat⁶hok⁶. I do not like Biology.

keui⁵ *m*⁴ hai⁶ Mei⁵Gwok³yan⁴ He is not American.

5) A-not-A Pattern with other verbs

So far, you have learned how to use the A-not-A pattern to ask a yes/no question with the verb *hai*⁶ ‘to be’. With other verbs, the pattern is roughly the same. To answer ‘yes’, you just repeat the verb. For ‘no’, negate the verb with *m*⁴. For example:

zyu⁶ *dorm* gwai³ *m*⁴ gwai³ a? Is living in the dorms expensive?

gwai ³ !	<i>m</i> ⁴ gwai ³
Yes, (it is expensive)	No, (it is not expensive).

To ask a question with the two-syllable verbs, the pattern is:
[1st Syllable] + [*m*⁴] + [Whole Verb]

sou³hok⁶ yung⁴ *m*⁴ yung⁴yi⁶ (*yung*⁴yi⁶ ‘easy’) Is Math easy [or not]?

yung ⁴ yi ⁶	<i>m</i> ⁴ yung ⁴ yi ⁶
Yes, (it is easy)	No, (it's not easy)

Majors (sau¹ fo¹ muk⁶)

Anthropology	yan ⁴ leui ⁶ hok ⁶
Architecture	gin ³ yuk ¹ hok ⁶
Biology	sang ¹ mat ⁶ hok ⁶
Chemistry	fa ³ hok ⁶
Business/Commerce	seung ¹ fo ¹
~Administration	seung ¹ yip ⁶ gwun ² lei ⁵ hok ⁶
Cognitive Science	ying ⁶ ji ¹ fo ¹ hok ⁶
Computer Science	din ⁶ nou ⁵ fo ¹ hok ⁶
Economics	ging ¹ jai ³ hok ⁶
English	ying ¹ man ⁴
Engineering	gung ¹ ching ⁴ hok ⁶
Mechanical~	gei ¹ haai ⁶ gung ¹ ching ⁴
Electrical~	din ⁶ ji ² gung ¹ ching ⁴
Civil~	tou ² muk ⁶ gung ¹ ching ⁴
Chemical~	fa ³ hok ⁶ gung ¹ ching ⁴
Biological~	sang ¹ mat ¹ gung ¹ ching ⁴
Environmental Science	waan ⁴ ging ² fo ¹ hok ⁶
Film Studies	din ⁶ ying ² yin ⁴ gau ³
Geography	dei ⁶ lei ⁵ hok ⁶
Geology	dei ⁶ jat ¹ hok ⁶
History	lik ⁶ si ²
Journalism	san ¹ man ⁴ hok ⁶
Legal Studies/Law	faat ³ leut ⁶ hok ⁶
Linguistics	yu ⁵ yin ⁴ hok ⁶
Mass Communications	daai ⁶ jung ³ chyun ⁴ bo ³
Mathematics	sou ³ hok ⁶
Statistics	tung ² gai ⁶ hok ⁶
Applied~	ying ¹ yung ⁶ sou ³ hok ⁶
Medicine	yi ¹ hok ⁶
Music	yam ¹ ngok ⁶
Pharmacy	yeuk ⁶ jai ¹ hok ⁶
Philosophy	jit ³ hok ⁶
Political Science	ging ¹ jai ³ hok ⁶
Physics	mat ⁶ lei ⁵ hok ⁶
Psychology	sam ¹ lei ⁵ hok ⁶
Public Health	gung ¹ gung ⁶ wai ⁶ sang ¹ hok ⁶
Religious Studies	jung ¹ gaau ³ yin ⁴ gau ³
Rhetoric	sau ¹ ci ⁴ hok ⁶
Social Welfare	se ⁵ wui ² fuk ¹ lei ⁶ hok ⁶
Sociology	se ⁵ wui ² hok ⁶

Countries (gwok³ ga¹)**Africa**

Africa	fei ¹ jau ¹
Congo	gong ¹ gwo ²
Egypt	oi ¹ /aai ¹ kap ⁶
Ghana	ga ¹ naap ⁶
Ivory Coast	jeung ⁶ nga ⁴ hoi ² on ⁶
Libya	lei ⁶ bei ² a ³
Morocco	mo ¹ lok ⁶ go ¹
South Africa	naam ⁴ fei ¹

America

South America	naam ⁴ mei ⁵ jau ¹
Argentina	a ³ gan ¹ ting ⁴
Brazil	ba ¹ sai ¹
Chile	ji ³ lei ⁶
Cuba	gu ² ba ¹
Canada	ga ¹ na ⁴ daai ⁶
Toronto	do ¹ leun ⁴ do ¹
Ecuador	ak ¹ gwa ¹ do ¹ yi ⁵
North America	bak ¹ mei ⁵ jau ¹
Vancouver	wan ¹ go ¹ wa ²
Mexico	mak ⁶ sai ¹ go ¹
United States	mei ⁵ gwok ³
California	ga ¹ jau ¹
New York	nau ² yeuk ³
San Francisco	saam ¹ faan ⁴ si ⁵
Los Angeles	lo ⁴ saang ² lok ⁶ chaam ³ gei ¹

Europe

Europe	au ¹ jau ¹
Belgium	bei ² lei ⁶ si ⁴
Denmark	daan ¹ mak ⁶
France	faat ³ gwok ³
Paris	ba ¹ lai ⁴
Germany	dak ¹ gwok ³
Greece	hei ¹ laap ⁶
Holland	ho ⁴ laan ¹
Ireland	oi ³ yi ⁵ laan ⁴
Italy	yi ³ daai ⁶ lei ⁶
Rome	lo ⁴ ma ²
Norway	no ⁴ wai ¹
Portugal	pou ⁴ tou ⁴ nga ⁴

Asia & Pacific

Asia	a ³ jau ¹
Australia	ou ³ jau ¹
China	jung ¹ gwok ³
(mainland)	daai ⁶ luk ⁶ /noi ⁶ dei ⁶
Beijing	bak ¹ ging ¹
Guangzhou	gwong ² jau ¹
Shanghai	seung ⁶ hoi ²
Hong Kong	heung ¹ gong ²
Macau	ou ³ mun ²
Taiwan	toi ⁴ waan ¹
Taipei	toi ⁴ bak ¹
India	yan ³ dou ⁶
Indonesia	yan ³ nei ⁴
Japan	yat ⁶ bun ²
Tokyo	dung ¹ ging ¹
Korea	hon ⁴ gwok ³
South Korea	naam ⁴ hon ⁴
North Korea	bak ¹ hon ⁴
Seoul	hon ³ sing ⁴ /sau ² yi ⁵
Malaysia	ma ⁵ loi ⁴ sai ¹ a ³
Mongolia	mung ⁴ gu ²
Middle East	jung ¹ dung ¹
Israel	yi ⁵ sik ¹ lit ⁶
Palestine	ba ¹ lak ⁴ si ¹ taan ²
Iraq	yi ¹ laai ¹ hak ¹
Saudi Arabia	sa ¹ de ⁱ⁶ a ³ laai ¹ baak ³
Singapore	san ¹ ga ⁶ bo ¹
Thailand	taai ³ gwok ³
Vietnam	yut ⁶ naam ⁴

Europe continued

Russia	o ⁴ lo ⁴ si ¹ o ⁴ gwok ³
Spain	sai ¹ baan ¹ nga ⁴
Sweden	seui ⁶ din ²
Turkey	tou ² yi ⁵ kei ⁴
Ukraine	wu ¹ hak ¹ laan ⁴
United Kingdom	ying ¹ gwok ³
England	ying ¹ gaak ³ laan ⁴
Scotland	sou ¹ gaak ³ laan ⁴
Wales	wai ¹ yi ⁵ si ¹
London	leun ⁴ deun ¹
European Union	au ¹ mang ⁴

Lesson 3: Family

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ uk¹kei² yau⁵ gei²do¹ go³ yan⁴ a³?

B: ngo⁵ uk¹kei² yau⁵ ng⁵ go³ yan⁴; yau⁵ ngo⁵ ba⁴ba¹, ma⁴ma¹, ga¹je¹, sai³lou², tung⁴maai⁴ ngo⁵. nei⁵ uk¹kei² ne¹?

A: ngo⁵ uk¹kei² ji² yau⁵ saam³ go³ yan⁴ – ngo⁵ fu⁶mou⁵ tung⁴maai⁴ ngo⁵. ngo⁵ mou⁵ hing¹dai⁶ji²mui²

Note: [1] uk¹kei² 'home' is used here to refer to immediate family; the word uk¹ by itself refers to house. [2] ba⁴ba¹ma⁴ma¹ is a more colloquial way of referring to both parents, the more formal way is fu⁶mou⁵.

English Translation

A: How many people are there in your family?

B: There are 5 people in my family: there's my dad, mom, older sister, younger brother, and me. How about your family?

A: There are only 3 people in my family: my dad, mom, and me. I don't have brothers and sisters.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

uk¹kei²

yau²

go³

ba⁴ba¹

ma⁴ma¹

ga¹je¹

sai³lou²

tung⁴maai⁴

mou⁵

hing¹dai⁶ji²mui²

ji²

fu⁶mou⁵

ma⁴ma¹ba⁴ba¹

Part of Speech

N

V

MW

N

N

N

N

Conj.

V

N

Adv.

N

N

English Meaning

home; family

to exist, to have

measure for people

father

mother

older sister

younger brother

and, with

to not exist, not exist

brothers and sisters

only

parents

mom and dad

Note: For other family members, please refer to handout.

Dialogue 2

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ yau³ mou⁵ hing¹dai⁶ji²mui² a³?

B: ngo⁵ yau⁵ ya¹ go³ ga¹je¹.

A: keui⁵ daai⁶ (gwo³) nei⁵ gei²do¹ nin⁴ a³?

B: keui⁵ daai⁶ (gwo³) ngo⁵ saam¹ nin⁴.

A: o⁵...ngo⁵ yau⁵ yat¹ go³ sai³lou². keui⁵ sai³ (gwo³)

ngo⁵ leung⁵ nin⁴.

Note: The comparative gwo³ is occasionally omitted.

English Translation

A: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

B: I have a sister.

A: How many years is she older than you?

B: She is older than me by 3 years.

A: Oh...I have a younger brother. He is younger than me by 2 years.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

daai⁶

gwo³

gei²do¹ (+ MW)

sai³

leung⁵

Part of Speech

Adj.

V.

QW

Adj.

Det.

English Meaning

big, large

to pass

how many...?

small, little

two (used with measures)

Supplementary Adjectives

Yale

do¹

Meaning

Adj./Adv. many/more

Yale

hau⁶saang¹/
nin¹ching¹

Meaning

young

siu ²	Adj./Adv. few/less	gwai ³	expensive
gou ¹	tall, high	peng ⁴	inexpensive
ai ²	short, low (physically)	lek ¹ /	smart
		sing ² muk ⁶ /	
		chung ¹ ming ⁴	
dai ¹	low	lou ⁵	old
cheung ⁴	long	gau ⁶	old
dyun ²	short	cheun ²	stupid
fei ⁴	fat	deun ⁶	slow-witted
sau ³	skinny	yun ⁵	far
hou ²	good	kan ²	close
heng ¹	light	faai ³	fast
chung ⁵	heavy	maan ⁶	slow
waai ⁶	bad, out of order	yit ⁶	hot
cha ¹	worse, bad, lacking	dung ³	cold
san ¹	new	naan ⁴	difficult

Dialogue 3**Yale Romanization**

A: nei⁵ uk¹kei² yau⁵ mou⁵ chung²mat⁶ a³?

B: ngo⁵ yau⁵ yat¹ jek³ gau² tung⁴ yat¹ jek³ maau¹. nei⁵ ne¹?

A: ngo⁵dei⁶ gau² tung⁴ maau¹ dou¹ mou⁵, daan⁶hai⁶ ngo⁵ yau⁵ gei² tiu⁴ gam¹yu².

B: nei⁵dei⁶ dim²gaai² mou⁵ gau² tung⁴ maau¹ a³?

A: yan¹wai⁶ ngo⁵ ma⁴ma¹ m⁴ jung¹yi⁶ yeung⁵ gau² tung⁴ maau¹, so²yi⁵ ngo⁵dei⁶ uk¹kei⁵ mou⁵ lo¹.

English Translation

A: Do you have any pets at home?

B: I have a dog and a cat. How about you?

A: We neither have cats nor dogs, but I do have a few goldfish.

B: Why don't you have cats and dogs?

A: Since my mom doesn't like to raise cats and dogs, so we don't have any at home.

Vocabulary**Yale Romanization**chung²mat⁶jek³gau²maau¹tung⁴dou¹daan⁶hai⁶gei² + MWtiu⁴gam¹yu²yan¹wai⁶yeung⁵so²yi⁵**Part of Speech**

N

MW

N

N

Conj.

Adv.

Conj.

Det.

MW

N

Conj.

V.

Conj.

English Meaning

pet

measure for many animals, body parts, objects

dog

cat

and, with

both, all, every

but, however

several, few...

measure for long animals and objects

goldfish

because, since

to raise, train, foster

therefore, so

Note: [1] This use of dou¹ is different from the usage of dou¹ meaning 'also'.

Supplementary Vocabulary**Yale Romanization**ni¹ + MWgo² + MWni¹dou⁶go²dou⁶**Part of Speech**

Dem.

Dem.

N

N

English Meaning

this...

that...

here

there, over there

ni ¹ bin ⁶ (¹)	N	this side
go ² bin ⁶ (¹)	N	that side, over that side

Grammar

1) Existential Verbs *yau⁵* 'to exist, to have', *mou⁵* 'to not exist, to have'

In Cantonese, the verb *yau⁵*, which loosely translates to "to exist, to have, there is" has an extensive set of functions depending on whether it is used with nouns, verbs, or adjectives. In this lesson, we will make use *yau⁵* followed by nouns, which has the above-mentioned meaning of existence and possession.

Examples:

ngo⁵ *yau⁵* saam¹ jek³ gau². I have three dogs.

Paak³Hak¹Loi⁴ *yau⁵* hou² do¹ hok⁶saang¹.
Berkeley has many students/There are many students in Berkeley.

ni¹dou⁶ *yau⁵* yat¹ jek³ maau¹ There is a cat here.

The negative form of *yau⁵* is *mou⁵*, which means 'to not have, to not exist'.

Example:

ngo⁵ *mou⁵* hing¹dai⁶ji²mui². I have no brothers and sisters.

fo³sat¹ leui⁵min⁶ *mou⁵* toi²dang³. (*fo³sat¹*: classroom, *leui⁵min⁶*: inside, *toi²dang³*: tables and chairs)
There are tables or chairs in the classroom.

go²dou⁶ *mou⁵* chi³so² (*chi³so²*: toilet, restroom)
There are no restrooms there.

2) Measure Words

Measure words (or noun classifiers) are a crucial part of the structure of Cantonese nouns. Each noun in Cantonese is assigned in classifier, whether it be one specific to the noun or a more generic one. In English, the closest things to measure words are count words that are specific to certain nouns, such as: *a pride of lions, a pair of pants, a cup of coffee, a flock of sheep*. As with these count words, measure words in Cantonese have to be learned, and the use of the proper measure is important in conversation.

Measure words are needed in the following situations:

a) when counting/quantifying

Ex: yat¹ jek³ gau² 'one dog'; mui⁵ tiu⁴ fish 'every fish'

b) with demonstratives *ni¹* 'this', *go²* 'that'

Ex: ni¹ go³ hok⁶saang¹ 'this student'; go² gaan¹ hok¹haau⁶ 'that school'

c) with question words (QW)

Ex: gei²do¹ go³ yan⁴ 'how many persons?'; bin¹ jo⁶ suk¹se⁵ 'which dorm?'

3) Conjunction *tung⁴* (*maai⁴*) 'and, with'

tung⁴ or *tung⁴maai⁴* is used when connecting nouns, noun phrases, or for lists.

They are interchangeable in many cases, although when used to express personal relationships *tung*⁴ is often used.

Examples:

ngo⁵ jung¹yi³ sou³hok⁶, ging¹jai³hok⁶, tung⁴maai⁴ ying¹man⁴
I like Math, Economics, and English.

keui⁵ *tung*⁴ ngo⁵ hai⁶ hou² pang⁴yau⁵. He and I are good friends.

ngo⁵ hou² jang¹ sai² saam¹ *tung*⁴ dou² laap⁶saap³. (*jang*¹: to hate, *sai*² *saam*¹: to wash clothes; *dou*² *laap*⁶*saap*³: to take out the trash)
I really hate doing laundry and taking out the trash.

ngo⁵ *tung*⁴ keui⁵ yat¹chai⁴ heui³ leui⁵hang⁴. (*yat*¹*chai*⁴: together; *heui*³: to go; *leui*⁵*hang*⁴: travel)
I go traveling together with him/He and I go traveling together.

4) Making Comparisons with *gwo*³

*gwo*³ in Chinese originally meant 'to pass', but in Cantonese it developed a comparative usage, in the following pattern:

A + Adj. + *gwo*³ + B + [Adv/degree modifier] "A is more [*adj.*] than B"

Examples:

keui⁵ gou¹ *gwo*³ ngo⁵. He is taller than me.

Mei⁵Gwok³ daai⁶ *gwo*³ Ying¹Gwok³ hou² do¹.
The USA is a lot larger than England.

ngo⁵ ga¹je¹ daai⁶ (*gwo*³) sei³ nin⁴. My sister is 4 years older than I am.

Note: This is not the only comparative pattern used in Cantonese; there is another more formal construction that is similar to the Mandarin comparative. This will be discussed later.

5) Conjunction *daan*⁶*hai*⁶ 'but, however'

A common pattern in Cantonese is *seui*¹*yin*⁴..., *daan*⁶*hai*⁶..., which means 'although..., but...' and is used when the first clause is used to make a concession that the second (main) clause contradicts.

Examples:

*seui*¹*yin*⁴ ngo⁵ hai⁶ Gwong²Dung¹Yan⁴, *daan*⁶*hai*⁶ ngo⁵ m⁴ sik¹ Gwong²Dung¹Wa². (*sik*¹: to know, *Gwong*²*Dung*¹*Wa*²: Cantonese)
Although I am Cantonese, (but) I don't know Cantonese.

*seui*¹*yin*⁴ ngo⁵ ma⁴ma¹ m⁴ jung¹yi³ gau², *daan*⁶*hai*⁶ ngo⁵ jung¹yi⁶.
Although my mom dislikes dogs, I like (them).

In the dialogue *daan*⁶*hai*⁶ is used by itself in the second clause, which simply concedes what was mentioned before it.

Examples:

ni¹ bun² syu¹ hou² cheung⁴, daan⁶ hai⁶ hou² tai². (bun²: MW, syu¹: book, tai²: to look)

This book is long, but good.

ngo⁵ jung¹ yi³ yeung⁵ maau¹, daan⁶ hai⁶ m⁴ jung¹ yi³ yeung⁵ gau².

I like raising cats, but I dislike raising dogs.

6) Expression *yan¹ wai⁶...so² yi⁵...* ‘since/because..., therefore...’

The expression *yan¹ wai⁶...so² yi⁵...* is used to indicate a reason for something, in which the first clause gives the reason for whatever is in the second (main) clause.

Examples:

yan¹ wai⁶ jyu⁶ dorm hou² gwai⁶, so² yi⁵ ngo⁵ jou¹ paak¹ man² jyu⁶. (*jou¹*: to rent)

Since living in dorms is very expensive; (therefore), I'm renting an apartment.

yan¹ wai⁶ ngo⁵ jung¹ yi³ gai³ sou³, so² yi⁵ ngo⁵ jyu² sau¹ sou³ hok⁶. (*gai³ sou³*: to do calculations, do math)

Since I like to do math, I'm majoring in Mathematics.

so² yi⁵ ‘therefore, so’ can also be used by itself in the second clause.

Example:

keui⁵ hai² Heung¹ Gong² lei⁴, so² yi⁵ keui⁵ sik¹ Gwong² Dung¹ Wa².

He's from Hong Kong, so he knows Cantonese.

7) Adverb *dou¹* ‘both, all, every, each’

dou¹ is a word that has a broad range of functions. One function, to simply put it, is to express a sense of ‘both’, all, every, each’ in referring to a noun in the sentence.

Example:

ngo⁵ dei⁶ gau² tung⁴ maau¹ dou¹ mou⁵.

We do not have cats or dogs.

(In English, since it's a negative, we have to translate it a bit differently, but literally, we're saying [we - cats - and - dogs - both - not have]. Take for example the positive statement below and it's a bit more obvious)

ngo⁵ dei⁶ gau² tung⁴ maau¹ dou¹ yau⁵.

We have both cats and dogs.

Other Examples:

keui⁵ ga³ ga³ che¹ dou¹ jung¹ yi³. (*ga³*: MW, *che¹*: car)

He likes every car.

ngo⁵ mat¹ ye⁵ syu¹ dou¹ m⁴ tai²

I don't read any books.

(Again, as we pointed out, in English dou¹ doesn't have a direct translation)

Note: As mentioned earlier, this function of dou¹ is grammatically different from the dou¹ meaning 'also' (even though it's the same character)

8) Demonstratives *ni*¹ 'this', *go*² 'that'

The demonstratives *ni*¹ 'this', *go*² 'that' must be accompanied by a measure word.

Example:

*ni*¹ *go*³ *pang*⁴ *yau*⁵ 'this friend'
*ni*¹ *jo*⁶ *daai*⁶ *ha*⁶ 'this building'

*go*² *go*³ *tung*⁴ *hok*⁶ 'that classmate'
*go*² *bun*² *syu*¹ 'that book'

Family Terms (ga¹ juk⁶)

father	ba ⁴ ba ¹ / a ³ ba ⁴ / lou ² dau ⁶ (colloq.)
mother	ma ⁴ ma ¹ / a ³ ma ¹
brother (older)	go ⁴ go ¹ / a ³ go ¹ / daai ⁶ lou ² (colloq.)
<i>(younger)</i>	sai ³ lou ²
brothers	hing ¹ dai ⁶
sister (older)	ga ¹ je ¹
<i>(younger)</i>	sai ³ mui ² / mui ²
sisters	ji ² mui ²
son	jai ²
daughter	neui ²
husband	jeung ⁶ fu ¹ / lou ⁵ gung ¹ (colloq.)
wife	taai ³ taai ² / lou ⁵ po ⁴ (colloq.)

Paternal Relatives

grandfather	ye ⁴ ye ² / a ³ ye ⁴
grandmother	ma ⁴ ma ⁴ / a ³ ma ⁴
cousin (male, older)	tong ⁴ a ³ go ¹
<i>(male, younger)</i>	tong ⁴ sai ³ lou ²
<i>(female, older)</i>	tong ⁴ ga ¹ je ¹
<i>(female, younger)</i>	tong ⁴ sai ³ mui ²
uncle (older than father)	baak ³ fu ⁶
uncle's wife	baak ³ leung ⁴ / baak ³ mou ⁵
uncle (younger than father)	a ³ suk ¹
uncle's wife	a ³ sam ²
aunt (older than father)	gu ¹ ma ¹
<i>(younger than father)</i>	gu ¹ je ¹
aunt's husband	gu ¹ jeung ²

Maternal Relatives

grandfather	gung ¹ gung ¹ / a ³ gung ¹
grandmother	po ⁴ po ² / a ³ po ⁴
cousin (male, older)	biu ² go ¹
<i>(male, younger)</i>	biu ² dai ⁶
<i>(female, older)</i>	biu ² je ²
<i>(female, younger)</i>	biu ² mui ²
uncle	kau ⁵ fu ²
uncle's wife	kam ⁵ mou ²
aunt (older than mother)	yi ⁴ ma ¹
<i>(younger than mother)</i>	a ³ yi ¹
aunt's husband	yi ⁴ jeung ²

Lesson 4: Time and Date

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

John: wei⁶ Mary, nei⁵ hai⁶ m⁴ hai⁶ hai² Ga¹Jau¹ cheut¹sai³ a³?

Mary: m⁴ hai⁶, ngo⁵ hai² Nau²Yeuk³ cheut¹sai³.

John: o⁶, nei⁵ gei²si⁴ saang¹yat⁴ a³?

Mary: sap⁶yat¹yut⁶ ya⁶saam¹hou⁶.

John: yi²! jik¹hai⁶ Gam²Yan¹Jit³!

Mary: mou⁵ cho³! nei⁵ lei⁴ m⁴ lei⁴ ngo⁵ go³ pa¹ti⁴ a³?

John: gang²hai⁶ lei⁴ la¹! gei²dim² a³?

Mary: ye⁶maan⁵ gau²dim².

John: jou⁶me¹ gam³ ye⁶ a³?

Mary: yan¹wai⁶ gau²dim² ji¹chin⁴ ngo⁵ di¹ pang⁴yau⁵ m⁴ dak¹haan⁴.

Note: hai⁶ m⁴ hai⁶ is often contracted to hai⁶ mai⁶ in conversation

English Translation

John: Hey Mary, were you born in California?

Mary: Nope, I was born in New York.

John: Oh, when's your birthday?

Mary: November 23rd

John: Hey! That would be Thanksgiving!

Mary: That's right! Are you coming to my party?

John: Of course I'm coming! What time?

Mary: At night, 9pm

John: How come so late?

Mary: Because before 9pm, my friends won't be free

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

cheut ¹ sai ³	V	to be born
gei ² si ⁴	QW	when?
yut ⁶	N	month
hou ⁶	N	day; number
yi ² !	Interjection	Oh, hey!
jik ¹ hai ⁶	Expression	would be; that is
Gam ² Yan ¹ Jit ³	Proper Noun	Thanksgiving
mou ⁵ cho ³	Expression	Right on!
lei ⁴	V	to come
pa ¹ ti ⁴	N	party
gang ² hai ⁶	Adv	of course
la ¹	Part.	[used to lighten tone]
ye ⁶ maan ⁵	Time Word	at night
jou ⁶ me ¹ (me ¹ =mat ¹ ye ⁵)	QW	how come; why?
gam ³ + Adj.	Adv.	so; that (ex: so late)
...ji ¹ chin ⁴	Time Word	before...
ye ³	Adj.	late at night
dak ¹ haan ⁴	Adj.	to be free, not busy

Supplementary Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

jou ²	Adj.	early
chi ⁴	Adj.	late
jeun ² si ⁴	Adj.	on time
chi ⁴ dou ³	V	to arrive late

Dialogue 2 ::David runs into Mary as she goes to class::

Yale Romanization

Mary: wei⁶ David, nei⁵ heui³ bin¹ a³?

David: ngo⁵ heui³ sik⁶ faan⁶. nei⁵ sik⁶ jo² mei⁶ a³?

Mary: mei⁶ a³, daan³hai⁶ ngo⁵ ngaam¹ ngaam¹

English Translation

Mary: Hey David, where are you going?

David: I'm going to eat. Have you eaten yet?

Mary: I also haven't, but I just drank a milk tea. I

yam² jo² (yat¹) bui¹ naai⁵ cha⁴. ngo⁵ gam¹ yat⁶
yat¹ dim² bun³ sin¹ lok⁶ tong⁴. dou³ si⁴ sin¹ sik⁶ faan⁶.

David: o⁶... hai⁶ wo³, nei⁵ jou⁶ jo² fan⁶ jung¹ man⁴
gung¹ fo³ mei³ a³?

Mary: jou⁶ jo² la³, nei⁵ ne¹?

David: mei⁶ a³, ni¹ fan⁶ chiu¹ naan⁴ jou⁶ a³! dim²
syun³ a³?

Mary: yu⁴ gwo² ngo⁵ gam¹ maan¹ yau⁵ si⁴ gaan³
ge³ wa², ngo⁵ jau⁶ bong¹ nei⁵ la¹!

David: hou²! m⁴ goi¹ saai³!

Mary: m⁴ sai² haak³ hei³!

won't get off class until 1:30 today. I won't eat till then.

David: Oh...oh right, have you finished your Chinese homework?

Mary: I've done it, you?

David: Not yet, this one is really hard to do. What do I do?

Mary: If I have time tonight, then I'll help you!

David: Great, thanks a lot!

Mary: Don't mention it!

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

heui ³	V	to go
sik ⁶ faan ⁶	V	to eat (lit. eat rice)
-jo ²	Part.	[indicates completed action]
mei ⁶	Neg.	not yet
ngaam ¹ ngaam ¹	Adv	just a moment ago
yam ²	V	to drink
bui ¹	MW	a cup of
naai ⁵ cha ⁴	N	milk tea
gam ¹ yat ⁶	Time Word	today
sin ¹ (ji ³)	Adv.	not until; only then...
lok ⁶ tong ⁴	VO (Verb + Object)	to get off class
dou ³ si ⁴	Time Word/Adv	when the time comes
hai ⁶ wo ³	Expression	"Oh right!"
jou ⁶	V	to do
fan ⁶	MW	measure for copies of documents (report, newspaper, homework)
jung ¹ man ⁴	N	Chinese language
gung ¹ fo ³	N	homework
la ³ (sometimes laak ³)	Part.	[indicates affirmation; new situation; current relevance]
chiu ¹	Adv.	extremely (very colloq.)
dim ² syun ³ a ³ ?	Expression	"What do I do?"
yu ⁴ gwo ² ... (ge ³ wa ²)	Conj.	If...
jau ⁶	Conj./Adv	then, therefore
bong ¹	V	to help
m ⁴ goi ¹	V	to thank
saai ³		[indicates quantity 'all' and used for emphasis]
m ⁴ sai ²	Part.	no need to
haak ³ hei ³	Neg.	to be courteous; polite;

Supplementary Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

seung ⁵ tong ⁴	VO	to go to class
faan ¹ hok ⁶	VO	to go to school
faan ¹ gung ¹	VO	to go to work
faan ¹ uk ¹ kei ²	VO	to return/go home
fong ³ hok ⁶	VO	to get out of class/school
fong ³ gung ¹	VO	to get off work

jau2	V	to run, to leave
gaan1	MW	measure for certain buildings and structures
uk1 (MW: gaan1)	N	house
fong2 (MW:gaan1)	N	room
hok6haau6 (MW:gaan1)	N	school

Dialogue 3

Yale Romanization

Mary: wei⁶ Susan, ni¹paai⁴ hou² mong⁴ a⁴?
Susan: gang²hai⁶ la!¹ seng⁴yat⁶ dou¹ yiu³ heui³ gin³gung¹.
Mary: gam³ faai³?! nei⁵ gei²si⁴ bat¹yip⁶ a³?
Susan: gam¹nin² ng⁵yut⁶fan⁶. nei⁵ ne¹? nei⁵ bat¹yip⁶ mei⁶ a³?
Mary: mei⁶ a³.
Susan: dim²gaai² a³?
Mary: yan¹wai⁶ ngo⁵ seung² ha⁶ hok⁶kei⁴ heui³ Heung¹Gong² lau⁴hok⁶. gam²... nei⁵ bat¹yip⁶ ji¹hau⁴ seung² jou⁶ di¹ mat¹ye⁵ a³?
Susan: ngo⁵ seung⁵ wan² fan⁶ gung¹ jou⁶, daan⁶hai⁶ yi⁴ga¹ hou² naan⁴ wan² ye⁵ jou⁶ a³.

English Translation

Mary: Hey Susan, you really busy recently?
Susan: Of course, I always have to go to job interviews.
Mary: So fast?! When are you graduating?
Susan: In May of this year. How about you? Are you graduating yet?
Mary: Not yet.
Susan: Why?
Mary: Because next semester I want to go abroad to Hong Kong. So...after you graduate, what do you want to do?
Susan: I want to find a job to do, but now it's hard to find things (a job) to do.

Vocabulary

<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
mong4	Adj	busy
seng4yat6	Adv	all the time; all day
gin3gung1	VO	to go to an interview
faai3	Adj	fast
gei2si4	QW	when?
bat1yip6	V	to graduate
gam1nin2	Time Word	this year
# + yut6fan6	Time Word	in the month of...
seung2	V	to want to
lau4hok6	VO	to study abroad
hok6kei4	N	school semester
...ji1hau6	Time Word	after...
jou6	V	to do; to make
jou6 (jo2) di1 mat1ye5 a3?	Expression	what do (did) you do?
wan2	V	to find
fan6	MW	(same as in Dialogue 2)
gung1	N	work; job
naan4	Adj	difficult
ye5	N	things
jou6ye5	VO	to work (<i>lit. to do things</i>)

Grammar

1) Emphatic Sentence hai⁶...ge³

In Lesson 1, it was mentioned that the verb hai⁶ 'to be' only connects nouns. However, there exists a special usage of the verb hai⁶, which places emphasis on the clause following hai⁶. (*We actually used it once in Lesson 2*). It is used in situations where there is some sort of assumption or supposition. In English, this translates to something like "it is the case that..." or "it is that..."

ngo⁵ hai⁶ m⁴ jung¹yi³ yam² be¹jau² ge³. (yam² 'to drink'; be¹jau² 'beer')
I don't like to drink beer.

In yes/no question form, the construction is:

hai⁶ m⁴ hai⁶...ga³/a³? (ga³: ge³ + a³)

nei⁵ ting¹yat⁶ hai⁶ m⁴ hai⁶ heui³ Nau²Yeuk³ ga³/a³?
Are you going to New York tomorrow?

Note: Sometimes, a³ is used as the ending particle in both the statement and question form of this construction.

ngo⁵ hai⁶ jang¹ keui⁵ a³! gam² yau⁶ dim² a¹? (jang¹ 'to hate')
I do hate him! So what?

2) Time Words

Time words (or time adverbs) in Cantonese generally go at the beginning of the sentence/clause or directly after the subject. They indicate the time at which the situation or event in the sentence is occurring.

sing¹kei⁴yat¹ yiu³ haau²si³. Monday, (I) have to take a test.

keui⁵ kam⁴yat⁶ sik⁶ jo² ng⁵ go³ chaang². (chaang²: orange)
He ate 5 oranges yesterday.

3) Time Word Pattern: ...ji¹chin⁴ / ...ji¹hau⁶ "Before... / After..."

Placing ji¹chin⁴/ji¹hau⁶ after a verb phrase or after a noun/time phrase gives the meaning 'before.../after ...'

Examples:

sik⁶faan⁶ ji¹chin⁴ 'before eating' ng⁵yut⁶ ji¹hau⁶ 'after May'
saam¹dim² ji¹chin⁴ 'before 3 o'clock'
bat¹yip⁶ ji¹hau⁶ 'after graduation'

4) Dealing with Tense

In English, verbs must agree with their tense, in which information such as past, present, or future is indicated. In Cantonese, **no** such system of tense agreement exists with verbs. Instead Cantonese a different system called *aspect* exists, which does not deal with concepts such as past, present, or future, but instead utilizes certain aspectual particles along with time words to express the time and status of events and situations. Note the following examples:

ngo⁵ yi⁴ga¹ da² mong⁵kau⁴ Now I play tennis.

ngo⁵ yi⁵chin⁵ da² paang⁵kau⁴ (yi⁵chin⁴: before; in the past)
In the past, I played baseball.

ngo⁵ yi⁵chin⁵ da² gwo³ paang⁵kau⁴ (gwo³: [experiential particle])
I have played baseball before (meaning had the experience of)

ngo⁵ kam⁴yat⁶ da² jo² mong⁵kau⁴ (jo²: [aspectual particle])
I played tennis yesterday. (Meaning the action was completed)

5) Aspect Particle *jo*² (completed action)

The particle *jo*² is typically used to indicate that some action occurring in the past has completed, but it is by no means equivalent to the English simple past tense, though sometimes it translates that way. In several cases, it is rather close to the English perfect (has V-ed), because it involves time up to the present.

Statements with *jo*² have the following pattern:

*Subject + Verb + jo*² + *Object*

Examples:

keui⁵ sik⁶ *jo*² faan⁶ la³. 'He has eaten dinner'

ngo⁵ yam² *jo*² saam¹ bui¹ ga³ fe¹. 'I drank 3 cups of coffee'

ngo⁵ hai² Paak³ Hak¹ Loi⁴ duk⁶ *jo*² leung⁵ nin⁴ syu¹.
'I have studied at Berkeley for two years.'

nei⁵ duk⁶ *jo*² gei² do¹ nin⁴ jung¹ man⁴ a³?
'How many years of Chinese have you taken?'

To ask a yes/no question with *jo*² the pattern is:

*Subject + Verb + jo*² + *Object + mei*⁶

Example:

nei³ sik⁶ *jo*² faan⁶ mei⁶ a³? 'Have you eaten dinner?'

nei³ faan¹ *jo*² uk¹ kei² mei⁶ a³? 'Have you gone home yet?'

In the response, the object may be omitted, for example:

sik⁶ *jo*² la³ 'I've eaten' faan¹ *jo*² la³ 'I've returned'

6) Negative *mei*⁶ 'not yet'

The verbal negative *mei*⁶ simply means that an action or event has not taken place yet. As such, it suggests such an action or event may occur. *mei*⁶ can be reinforced with the adverb *jung*⁶ 'still' for emphasis, but it is not needed for the basic negation.

Examples:

ngo⁵ mei⁶ sik⁶ faan⁶ 'I have not eaten yet'

keui⁵ jung⁶ mei⁶ seung⁵ tong⁴! 'He still hasn't gone to class yet'

7) Particle *la*³ (*laak*³) (affirmation, new situation, current relevance)

The sentence-final particle *la*³ is used quite often in various contexts. When used in a response to a "*jo*²...*mei*⁶?" question it adds a sense of affirmation and finality.

Example:

nei⁵ bat¹ *jo*² yip⁶ mei⁶ a³? 'Have you graduated yet?'

bat¹ *jo*² (yip⁶) la³ 'I've graduated'

keui⁵ jau² *jo*² mei⁶ a³? 'Did he leave yet?'

jau² *jo*² la³ 'Yes, he left'

In other situations, the sentence with *la*³ indicates that the statement is a new situation or what is mentioned has some current relevance.

chaai¹yan⁴ lei⁴ *la*³! 'The cops are coming!'

ngo⁵ m⁴ jou⁶ go² fan⁶ gung¹ *la*³! 'I'm not working at that job anymore!'

ngo⁵ duk²jo² gei²sap⁶ chi³ *la*³! (*gei²sap⁶*: several tens; *chi³*: MW times)
'I've read it dozens of times! (*Let's say someone says you've never read it.*)'

8) Question Words Overview

Here's a list of question words:

bin ¹ go ³	'who?'	gei ² si ⁴	'when?'
bin ¹ dou ⁶	'where?'	gei ² dim ² (jung ²)	'what time?'
bin ¹ + MW	'which...?'	gei ² do ¹ + MW	'how many...?'
mat ¹ ye ⁵	'what?'	gei ² + adj.	'how (adj.)...'
dim ² yeung ² + V	'how?'	jou ⁶ me ¹	'how could it be...?, how is it that...?'
dim ² gaai ²	'why?'		
dim ²	'how?'		

9) Sentences with Several Verbs

In Cantonese, you can link several verbs together in sequence to form sentences, which in English would have to be done with helping words and particles. Part of this is due to the flexibility in function of certain words like *heui*³ 'to go' and *lei*⁴ 'to come'. The following somewhat nonsensical sentence illustrates this point; verbs are italicized.

keui⁵ *heui*³ jo² wan² yan⁴ lei⁴ ni¹dou⁶ bong¹ ngo⁵ lam² baan⁶faat⁶ *heui*³ wan² chin².
he- go- [part.]- find- person- come- here- help- me- think- method- go- find money.
He went to find someone to come here and help me think of a way to go and make money.

10) Verbs: *seung*² + verb 'to want to' and *yiui*³ + verb 'to need to; to have to'

This pattern has the English meanings above only when patterned with verbs phrases. When patterned with nouns or whole sentences, they have different meanings, so pay attention to the context. The following examples show how to indicate *wants* and *needs*.

Example:

ngo⁵ *seung*² sei³dim² sik⁶faan⁶.
'I want to eat at 4 o'clock.'

ngo⁵ *yiui*³ sei³dim² sik⁶faan⁶.
'I have to eat at 4 o'clock.'

nei⁵ dim²gaai² *seung*² duk⁶ jung¹man⁴ a³?
'Why do you want to study Chinese?'

nei⁵ dim²gaai² *yiui*³ duk⁶ jung¹man⁴ a³?
'Why do you have to study Chinese?'

11) Possessives in Cantonese

There are several ways to form the possessive in Cantonese. Depending on the situation, more than one form may be allowed.

a) Possessor + Measure Word + Possessed

This is the preferred colloquial construction used for nouns that have associated measure words

Examples:

ngo⁵ go³ pang⁴ yau⁵ keui⁵ jek³ gau² nei⁵ gaan¹ uk¹
'My friend' 'His dog' 'Your house'

To indicate plural number, the measure word *di1* can be used.

ngo⁵ di¹ pang⁴ yau⁵ nei⁵ dei⁶ di¹ man⁶ tai⁴
'my friends' 'your (pl.) questions/problems'

b) Possessor + *ge³* + Possessed

This construction tends to be used in formal contexts (i.e. news broadcast), or when there is no associated measure word.

Mei⁵ Gwok³ ge³ ging¹ jai³ ni¹ dou⁶ ge³ fuk⁶ mou⁶ (also *di¹*)
'America's economy' 'the service here'

However, when you use *ge³* with nouns that definitely have a measure word, the number becomes ambiguous and it could sometimes sound more awkward.

Example:

ngo⁵ ge³ pang⁴ yau⁵ (in this case, *go³* or *di¹* is preferred)
'my friend(s)'

Mei⁵ Gwok³ ge³ daai⁶ hok⁶ (both *ge³* and *di¹* are acceptable)
'America's schools'

nei⁵ ge³ gai³ waak⁶ (also *go³*)
'your plan'

Note: In cases where the possessor is a pronoun and the possessed is a kinship term or closely linked to the possessor, the possessive marker may be omitted, for example: *ngo⁵ ma⁴ ma¹* 'my mother', *nei⁵ uk¹ kei²* 'your home'

c) Possessor + *ni¹/go²* + Measure Word + Possessed

The *ni¹/go²* can be added to further specify the possessed item.

Examples:

ngo⁵ ni¹ fan⁶ gung¹ nei⁵ go² gaan¹ uk¹
'this job of mine' 'that house of yours'

12) Adverb *sin¹(ji³)* 'not until.../only then...'

The adverb *sin¹(ji³)* actually has a meaning of 'only then...', but 'not until', despite being a negative, is the closest equivalent in English. This is just one of the meanings of *sin¹(ji³)*.

Examples:

ngo⁵ bat¹ jo² yip⁶ sin¹ ji³ wan² gung¹.
'I won't look for work until after I graduate.'

keui⁵ ng⁵ dim² sin¹ dou³. 'He isn't arriving until 5 o'clock.'

It can also be used to emphasize a contrast.

Examples:

keui⁵ sin¹ji³ hai⁶ go³ hou² hok⁶saang¹
 'Now, he is (what you would call) a good student'

ngo⁵ sin¹ji³ m⁴ jung¹yi³. 'Now, I for one, don't like it'

13) Adverb *gam*³ + Adj 'so...; that...'

The adverb *gam*³ patterns with an adjective to give emphasis to it.

Examples:

*gam*³ gwai³ *gam*³ naan⁴jou⁶ *gam*³ hou² a⁴?
 'so expensive' 'so difficult to do' 'that great?'

yu⁶gwo² keui³ *gam*³ lek¹, jou⁶me¹ keui³ m⁴sik¹ jou⁶ ga⁶? (*sik*¹: to know)
 'if he's that smart, how come he doesn't know how to do it?'

14) Pattern: *yu*⁴*gwo*²... (*ge*³*wa*²), (subject) + *jau*⁶ + ... 'if...,then...'

In a statement, the *yu*⁴*gwo*² introduces the condition, and then the *jau*⁶ is used in the second clause to indicate the consequence or result. *jau*⁶ can be omitted depending on context.

Examples:

*yu*⁴*gwo*² ngo⁵ yau⁵ si⁴gaan³, *jau*⁶ lei⁴ nei⁵ go³ saang¹yat⁶ pa¹ta¹ (la¹!)
 'If I have time, then I'll come to your birthday party'

*yu*⁴*gwo*² m⁴sik¹ jou⁶ ni¹ fan⁶ gung¹fo³, *jau*⁶ dim²syun³ a³?
 'If I don't know how to do this homework, then what am I going to do?'

*yu*⁴*gwo*² ngo⁵ gam¹nin² bat¹yip⁶ ge³wa², yi⁴ga¹ *jau*⁶ yiu³ heui³ wan²gung¹
 ge³ la³.
 'If I graduate this year, then I'll have to go find a job now'

Time and Date Overview

Time

Times on the Hour are simply #Hr + dim (or dim² jung¹). Hours + Minutes are expressed as #Hr + dim² + #Min + fan¹.

Example:

1:14 yat¹ dim² sap⁶ sei³ fan¹
 11:00 sap⁶ yat¹ dim² [jung¹]
 2:30 leung⁵ dim² bun³

Other ways of Expressing Minutes:

Daap⁶ + Clock Number

Example: daap⁶ 7 = 35 fan¹

Clock Number + go³ ji³

Example: 3 go³ ji³ = 15 fan¹

Specifying Times of Days

To specify time of day, place the following time words before the time

morning	jiu ¹ jou ² , yat ¹ jou ² , jou ² seung ⁶ (fml.)	afternoon	aan ³ jau ³ , ha ⁶ ng ⁵ (fml.)
evening, night	ye ⁶ maan ⁵ , mann ⁵ seung ⁶ (fml.)	midnight	bun ³ ye ²
		early morning	ling ⁴ san ⁴

Day (Relative)

today	gam ¹ yat ⁶	yesterday	kam ⁴ /cham ⁴ yat ⁶
tomorrow	ting ¹ yat ⁶	the day before	chin ⁴ yat ⁶
the day after	hau ⁶ yat ⁶	yesterday	

Abbreviated Forms

<u>Time Of Day</u>	<u>Yesterday</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Tomorrow</u>
Morning	kam ⁴ yat ⁶ jiu ¹	gam ¹ jiu ¹	ting ¹ jiu ¹
Afternoon	kam ⁴ yat ⁶ aan ³ jau ³	gam ¹ yat ⁶ aan ³ jau ³	ting ¹ yat ⁶ aan ³ jau ³
Night	kam ⁴ maan ⁵	gam ¹ maan ⁵	ting ¹ maan ⁵

Days of the Week

The days of the week are expressed with lai⁵ baai³ or sing¹ kei⁴, both expressions are used interchangeably in conversation.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
sing ¹ kei ⁴ yat ¹ lai ⁵ baai ³ yat ¹	sing ¹ kei ⁴ yi ⁶ lai ⁵ baai ³ yi ⁶	sing ¹ kei ⁴ saam ³ lai ⁵ baai ³ saam ³	sing ¹ kei ⁴ sei ³ lai ⁵ baai ³ sei ³	sing ¹ kei ⁴ ng ⁵ lai ⁵ baai ³ ng ⁵	sing ¹ kei ⁴ luk ⁶ lai ⁵ baai ³ luk ⁶	sing ¹ kei ⁴ yat ⁶ lai ⁵ baai ³ yat ⁶

Month

Months are expressed by Number + Yut⁶

January	yat ¹ yut ⁶	July	chat ¹ yut ⁶
February	yi ⁶ yut ⁶	August	baat ³ yut ⁶
March	saam ³ yut ⁶	September	gau ² yut ⁶
April	sei ³ yut ⁶	October	sap ⁶ yut ⁶
May	ng ⁵ yut ⁶	November	sap ⁶ yat ¹ yut ⁶
June	luk ⁶ yut ⁶	December	sap ⁶ yi ⁶ yut ⁶

Date

Dates are expressed by Number + hou⁶ (formal: number + yat⁶)

Example: 10/31 sap⁶ yut⁶ saam¹ sap⁶ yat¹ hou⁶

Year

Years are expressed by Number + nin⁴

When reading the years, read each number individually, unlike counting

Example: 1996 yat¹ gau² gau² luk⁶ nin⁴
 2008 yi⁶ ling⁴ ling⁴ baat³ nin⁴

Weeks and Months (Relative)

This is expressed by *seung⁶ go³* (last) and *ha⁶ go³* (next)

this week	ni ¹ go ³ sing ¹ kei ⁴	this month	ni ¹ go ³ yut ⁶
	gam ¹ go ³ sing ¹ kei ⁴		gam ¹ go ³ yut ⁶
last week	seung ⁶ go ³ sing ¹ kei ⁴	last month	seung ⁶ go ³ yut ⁶
next week	ha ⁶ go ³ sing ¹ kei ⁴	next month	ha ⁶ go ³ yut ⁶

Beginning of the month	~ yat ⁶ tau ⁴ ~ yut ⁶ cho ¹	Middle of the month	~ yut ⁶ jung ¹	End of the month	~ yut ⁶ mei ⁵ ~ yut ⁶ dai ²
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Years (Relative)

this year	gam ¹ nin ²	next year	cheut ¹ nin ²
last year	gau ⁶ nin ²		ha ⁶ nin ²
	seung ⁶ nin ²		ming ⁴ nin ⁴ (fml)
	heui ³ nin ⁴ (fml)	year after next	hau ⁶ nin ²
year before last	chin ² nin ²		

More Complex Examples (note the order in Chinese)

Wed, 9/20/2006: yi⁶ ling⁴ ling⁴ luk⁶ nin⁴, gau² yut⁶ yi⁶ sap⁶ hou⁶, sing⁴ kei⁴ saam³

End of August of Next Year: cheut¹ nin² baat³ yut⁶ mei⁵

Next Thursday at 8:20 PM: ha⁶ go³ sing¹ kei⁴ sei³, ye⁶ maan⁵ baat³ dim² yi⁶ sap⁶ fan¹

Lesson 5: Hobbies

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

Susan: wei⁶ David, nei⁵ cham⁴ yat⁶ yau⁵ mou⁵ heui³ cheung³ K a³?

David: ngo⁵ mou⁵ heui³ a³. nei⁵ ne¹?

Susan: ngo⁵ dou¹ mou⁵ heui³. nei⁵ cheung³ gwo³ K mei⁶ a³?

David: mei³ a³. ngo⁵ bun² loi⁴ seung² heui³ ge³, daan⁶ hai⁶ ngo⁵ kam⁴ yat⁶ m⁴ dak¹ haan⁴.

Susan: ngo⁵ dei⁶ ha⁶ go³ sing¹ kei⁴ yat¹ chat⁴ heui³, hou² m⁴ hou² a³?

David: hou² a³! ngo⁵ yau⁵ gei² sau² go¹ seung² cheung³.

Susan: hai⁶ a⁴? bin¹ gei² sau² a³?

David: gei² sau² Twins ge³ go¹ lo¹.

Susan: ha¹ ha¹, nei¹ dou¹ jung¹ yi³ Twins a⁴?! keui⁵ dei⁶ sik¹ m⁴ sik¹ cheung³ go³ ga³?

David: m⁴ gan² yiu³. hai⁶ ngo⁵ heui³ cheung³ K, m⁴ hai⁶ keui⁵ dei⁶.

Susan: ai¹ ya⁴ sei⁴ la³. nei⁵ jung⁶ cha¹ gwo³ keui⁵ dei⁶!

Note: hai⁶ m⁴ hai⁶ is often contracted to hai⁶ mai⁶ in conversation

English Translation

Susan: Hey David, did you go to karaoke yesterday?

David: I did not go, did you?

Susan: I also did not go. Have you been to karaoke before?

David: Nope, never. I originally wanted to go, but I wasn't free yesterday.

Susan: How about we go together next week, does that sound good?

David: Ok! There are few songs I want to sing.

Susan: Really? Which songs?

David: A few of Twins' songs.

Susan: Haha, you also like Twins?! Do they even know how to sing?

David: That's not important. I'm the one going to karaoke, not them.

Susan: Oh no! You're even worse than them!

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

cheung³

dou¹

gwo³

bun² loi⁴

seung²

sau²

sik¹

m⁴ gan² yiu³

sei⁴ la³

jung⁶

cha¹

Part of Speech

K VO (Verb + Object)

Adv

Particle

Adv

V

MW

V

Expression

Expression

Adv

Adj

English Meaning

to sing karaoke

also

[indicates experience]

originally

to want to

measure for songs

to know (how to)

it's not important; it doesn't matter

"oh no; damn"

still

to be bad

Dialogue 2 :: Leo arrives at the tennis court, where Ben is practicing. ::

Yale Romanization

Leo: wei⁶ Ben, nei⁵ dang²-jo² hou² noi⁶ la⁴?

Ben: m⁴ hai⁶, ngo⁵ dou¹ ngaam¹ ngaam¹ dou³ je¹.

Leo: nei⁵ hai² dou⁶ jou⁶-gan² mat¹ ye⁵ a³?

Ben: mou⁵ mat¹ ye⁵, lin⁶-gan² bo¹ je¹.

Leo: gam² di¹ bo² hai² bin¹ a³?

Ben: da² saai³ cheut¹ gaai¹ lo¹.

Leo: yau⁵ mou⁵ gaau² cho³ a³?! nei⁵ sik¹ m⁴ sik⁴ da² ga³?

Ben: gang² hai⁶ m⁴ sik¹ la¹! yu⁴ gwo² ngo⁵ sik¹ da² mong⁵ kau⁴, ngo⁵ jau⁶ m⁴ sai² lin⁶ la¹!

Leo: gam² yau⁶ hai⁶. ngo⁵ yi⁴ ga¹ tung⁴ nei⁵ da¹ yat¹ cheung⁴ mong⁵ kau⁴, hou² m⁴ hou² a³?

English Translation

Leo: Hey Ben, did you wait for a long time?

Ben: Nope, I also just got here.

Leo: What are you doing here?

Ben: Nothing much, just practicing tennis.

Leo: So where are all the balls?

Ben: I hit them all out into the street.

Leo: What the heck?! Do you know how to play?

Ben: Of course I don't know how. If I knew how to play tennis, I wouldn't need to practice.

Leo: That's true. How about I play one game (of tennis) with you now, is that ok?

Ben: hou²...daan⁶hai⁶ ngo⁵dei⁶ mou³ saai³ bo¹ la³,
dim²syun³ a³?

Ben: ok...but, we're all out of balls, what do we do?

Leo: nei⁵ seung² m⁴ seung² heui³ jap¹ a³?

Leo: Do you want to go pick (them up)?

Note: hai² bin¹ is short for hai² bin¹ dou⁶

係唔係 is often contracted to 係咪 in conversation. 嘅邊 is short for 嘅邊度

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

dang ²	V	to wait
noi ⁶	Adj	long (time)
dou ³	V	to arrive
je ¹	Particle	[only, just]
hai ² dou ⁶	Expression	to be here; there
gan ²	Particle	[progressive action]
mou ⁵ mat ¹ ye ⁵	Expression	"nothing much"
lin ⁶	V	to practice
bo ¹	N	ball
da ²	V	to hit
cheut ¹	V	to go out
gai ¹	N	street
mong ⁵ kau ⁴	N	tennis
m ⁴ sai ²	V	no need to
gam ² yau ⁶ hai ⁶	Expression	that's right; that's true
cheung ⁴	MW	measure for sports match, movie showing, theatrical performance
jap ¹	V	to pick up

Dialogue 3

Yale Romanization

Fiona: wei⁶ Stella, nei⁵ dak¹haan⁴ jung¹yi³ jou³ di¹ mat¹ye⁵ a³?

Stella: ngo⁵ jung¹yi³ tai²-ha⁵ lin⁴juk⁶kek⁶.

Fiona: nei⁵ jung¹yi³ bin¹ di¹ kek⁶jaap⁶ a³?

Stella: yan¹wai⁴ ni¹paai⁴ hon⁴kek⁶ hou² lau⁴hang⁴, so²yi⁵ ngo⁵ tai²-jo² hou² do¹ hon⁴kek⁶.

Fiona: nei⁵ jung¹yi³ bin¹ tou³ a³?

Stella: ngo⁵ ngaam¹ngaam¹ tai² yun⁴ yat¹ tou³, giu³jou⁶ Long⁶Maan⁶Mun⁵Uk¹.

Fiona: hou² m⁴ hou²tai² a³?

Stella: chiu¹ hou²tai² a³. nei⁵ tai²-gwo³ mei⁶ a³?

Fiona: ngo⁵ tai²-gwo³ yat¹ ci³, daan⁶hai⁶ ngo⁵ gok³dak¹ m⁴ hou²tai².

Note: hai² bin¹ is short for hai² bin¹ dou⁶

English Translation

Fiona: Hey Stella, when you're free what kind of things you do you like to do?

Stella: I like to watch a bit of TV drama series.

Fiona: Which dramas do you like to watch?

Stella: Since Korean dramas have been really popular, I've watched a lot of Korean dramas.

Fiona: Which one do you like?

Stella: I just finished watching one called "Full House."

Fiona: Was it good?

Stella: It was super good! Have you seen it before?

Fiona: I saw it once, but thought it wasn't good.

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

Part of Speech

English Meaning

kek ⁶ jaap ⁶	N	dramas
hon ⁴ kek ⁶	N	Korean dramas
tai ²	V	to watch; to see
tou ³	MW	measure for sets of things
yun ⁴	Particle	[indicates a finish or end]
giu ³ jou ⁶	V	to be called

Long⁶Maan⁶Mun⁵Uk¹
 ci³
 gok³dak¹

Proper Noun
 MW
 V

“Full House” (a Korean drama)
 measure for ‘a time’ (occurrences)
 to think that; to find that

Grammar

1) *yau⁵/mou⁵* + Verb (Referring to the Past)

When used in a question or negative statements that refer to the past, the verbs *yau⁵/mou⁵* ‘to have/to not have’ functions somewhat like the V + *jo²* (+*mei⁶*) construction that you have learned in the previous lesson. In English, it sometimes translates to “did/did not V”. Unlike the V + *jo²* (+*mei⁶*), there is no indication that the event may happen, it simply negates the event.

Examples:

nei⁵ *yau⁵* *mou⁵* sik⁶ faan⁶ a³?
 ‘Did you eat?’

yau⁵ (a³). (here, the a³ softens the tone)
 ‘Yes.’

keui⁵ gam¹jju¹ *mou⁵* seung⁵tong⁴
 ‘I did not go to class this morning’

When used outside the context of a question, the affirmative *yau⁵* is used for emphasizing a past event.

kam⁴yat⁶ *mou⁵* yan⁴ heui³ tai²hei³.
 ‘Yesterday, no one went to watch movies’

m⁴hai⁶ a³! ngo⁵ *yau⁵* heui⁵!
 ‘No, I *did* go!’

2) Aspect particle *gwo³* (Experience)

The aspect particle *gwo³* attaches to verbs and indicates that an action has occurred at least once before and suggests the meaning of experience.

Example:

ngo⁵ heui³-*gwo³* Heung¹Gong² saam³ chi³.
 ‘I have been to Hong Kong three times’

keui⁵ da²-*gwo³* juk¹kau⁴ tung⁴maai⁴ mong⁵kau⁴.
 ‘He has played soccer and tennis’

The negative form is usually *mei⁶* + Verb + *gwo³* + Object

ngo⁵ mei⁶ sik⁶-*gwo³* si⁶do¹be¹lei²
 ‘I have never eaten strawberries’

nei⁵ teng¹-*gwo³* Twins mei⁶ a³?
 ‘Have you every heard of Twins (a pop duo in HK)’

3) Adverbs *dou¹* and *yau⁶* ‘also’

While both *dou¹* and *yau⁶* are both adverbs that mean ‘also’, they differ on what is being modified.

The adverb *dou¹* modifies the subject of the sentence.

ngo⁵ hou² jung¹yi³ Heung¹Gong²
 ‘I like Hong Kong a lot.’

keui⁵ dou¹ hou² jung¹yi³ Heung¹Gong²
 'He also likes Hong Kong a lot.'

The adverb *yau⁶* modifies the predicate of the sentence.
 ngo⁵ *yau⁶* hou² jung¹yi³ Saan¹Faan⁴Si⁵
 'I also like San Francisco a lot'

keui⁵ sik⁶-jo² leung⁵ go³ ping⁴gwo². keui⁵ *yau⁶* sik⁶-jo² saam¹ go³ chaang².
 'He ate two apples. He also ate three oranges'

4) Aspect particle *gan²* (Progressive On-going Action)

The aspect particle *gan²* is attached to verb to indicate that the action is in progress, and is similar to the English *-ing* form of verbs.

Sometimes *gan²* is reinforced by *hai²dou²* 'to be here, there'
 keui⁵ *hai²dou⁶* gong²-gan² din⁶wa² (*gong²*: to talk, *din⁶wa²*: phone)
 'He's talking on the phone'

You can also use *hai²dou⁶* when talking about the presence of sometime.
 sin¹saang¹ *hai²* m⁴ *hai²dou⁶* a³? keui⁵yi⁴ga¹ m⁴ *hai²dou⁶*
 'Is the teacher here' 'He's not here now'

5) Definiteness of Nouns

In Cantonese, you can make nouns definite by adding the corresponding measure word.

Example:

bun² syu¹ hai² bin¹ a³?
 'Where is the book?'

di¹ yan⁴ jau² saai³.
 'The people all left'

go³ sai³lou⁶ hou² lek¹.
 'The kid is very smart'

tou³ hei³ m⁴ hou²tai²
 'the movie wasn't good'

6) Resultative Complements

In Chinese, verbs often take on a verbal complement, which indicates the result of an action. In English, many times the meaning of what is expressed by the complement is instead encoded in the verb itself, or via other methods. One example of a resultative in English the following sentence: He swept the floor clean. The resultative adjective 'clean' is the result of the action 'sweep'.

In this lesson, the two resultatives are: (a) **V+saai³** 'all, completely' and (b) **Verb + yun⁴** 'finished'

(a) Resultative Complement V + saai³ 'all, completely'

The particle *saai³* is attached to verbs to indicate the quantity 'all'. Note that in Verb-Object compounds, *saai³* comes after the verb and before the object.

When the verb is intransitive, then the *saai³* will quantify the subject of the sentence. Example:

di¹ hok⁶saang¹ fan³ saai³ gaau³ (fan³gaau³: to sleep)
 'The students all went to sleep'

When the verb is transitive, then the *saai³* will quantify the object of the sentence.

Example:

keui³ yam² saai³ di¹ naai⁵ cha⁴ ngo⁵ tai² saai² ni¹ di¹ kek⁶ jaap⁶
 'He drank all the milk tea' 'I watched all these dramas'

(b) Resultative Complement V + *yun*⁴ 'finished'

The resultative complement *yun*⁴ is attached to verbs to indicate that an action has been finished or ended. Sometimes it carries the same meaning of the aspect particle *jo*², but *yun*⁴ specifically indicates that some process has finished in its entirety.

Examples:

ngo⁵ tai² *yun*⁴ din⁶ si⁶ la³.
 'I have finished watching TV.'

keui¹ ngaam¹ ngaam¹ seung⁵ *yun*⁴ tong⁴
 'He just finished class'

7) Final Particle *je*¹ 'only; that's all'

The particle *je*¹ plays down an action or an quantity, and has the meaning of 'just' or 'only'

ngo⁵ tai²-ha⁵ *je*¹ yat¹ go³ jung¹ tau⁴ *je*¹
 'I'm only taking a look!' 'It's just one hour!'

8) Aspect particle *ha*⁵ "do...for a bit/for a while"

The aspect particle *ha*⁵ is attached to verbs to indicate an action goes on 'for a little bit or little while'. There's no direct English translation.

Examples:

cheung⁵-*ha*⁵ K da²-*ha*⁵ bo¹ yam²-*ha*⁵ jau²
 'sing some karaoke' 'play some ball' 'have a drink'

si³-*ha*⁵ lam²-*ha*⁵ tai²-*ha*⁵
 'give it a try' 'think for a moment' 'take a look'

ngo⁵ dak¹ haan⁴ jung¹ yi³ haang⁴-*ha*⁵ gaai¹ (*haang*⁴*gaai*¹: 'to go out/to shop')
 'When I have free time I like to go out and shop a bit.'

9) Forming adjectives with *hou*² + verb

The word *hou*² 'good' combines with certain verbs to express the meaning that something is good with respect to a certain activity. This is translated in various ways in English.

Examples:

*hou*²waan² *hou*²sik⁶ *hou*²tai²
 'fun (to play)' 'delicious (to eat)' 'enjoyable (to watch, to read)'

*hou*²teng¹ *hou*²yam²
 'good (to listen to)' 'delicious (to drink)'

*hou*²se²
 'good to write with (i.e.: a pen)'

ni¹ bun² syu¹ *hou*²tai² ni¹ go³ yau⁴ hei³ *hou*²waan² (*yau*⁴*hei*³: game)
 'This book is interesting' 'This game is fun'

ni¹ ji¹ bat¹ *hou*²se² (*ji*¹: MW for stick like objects; *bat*¹: pen)

'This pen is good to write with'

10) Verbal Complement *yun*⁴ 'finished V'

The resultative complement *yun*⁴ is attached to verbs to indicate that an action has been finished or ended. Sometimes it carries the same meaning of the aspect particle *jo*², but *yun*⁴ specifically indicates that the action has ended.

Examples:

ngo⁵ tai² *yun*⁴ din⁶si⁶ la³. keui¹ ngaam¹ngaam¹ seung⁵ *yun*⁴ tong⁴
 'I have finished watching TV.' 'He just finished class'

11) Expression ...*gok*³*dak*¹ ... '...think that...'

This expression indicates that opinion of the subject, and can be directly translated into the English as 'to think that...', 'to find that...'

Examples:

nei³ gok³dak¹ dim² a³?
 'How do you find it?/What do you think of it?'

keui⁵ gok³dak¹ m⁴ hou²waan².
 'He thinks (it's) not fun'

Hobbies

play ball (<i>hit the ball</i>)	da ² bo ¹	
~basketball	da ² laam ⁴ kau ⁴	
~baseball	da ² paang ⁵ kau ⁴	
~volleyball	da ² paai ⁴ kau ⁴	
~football	da ² mei ⁵ sik ¹ juk ¹ kau ⁴	
~ping pong	da ² bing ¹ bam ¹ bo ¹	
~tennis	da ² mong ⁵ kau ⁴	
~golf	da ² go ¹ yi ⁵ fu ¹ kau ⁴	
~badminton	da ² yu ⁵ mou ⁴ kau ⁴	
play soccer (<i>kick~</i>)	tek ³ juk ¹ kau ⁴ (tek ³ bo ¹)	
swimming	yau ⁴ seui ²	
surf	waat ⁶ long ⁶	
ski	waat ⁶ syut ³	
run	paau ² bou ⁶	
riding a bike	chaai ² /yaa ² daan ¹ che ¹	
sing / karaoke	cheung ³ go ¹ /cheung ³ K	
listen to music	teng ¹ yam ¹ ngok ⁶	
dance	tiu ³ mou ⁵	
play chess (or similar game)	juk ¹ kei ²	
play video/pc games	da ² gei ¹	
shop	maai ⁵ ye ⁵	
go to the mall	haang ⁴ gung ¹ si ¹ /seung ¹ cheung ⁴	(also: kwaang ³)
go out (to shop)	haang ⁴ gaai ²	
study/read books	duk ⁶ syu ¹	
eat	sik ⁶ ye ⁵	
drink alcohol	yam ² jau ²	
sleep	fan ³ gaau ³	
watch TV	tai ² din ⁶ si ⁶	
~movies	tai ² hei ⁶	MW: cheut ¹ , tou ³
~TV series	kek ⁶ jaap ⁶	MW: tou ³
talk on the phone	gong ² / king ¹ din ⁶ wa ²	
<i>Slang - too excessively:</i>		
~talk on phone	bou ¹ din ⁶ wa ² juk ¹	
~watch videos/series	bou ¹ daai ² /bou ¹ kek ⁶ jaap ⁶	

Lesson 6: Transportation

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

*Subway Announcement: lit⁶che¹ jik¹jeung¹
dou³daat⁶, ching² sin¹yeung⁶ che¹ seung⁶
sing⁴haak³ lok⁶che¹ (followed by Mandarin, English)
(Kevin's phone rings)*

Kevin: wei²!

Jerry: wei⁶ Kevin! Jerry a³! nei⁵ yi⁴ga¹ hai² bin¹ a³?

Kevin: ngo⁵ yi⁴ga¹ daap³-gan² ba¹si², jau⁶faai³ dou³
la³! nei⁵ ne¹?

Jerry: ngo⁵ ngaam¹ngaam¹ seung⁵-jo² dei⁶ti³.
hai⁶wo³, nei⁵kyut³ding⁶-jo² heui³ bin¹dou⁶ yam²cha⁶
mei⁶ a³?

Kevin: ngo⁵dei⁶ heui³ Fun¹Lok³Lau⁴, hou²-m⁴-hou²
a³?

Jerry: hou² a⁶! dim² heu...?

*Subway Announcement: ching²mat⁶ kaau³gan⁶
che¹mun⁴ (followed by Mandarin, English)*

Kevin: ...dang², jan⁶gaan¹ gin³! baai¹baai¹!

Jerry: mat¹ye⁵wa²? wei², wei², wei²?

English Translation

*Subway Announcement: The train is arriving.
Please let passengers exit first.*

Kevin: Hello?

Jerry: Hey Kevin. It's Jerry. Where are you right now?

Kevin: I'm riding the bus now, about to arrive.
What about you?

Jerry: I just got on the subway. Oh yea, have you decided where to go to have dim sum yet.

Kevin: We'll go to Happy Happy Restaurant, how's that sound?

Jerry: Sounds good, how do I get...?

Subway Announcement: Please stand back from the doors.

Kevin: ...wait. See you in a bit! Bye!

Jerry: What?? Hello? Hello? Hello?

Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

mat¹ye⁵wa²?

Daap³

jau⁶faai³

dei⁶ti³

kyut³ding⁶

yam²cha⁴

che¹mun⁴

jan⁶gaan¹

lok⁶che¹

gin³

Part of Speech

Expression

V

Adv

N

V

VO

N

Time Word/Adv

VO

V

English Meaning

What did you say?

to take/ride

about to, soon

subway

to decide

to have dim sum

car door

in a while, soon; a moment

to get off, alight

to see; to meet

Extra Vocabulary

Yale Romanization

sing⁴haak³

jik¹jeung¹

dou³daat⁶

yeung⁶

lit⁶che³

ching²mat⁶...

kaau³gan⁶

Part of Speech

N

Adv

V

V

N

V

Expression

English Meaning

passenger (fml.)

about to; soon (fml.)

to arrive (fml.)

to yield to, to let

train (fml.)

Please do not...(fml.)

to get close to, near (fml.)

Dialogue 2

Yale Romanization

Jerry: bai⁶ la³, haang⁴ cho³-jo² lou⁶. siu²je²,
cheng²man⁶, ngo⁵ seung² heui³ Tong⁴Yan⁴Fau⁶.
nei⁵ji¹-m⁴-ji¹ dim² haang⁴ a³?

Passer-by: la⁴, nei⁵ sau²sin¹ hai² ni¹go³ gaai¹hou²

English Translation

Jerry: Shoot! I went the wrong way. Excuse me, miss. I want to go to Chinatown. Do you know how to get there?

Passer-by: Here, first you turn right on this

jyun³ yau⁶, yin⁴ji¹hau⁶ jik⁶ haang⁴, joi³ gwo³ saam¹
tiu³ ma⁵lou⁶, jeui³hau⁶ hai² Gau²Gaai¹ jyun³ jo².

Jerry: hou², m⁴goi¹! hai⁶wo³, jung⁶yau⁵, ngo⁵
seung² man⁶, Fun¹Lok⁶Lau⁴ hai² bin¹ a³?

Passer-by: hai² ting⁴che¹cheung⁴ deui³min⁶. nei⁵
yat¹ haang⁴dou³ Gau²Gaai¹ jau⁶ wui⁵ gin³ dou² ge³
la³! gaan¹ cha⁴lau⁴ wui⁵ hai² nei⁵ jo²-sau²bin⁶

Jerry: m⁴goi¹saai³!

Passer-by: m⁴sai²haak³hei³!

intersection. Afterwards you go straight, and then cross three streets. Finally, turn left on 9th Street.

Jerry: Ok, thanks! Oh yea, I want to also ask where Happy Restaurant is.

Passer-by: It's across from the parking lot. Once you get to 9th Street, you will see it. The restaurant will be on your left.

Jerry: Thanks a lot!

Passer Your welcome!

Vocabulary

<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
bai ⁶ la ³	Expression	Shoot! Darn it! Crap!
lou ⁶	N	road
siu ² je ²	N	Miss
Tong ⁴ Yan ⁴ Fau ⁶ also Tong ⁴ Yan ⁴ Gaai ¹	N	Chinatown
ji ¹	V	to know
hei ³ ...dim ² haang ⁴ a ³ ?	Expression	How do I get to...?
sau ² sin ¹	Adv	first(ly)
gaai ¹ hau ²	N	block, intersection
jyun ³	V	to turn
yau ⁶	Adv	right
jo ²	Adv	left
yin ⁴ (ji ¹) hau ⁶	Adv/Conj.	after that; afterwards
joi ³	Adv	in addition, again
jik ⁶	Adv	straight
gwo ³	V	to cross; to pass
gaai ³	N	street
jeui ³ hau ⁶	Adv	last, finally
Gau ² Gaai ¹	Proper N	Ninth Street
jung ⁶ yau ⁵ ...	Expression	Also...
Fun ¹ Lok ⁶ Lau ⁴	Proper N	Happy Happy Restaurant
ting ⁴ che ¹ cheung ⁴	N	parking lot
deui ³ min ⁶	N	across from
wui ⁵	V	will, would
gin ³	V	to see
gaan ¹	N	measure for rooms, some buildings
cha ⁴ lau ⁴	MW	restaurant

Dialogue 3

:: Kevin's Phone Rings::

Yale Romanization

Kevin: wei², ngo⁵dei⁶ sik⁶ yun⁴ la³. gam³ noi⁶ ga³!

Jerry: ngo⁵ wan² m⁴ dou² nei⁵dei⁶ wo³. nei⁵dei⁶ hai²
bin¹ a³?

Kevin: nei⁵ seung⁵ lei⁴ la¹! ngo⁵dei⁶ cho⁵ hai²
lau⁴seung⁶.

Jerry: ngo⁵ yi⁵wai⁴ nei⁵dei⁵ hai² mun⁴hau² dang² wo³

Kevin: ngo⁵ tau⁴sin¹ dou¹ wa⁶-jo² hai² lau⁴seung⁶
lok³!

Jerry: ngo⁵ tau⁴sin¹ hai² dei⁶tit⁶, mat¹ye⁵ dou² teng¹
m⁴ dou² a³. nei⁵ yau⁶ gam³ faai³ sau¹sin⁶!
yau⁵mou⁵gau³cho³a³?

English Translation

Kevin: We're done eating. (What took) so long?

Jerry: Well, I can't find you. Where you are you?

Kevin: Come up! We're sitting upstairs.

Jerry: I thought you were waiting at door.

Kevin: Anyway, I just told you (earlier) that (we're)
upstairs.

Jerry: I was just on the subway, couldn't hear
anything. You hung up so fast! Come on, you gotta
be kidding me!

Vocabulary

<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
noi ⁶	Adj	long (time)
wan ²	V	to look for; find
wo ³	Part.	[tells listener to take note of the statement]
seung ⁵	V	to go up
cho ⁵	V	to sit
lau ⁴ seung ⁶	N	upstairs
yi ⁵ wai ⁴	V	to think (mistakenly)
mun ⁴ hau ²	N	doorway
tau ⁴ sin ¹	Time Word/Adv	a moment ago, earlier
wa ⁶	V	to say, to tell
teng ¹	V	to listen
yau ⁶	Adv	[adds emphasis] <i>lit.</i> again
faai ³	Adj	fast
sau ¹ sin ³	V	to hang up the phone

Supplementary Vocabulary

<u>Yale Romanization</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
mou ⁵ gei ² noi ⁶	Time Word/Adv	not long
noi ⁶ bat ¹ noi ²	Time Word/Adv	now and then, occasionally
yat ¹ jan ⁶ (gaan ¹)	Time Word/Adv	a moment; in a while/soon
lau ⁴ ha ⁶	N	downstairs
# + lau ²	N	Nth floor
jing ³ wa ⁶ (=tau ⁴ sin ¹)	Time Word/Adv	a moment ago, earlier
kei ⁵	V	to stand
da ² din ⁶ wa ² (bei ² ...)	VO	to make a phone call (to...)
jip ³ /teng ¹ din ⁶ wa ²	VO	to pick up/answer the phone
gong ²	V	to speak, to tell
yun ⁵	Adj	far
kan ⁵	Adj	close, near
kei ⁴ sat ⁶ ...	Expression	Actually...
yun ⁴ loi ⁴ ...	Expression	It turns out that...

Grammar**1) Resultative Complement****V + dou³ to arrive at, to get to ... (by V-ing)**

Adding dou³ (third tone) to the verb shows that an action has reached a certain point in time or location.

Example:

ngo⁵ duk⁶ dou³ dai⁶ saam¹ yip⁶. keui⁵ faan² dou³ uk¹kei² la³!
 'I read to page three.' 'He's arrived home!'

ngo⁵ kam⁴maan⁶ jou⁶ dou³ saam¹ dim² sin¹ji³ fan³gaau³.
 Last night, I worked until 3, (and it wasn't until 3) that I went to bed.

2) Resultative Complement**V + dou² to be able to V, could V**

By adding dou² (second tone) to verbs (many of which are some perception verbs) shows that you were/are/will be able or that you could do that action. It does not imply any completion of action, nor does it imply any sort of tense.

Examples:

nei⁵ tai²-m⁴-tai² dou² ngo² a³? ngo⁵ tau⁴sin¹ gam²gok³ dou².

Can you see me? I could feel it earlier.

keui⁵ yaai² dou² ngo⁵ bou⁶ din⁶ a³! ngo⁵ gin³ dou² keui³ tau¹ye⁵.
He stepped on my computer! I saw him steal.

Negative: V + m⁴ + dou²

ngo⁵ ting¹yat⁶ faan¹ m⁴ dou² uk¹kei⁵.
I won't be able return home tomorrow.

keui⁵ gei³ m⁴ dou² ngo⁵ go³ dei⁶ji² (gei³: to remember, dei⁶ji²: address)
He can't/couldn't remember my address!

3) Sequential Actions

In order to form a sequence of events, use the following patterns to connect the actions.

...sin¹ or sau²sin¹...

yin¹(ji¹)hau⁶ ... or gan¹jyu⁶...

joi³

jeui³hau⁶

¹First...

And then.../Afterwards...

In addition...

Finally/Lastly....

Example:

ngo⁵ gam¹yat¹ yiu³ tiu³mou⁵ sin¹, gan¹jyu⁶ da² mong⁵kau⁴, gan¹jyu⁶
cheung³go¹, jeui³hau⁶ yau⁴seui².

'Today I need to dance first, then play tennis, then sing, and swim last.'

Note: ¹Spoken Cantonese places sin¹ after the verb, but when you use sau²sin¹ or use more formal Cantonese, it goes before the verb.

Example:

Formal: ching² sin¹ yeung⁶ che¹ seung⁶ sing⁴haak³ lok⁶che¹

'Please let passengers exit first.' (verb here is yeung⁶ 'to yield/let')

Colloquial: nei⁵ bei² keui⁵ lok⁶che¹ sin¹ la¹! (bei²: to allow/let)

'Let him get off first!'

4) sik¹ versus ji¹ 'to know'

The verb sik¹ is used to mean 'to know' when you are talking about knowing a person or knowing some sort of skill. On the other hand, ji¹ (sometimes ji¹dou⁶) is usually used when you know a fact or some sort of information.

Example:

nei⁵ sik¹-m⁴-sik¹ ngo⁵ go³ pang⁴yau⁵ a³? 'Do you know my friend?'

keui⁵ sik³ (gong²) Gwong²Dung¹Wa².

'He knows (how to speak) Cantonese'

ngo⁵ ji¹dou³ saai³ nei⁵ di¹ bei³mat⁶! 'I know all your secrets!'

keui⁵ m⁴ ji¹ nei⁵ hai⁶ hok⁶saang¹. 'He doesn't know you're a student'

5) Auxiliary Verb wui⁵ 'will, would'

Although the verb wui⁵ is typically associated with a sort of future marker, it is not always the case. Aside from indicating likelihood of future occurrence, it can also

be used as to show one's willingness to do something, which in English would be translated as 'would'.

Example:

yu⁴gwo² nei⁵ dak¹haan⁴ ge³wa², nei⁵ wui⁵ m⁴ wui⁵ bong¹ keui⁵ a³?
'Would you help him if you had time?'

ngo⁵dei⁶ ting¹yat⁶ wui⁵ cheung³ K. 'We will go to karaoke tomorrow'

ngo⁵dei⁶ ting¹yat⁶ heui³ cheung³ K, hou² m⁴ hou²? (no wui⁵ needed)
'How about we sing karaoke tomorrow?'

Sometimes, other adverbs are added to further specify the likelihood of future occurrence.

keui⁵ yat¹ding⁶ wui⁵ lei⁴ ngo⁵ go³ pa¹ti⁴
'He will definitely come to my party'

keui⁵ ho²nang⁴ wui⁵ lei⁴. 'He might come'

6) Pattern: *yat*¹...*jau*⁶... 'As soon as..., then...'

Examples:

ngo⁵ yat¹ jou⁶ yun⁵ gung¹fo³, *jau*⁶ fan³gaau³.
'As soon as I finish my homework, I go to sleep'

keui⁵ ma⁴ma¹ yat¹ tai² keui⁵ jeung¹ sing⁴jik¹biu² *jau*⁶ m⁴ hoi¹sam¹.
'As soon as his mother saw his report card, she became unhappy.'

sin¹saang¹ yat¹ haang⁴ yap⁶ lei⁴, go³go³ *jau*⁴ m⁴ cheut¹seng¹
(cheut¹seng¹:to speak up)
'Once the teacher walked in, everyone became silent'

7) Particle *wo*³

The sentence final particle *wo*³ is added for emphasis and tells the listener to take note of what was said, or to remind the listener of something.

ngo⁵ mat¹ye⁵ dou¹ tai² m⁴ dou² wo³! 'I can't see anything!'

yi⁴ga² Hon⁴Kek⁴ hou² lau⁴hang⁴ wo³!
'Korean dramas are popular now!'

nei⁵ lam² ching¹cho² wo³. 'Think over it clearly!'

nei⁵ lau⁴yi³-ha⁵ wo³. 'Please pay some attention to it'

8) QW + *dou*¹ + V 'any'

Depending on the question word used, the statement could mean anyplace/thing/time/how, etc.

Examples:

keui⁵ bin¹go³ dou¹ jung¹yi³ 'He likes anyone/any one'

nei⁵ pang¹yau⁵ mat¹ye⁵ dou¹ sik⁶ 'Your friend eats anything'

ngo⁵ gei²si⁴ dou¹ dak¹haan⁴ 'I'm free anytime'

Negative: QW + dou¹ + m⁴/mei⁶/mou⁵ + V
 ngo⁵ gam¹yat⁶ mat¹ye⁵ dou¹ mei⁶ jou⁶
 'I haven't done anything today'

keui⁵ gei²si⁴ dou¹ m⁴ jou⁶ gung¹fo³
 'She doesn't do homework anytime'

keui⁵ bin¹dou⁶ dou¹ mou⁵ heui⁵-gwo³
 'He hasn't been to anywhere'

9) Pattern: yi⁵wai⁴... 'thought (mistakenly)'

The expression yi⁵wai⁴ is used to mean 'thought' only when if what the speaker says a mistaken thought or notion is. It is typically followed by daan⁶hai⁶ 'but', kei⁴sat⁶ 'actually', and yun⁴loi⁴ 'it turns out that...'

Example:

ngo⁵ yi⁵wai⁴ keui⁵ hai⁶ sin¹saang¹, yun⁴loi⁴ keui⁵ dou¹ hai⁶ hok⁶saang¹
 'I thought he was a teacher, but it turns out he is also a student.'

ngo⁵ yi⁵wai⁴ ngo⁴ pang⁴yau⁵ gam¹yat⁶ wui⁶ lei⁴, daan⁶hai⁶ keui⁵ jeui³hau⁶
 mou⁵ lei⁴.

'I thought my friend would come, but in the end he did not come.'

ngo⁵ yi⁵wai⁴ keui⁵ hou⁵ lek¹, kei⁴sat⁴ keui⁵ jung⁶ cheun² gwo³ jek³ ma⁵lau¹.
 'I thought he was really smart, actually he's even dumber than a monkey'

10) gong² versus wa⁶ 'to speak/tell' versus 'to say/tell'

In Cantonese, gong² means 'to speak' or 'to tell N', for example:

gong² Gwok³Yu⁵ 'speak Mandarin'

gong² gu³si⁶ 'tell a story'

keui⁵ gong² dak¹ hou² ching¹cho² 'he speaks very clearly'

When you quote someone, you must use wa⁶ 'to say...'

keui⁵ wa⁶ nei⁶ hou² jung¹yi³ cheung³go¹ wo³.

'He says that you really like to sing'

ngo⁶ wa⁶-jo² hai² lau⁴seung⁴ dang².

'I said to wait upstairs'

However, when you are telling somebody something, wa⁶ and gong² are usually interchangeable.

keui⁵ wa⁶/gong²-gwo³ hou² do¹ ci³

'He's said it many times'

nei⁵ wa⁶/gong² bei² ngo⁵ teng¹ la¹!

'(You) Tell me!'

Note the pattern above:

A + wa⁶/gong² + bei² + B + teng¹/ji¹

'A told B / A let B know'

Transportation

English

car
 car (private)
 automobile
 motorcycle
 bicycle
 bus
 minibus
 taxi
 train
 subway
 light rail
 airplane
 helicopter
 boat
 ferry
 MW for vehicles (car, train, bus, taxi)
 MW for flying machines (airplane, helicopter)
 MW for boat
 to ride
 to ride a bike
 to drive
 driver
 to board (car, taxi, bus, train)
 to alight (car, taxi, bus, train)
 bus/taxi/train fare
 bus stop
 stop/station (bus, train, subway)
 platform
 elevator
 street/road
 freeway
 parking lot
 parking space
 airport
 gate

Yale Romanization

che¹
 si¹ ga¹ che¹
 hei³ che¹
 din⁶ daan¹ che¹
 daan¹ che¹
 ba¹ si²
 siu² ba¹
 dik¹ si²
 fo² che¹
 dei⁶ tit³
 hing¹ tit³
 fei¹ gei¹
 jik⁶ sing¹ gei¹
 syun⁴
 dou⁶ leun⁴
 ga³, bou⁶
 ga³
 jek³
 daap³, cho⁵
 chaa²/yaa² daan¹ che¹
 ja¹
 si¹ gei¹
 seung⁵ che¹
 lok⁶ che¹
 che¹ fai³
 ba¹ si² jaam⁶
 jaam⁶
 yut⁶ toi⁴
 lip¹ (<Eng. Lift)
 gaai¹/lou⁶
 gou¹ chuk¹ gung¹ lou⁶
 ting⁴ che¹ cheung⁴
 che¹ wai²
 (fei¹) gei¹ cheung⁴
 jaap⁶ (hau²)

Location Outline

Recall from an earlier lesson the way to specify the location of something:

[a] Subject + hai² + Location + **Localizer** + Verb + Object

keui⁵ hai² Mei⁵ Gwok³ duk⁶ syu¹. (*duk⁶syu¹* 'to attend school; to read')

I go to school in America.

[b] Subject + Verb + hai² + Location + **Localizer**

This construction places the location after the verb, but is more limited to certain verbs in which the action is static.

keui⁵ kei⁵ hai² mun⁴ hau² dou⁶.
He/she is standing by/at the door.

We will now learn other words that can fill this localizer position:

seung ⁶ min ⁶	above, top of	chin ⁴ min ⁶	in front of, before
ha ⁶ min ⁶	below, bottom of	hau ⁶ min ⁶	in back of; behind
dai ² ha ⁶	below, bottom of		
jo ² sau ² bin ⁶	on the left of	jo ² bin ¹	on the left of
yau ⁶ sau ² bin ⁶	on the right of	yau ⁶ bin ¹	on the right of
pong ⁴ bin ¹	beside	deui ³ min ⁶	across from
gaak ³ lei ⁴	beside	jung ¹ gaan ¹	in the middle of
yap ⁶ min ⁶	inside	leui ⁵ min ⁶	inside
leui ⁵ tau ⁴	inside	cheut ¹ min ⁶	outside
ni ¹ dou ⁶	here	go ² dou ⁶	there
ni ¹ bin ⁶	this side	go ² bin ⁶	that side
ni ¹ tau ⁴	this area	go ² tau ⁴	that area
dung ¹ bin ⁶	east of	dung ¹ bin ⁶	south of
sai ¹ bin ⁶	west of	bak ¹ bin ⁶	north of
A tung ⁴ B ji ¹ gaan ¹	between A and B		

Location Usage Patterns

How to express the location of an object (note: the noun is definite):

[a] Noun + hai² + Location + *Localizer*

bun² syu¹ hai² toi² dai²ha⁶/ha⁶min⁶.

'The book is below the table'

Dwinelle hai² nei² jo²sau²bin⁶.

'Dwinelle is to your left.'

How to express the existence of an object (note: the noun is indefinite):

[a] Location + *Localizer* + yau⁵ + Noun

hok⁶haau⁶ deui³min⁶ yau⁵ yat¹ gaan¹ chaan¹gun².

'There is a restaurant across from school'

How to express the location of an action (note: the subject is definite):

[a] Subject + hai² + Location + *Localizer* + Verb + (Object)

keui⁵dei⁶ hai² tou⁴syu¹gun² cheut¹min⁶ duk⁶-gan² syu¹.

'They are reading outside the library'

[b] Subject + Verb + haⁱ² + Location + *Localizer*

ngo⁵ pang⁴yau⁵ kei⁵ hai² ngo⁵ gaak³lei⁴

'My friend is standing beside me.'

keui⁵ fan³ hai² so¹fa² seung³min

'He sleeps on the sofa.'

How to express the existence of an action (note: the subject is indefinite):

[a] yau⁵ + Noun + hai² + Location + *Localizer* + Verb (+Object)

yau⁵ (yat¹) go³ sin¹saang¹ hai² fo³sat¹ yap⁶min⁶ gaau³-gan² syu¹.

'There is a teacher teaching inside the classroom'

[b] yau⁵ + Noun + Verb + hai² + Location + *Localizer*

yau⁵ go³ sai³lou⁶ gwai⁶ hai² cheung¹mun² chin⁴min⁶.

'There is a kid kneeling before the window'

Lesson 6: Exercises

Part I: Map Exercise

a) Fill in the blanks (including the lettered landmarks) with Cantonese Romanization

[A] Subway Station _____

[B] and [E] Bus Stop _____

[C] and [F] Taxi Stop _____

[D] Light Rail Station _____

Berkeley St _____ V	North Bay St _____ V	Canton Street _____ V	
Church _____ [D]	Gym [C] _____	Hospital _____	Parking Lot _____
1st St _____			
[A] Cafe _____	[B] Bookstore _____	Shopping Mall _____	Supermarket _____
2nd St _____			
Library _____	University _____	Post Office _____ [F]	Bank [E] _____
3rd St _____			
Airport _____	Hotel _____	Train Station _____	Chinatown Restaurant _____

b) Find a partner and practice asking each other for directions, starting with the following situations. Note that some places have two exits. You may not take public transportation!

- * Restaurant → Church
- * Supermarket → Light Rail Station [D]
- * Taxi Stop [C] → Bank
- * Parking Lot (Canton St) → Post Office
- * Bus Stop [E] → Gym
- * Bus Stop [B] → Airport

- * Library → Shopping Mall (2nd St)
- * Hospital → Train Station
- * University → Chinatown
- * Bookstore → Hotel
- * Subway Station [A] → Taxi Stop [F]

Part II: Translate the following in Cantonese

- a) I am waiting for you at the bus station.
- b) As soon as I exited the plane, I called my friend.
- c) He does not know where I live.
- d) My teacher says I do not know how to write Chinese.
- e) How do I get from Chinatown to the airport?
- f) I have decided to go to Hong Kong next semester.
- g) Please wait a moment. I am looking for your book.
- h) Earlier (a moment ago), I couldn't think of what his name was.
- i) I have not gotten to (walked to) ^{8th} Street yet.
- j) Have you ever seen a restaurant this big before?

Part III: For the following sentences, either provide an answer to the question or complete the sentence. Use the patterns when required.

- a) nei³ gam¹ yat⁶ fong³-jo² hok⁶ heui³ bin¹ a³? (yat¹...jau⁶...)
- b) nei³ jou⁶-jo² gung¹fo³ mei⁶ a³? (QW + dou¹ + V)
- c) keui⁵ dang²-jo² hou² noi⁶ la⁴?
- d) nei⁵ tai²-m⁴-tai² dou² ngo⁵ kei² hai² bin¹ a³?
- e) nei⁵ wui⁵-m⁴-wui⁵ hai² Ga¹Jau¹ wan² gung¹ jou⁶ a³?
- f) ngo⁵ yi⁵wai⁴ _____, yun⁴loi⁴ keui⁵ mat¹ye⁵ dou¹ mei⁶ _____
- g) keui⁵ hai² din²wa² tung⁴ nei⁵ gong² mat¹ye⁵ a³?

Part IV: Fill in the blanks with the correct term

- a) ngo⁵ pang⁴yau⁵ _____ ngo⁵ m⁴ sik¹ _____ Gwok³Yu² (gong²; wa⁶)
- b) nei⁵ _____-m⁴-_____ ngo⁵ _____ da² mong⁵kau⁴ ga³? (ji¹; sik¹)
- c) keui⁵ _____ ngo⁵ hai³ Mei⁵Gwok³Yan⁴, kei⁴sat⁶ ngo⁵ hai⁶ Ying¹Gwok³Yan⁴ (gok³dak¹, yi⁵wai⁴)
- d) ngo⁵ yi⁴wai⁴ yiu³ dang² _____, daan⁶hai⁶ ngo⁵ jing⁶hai⁶ dang²-jo² _____ je¹ (hou²noi⁶, yat¹jan⁶)

Cultural Presentation

Section _____ Due Date _____

As part of the Cantonese Decal class, you will be giving a presentation about Hong Kong, China, or anything about the Cantonese/Chinese culture. You may form a team of two and present together. Due to time constraints, each person has to have at most 3 slides (so if you are teaming up, you should have 6 slides), and each team will be limited to presenting for at most 3 minutes (6 minutes if you have a partner). Below are topics you might find interesting:

- University of Hong Kong
- Dim Sum: The tradition, The history
 - Night Life in Hong Kong
- Hong Kong International Airport
 - HK Disneyland
 - Shopping in HK
 - Hong Kong Harbor

For the presentation, each team must come up with a minimum of **five** new vocabulary words that relate to your topic. Please place the vocabulary words into the presentation slides.

We welcome any other topics that are not listed here. Keep in mind the topic should not be too broad, so instead of HK Tourism, you should choose some landmark or aspect to focus on. Class time will be given so that you can brainstorm some ideas and find a teammate.

Please inform your section instructors about your topic by _____. If you have any questions and/or if you need any help finding a topic/teammate please email the instructor.

Homework

Fill in the blanks.

1. Nei⁵ ____ m⁴ ____ jyu²sau¹ sang¹mat⁶hok⁶ a³?
2. Nei⁵ nung⁴lik⁶san¹nin⁴ ____ bin¹dou⁶ sik⁶faan⁶ ____? (nung⁴lik⁶san¹nin⁴: Chinese New Year)
3. sin¹saang¹ ____ m⁴ ____ dou⁶a³?
4. Betsy m⁴ jung¹ yi³ baai³ nin⁴ ____? (baai³ nin⁴: visit relatives and friends during New Year)
5. Yat¹ ____ gau²
6. Yat¹ ____ pang⁴ you⁵
7. Saam¹ ____ building
8. Nei⁴ ____ Lo⁴ Saang² lei⁴ ga³?

II. Use the following words to make sentences.

1. (yat¹chai⁴, bat¹yu⁴, nin⁴cho¹yat¹, fong³yin¹fa¹)
2. (ho²-m⁴-ho²-yi⁵, leng³jai², sek³)
3. (m⁴ ming⁴, maan⁶ di¹, ma⁴faan⁴)

III. Translate the following sentences to Cantonese using Yale Romanization.

1. May I ask, what is your name?
2. This restaurant is extremely expensive.
3. Is he handsome/ Is she beautiful? (use A-not A patterns)
4. Let's go to get some red pockets during the New Year.
5. I am not a teacher. I am a third year student.
6. What year are you and what are you majoring in?
7. Do you want to eat?
8. My sister and I are students.
9. My surname is _____, my name is _____, and I am from _____.

IV. Translate the following conversation.

John: Wai³ David! Ni¹ paai⁴ dim² a³?

David: gei² hou² a³. Ni¹ go³ hai⁶-m⁴-hai⁶ nei⁵ go³ pang⁴ you⁵ a³?

John: hai⁶ a³. keui⁵ giu³ Amy.

David: nei⁵ hou² Amy, ngo⁵ giu³ David.

Amy: nei⁵ hou².

John (to David): Amy hai² Lo⁴ Saang² lei⁴ ga³.

David (to Amy): o⁵, nei⁵ hai² bin¹ dou⁶ duk⁶ ga³?

Amy: ngo⁵ hai² Paak³ Hak¹ Loi⁴ duk⁶ sang¹ mat⁶ hok⁶.

David (to Amy): nei⁵ jyu⁶ hai² bin¹ dou⁶ a³?

Amy: ngo⁵ yi⁴ ga¹ jyu⁶ Unit Two.

David (whisper to John): keui⁵ hou² leng³ neu² a...³

John (whisper to David): ngo⁵ jung¹ yi³-jo² keui⁵ hou² noi⁶ la³.

David (to Amy): bat¹ yu⁴ ngo⁵ dei⁶ leung⁵ go³ heui³ sik⁶ faan⁶ tung⁴ maa⁴ tai² hei³ lo³?

Amy: hou² a³.

David + Amy: baai¹ baai³ John.

V. Vocab.

English	Cantonese
To major in	
This year	
	Bat ¹ yu ⁴
	Yi ⁴ ga ¹
	Hai ²
	Hai ⁶
Therefore, so	
	Yeung ⁵
	Dou ¹
To have, to exist	
	Mou ⁵
Few, several	
How many?	
	Gwai ³ sing ³

	Daan ⁶ hai ⁶
And	
	Ching ² man ⁶
What?	
	fo ¹

VII. Describe the usage of the following

1. a⁴
2. hai⁶ vs. hai²

VIII. Convert these sentences into questions.

1. Keui⁵ hai⁶ ngo⁵ go³ pang⁴ yau⁵.
2. Nei⁵ hai² paak¹ man² jyu⁶.
3. Nei⁵ sing³ Chan⁴.
4. Ngo⁵ ho² yi³ sik⁶ faan⁶.

IX. Convert these sentences into negatives

1. Ngo⁵ yau⁵ yat¹ go³ ga¹ je¹.
2. Ngo⁵ hai⁴ yat¹ go³ hok⁶ saang¹.
3. Ngo⁵ hai² Saam¹ Faan⁴ Si⁵ lei⁴ ga³.
4. Cathy hai² dou⁶ a³.

Holidays and Festivals

Holidays (US)

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Cantonese Name</u>
New Year	san ¹ nin ⁴
Valentine's Day	ching ⁴ yan ⁴ jit ³
President's Day	jung ² tung ² yat ⁶
Martin Luther King Day	ma ⁵ ding ¹ lou ⁶ dak ¹ gam ¹ yat ⁶
Saint Patrick's Day	sing ³ ba ¹ dak ¹ lei ⁵ hak ¹ jit ³
Easter	fuk ⁶ wut ⁶ jit ³
Mother's Day	mou ⁵ chan ¹ jit ³
Memorial Day	chan ⁴ mong ⁴ jeung ¹ si ⁶ gei ³ nim ⁶ yat ⁶
Father's Day	fu ⁶ chan ¹ jit ³
Independence Day	duk ⁶ laap ⁶ gei ³ nim ⁶ yat ⁶
National Day (US:July4)	gwok ³ hing ³ yat ⁶
Labor Day	nou ⁴ gung ¹ jit ³ /yat ⁶ (day/holiday)
Columbus Day	go ³ leun ⁴ bou ² yat ⁶
Halloween	maan ⁶ sing ³ jit ³
Veteran's Day	teui ³ ng ⁵ gwan ¹ yan ⁴ jit ³
Thanksgiving Day	gam ² yan ¹ jit ³
Christmas Day	sing ³ daan ³ jit ³

Holidays and Festivals (Lunar Calendar)

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Cantonese Name</u>
Chinese New Year's Eve	cheui ⁴ jik ⁶
Lunar New Years	nung ⁴ lik ⁶ san ¹ nin ⁴
Lantern Festival	yun ⁴ siu ¹ jit ³
Tomb Sweeping Day	ching ¹ ming ⁴ jit ³
Dragon Boat Festival	dyun ¹ ng ⁵ jit ³
Spirit Festival	jung ¹ yun ⁴ jit ³
Mid-Autumn Festival	jung ¹ chau ¹ jit ³
Chung Yeung Festival	chung ⁴ yeung ⁴ jit ³

Chinese New Year

English Characters

Lunar (Chinese) New Year

New Year's Eve

Celebrate the New Year

First day of New Year

Second day of New Year

Third day of New Year

(Up to the fifteenth day because Chinese Year New is from 1/1 – 1/15 according to the lunar calendar)

Last day of New Year

(This is also the Chinese Valentine's Day)

Yale Romanization

nung⁴lik⁶san¹nin⁴cheui⁴jik⁶gwo³nin⁴nin⁴cho¹yat¹nin⁴cho¹yi⁶nin⁴cho¹saam¹yun⁴siu¹

Activities during Chinese New Year

Reunion dinner (Held on New Year's Eve)

Shopping at the flower market

Visit relatives and friends during New Year

Giving out red pocket

(Married Adults and elderly do)

Getting red pocket

Play firecrackers

Play fireworks

nin⁴ye⁶faan⁶/ tyun⁴nin⁴faan⁶haang⁴fa¹si⁵baai³nin⁴paai³lei⁶si⁶dau⁶lei⁶si⁶siu¹paau³jeung²fong³yin¹fa¹

Food

Dumpling (because it looks like Chinese gold ingots)

New Year's cake

Glutinous rice dumpling

Candy

gaau²ji²nin⁴gou¹tong¹yun²tong²

Decorations

Red banners (with greetings on it)

Flowers

Mandarin Orange

fai¹cheun¹fa¹gam¹

Chinese New Year Greetings

Congratulations and be prosperous

Congratulations and be prosperous, please give me red pockets (usually children say this)

gung¹hei²faat³choi⁴, lei⁶si⁶dau⁶loi⁴gung¹hei²faat³choi⁴

May all your wishes come true

Good luck

May there be surpluses every year

sam¹seung²si⁶sing⁴daai⁶gat¹daai⁶lei⁶nin⁴nin⁴yau⁵yu⁴

Valentines Day

Common Phrases

ngo ⁵ oi ³ nei ⁵	<i>I love you</i>
ngo ⁵ (hou ²) jung ¹ yi ³ nei ⁵	<i>I (really) like you</i>
ngo ⁵ jung ¹ yi ³ -jo ² nei ⁵ hou ² noi ⁶ la ³	<i>I've liked you for a long time.</i>
nei ⁵ ho ² -m ⁴ -ho ² yi ⁵ tung ⁴ ngo ⁵ yat ¹ chai ⁴ a ³ ?	<i>Can we be together?</i>
ngo ⁵ ho ² -m ⁴ -ho ² yi ⁵ sek ³ nei ⁵ a ³ ?	<i>May I kiss you?</i>
nei ⁵ hou ² leng ³ jai ² /neui ² a ³	<i>You are so handsome/ beautiful</i>
ngo ⁵ /nei ⁵ dou ¹ hai ⁶	<i>Me/ you too</i>
ngo ⁵ hou ² gwa ³ -jyu ⁶ nei ⁵	<i>I (really) miss you</i>
bat ¹ yu ⁴ ngo ⁵ dei ⁶ heui ³ sik ⁶ faan ⁶ lo ³	<i>Let's go to have dinner</i>

Vocabulary

	English	Part of Speech
oi ³	<i>love/to love</i>	N/V
jung ¹ yi ³	<i>like</i>	V
noi ⁶	<i>a long time</i>	Adj
ho ² -m ⁴ -ho ² yi ⁵	<i>May I... ?/ Can I... ?</i>	Expression
tung ⁴	<i>with</i>	Conj
yat ¹ chai ⁴	<i>(to be) together</i>	Adv
paak ³ to ¹	<i>to be in a relationship</i>	V
sek ³	<i>to kiss</i>	V
dou ¹	<i>also</i>	Adv
leng ³	<i>handsome/ pretty</i>	Adj
jai ²	<i>male</i>	N
neui ²	<i>female</i>	N
heui ³	<i>(to) go to</i>	V
bat ¹ yu ⁴ (ngo ⁵ dei ⁶)...	<i>Let (us)...</i>	Expression

Grammar

(1) To ask a question: Can you/would you like to...

Structure: (person, usually 2nd person pronoun) **ho²-m⁴-ho²yi⁵** (request)?

Example: nei⁵ ho²-m⁴-ho²yi⁵ tung⁴ ngo⁵ yat¹chai⁴ a³?
 You can/cannot with me together (QW)
 (can you/ would you like to (be))

To answer this kind of question:

Positive: ho²yi⁵ *can* Negative: m⁴ho²yi⁵ *cannot*
 OR: hou² *good/okay* m⁴hou² *no*

(2) To make a suggestion: Let (us)...

Structure: **bat¹yu⁴** (ngo⁵dei⁶) **heui³** (suggestion: places or things to do)... **lo³**

Example: bat¹yu⁴ ngo⁵dei⁶ heui³ sik⁶fan⁶ lo³
 Let us go eat dinner (particle)

To answer this kind of question:

Positive: hou² *good/okay* Negative: m⁴hou² *no/ not okay/ don't want to*

Some common places and activities

haang ⁴ gaai ¹	<i>shopping</i>
tai ² hei ³	<i>watch movie</i>
hei ³ yun ²	<i>theater/ cinema</i>
chaan ¹ teng ¹	<i>restaurant</i>
leui ⁵ hang ⁴	<i>traveling</i>
haang ⁴ saan ¹	<i>hiking</i>
cheung ³ K	<i>sing karaoke</i>
hoi ² taan ¹	<i>beach</i>
saan ¹ deng ²	<i>the top of a hill/ mountain</i>
tai ² sing ¹ sing ¹	<i>watch stars</i>
gung ¹ yun ²	<i>park</i>
saan ³ bou ⁶	<i>to have a walk</i>
yaau ⁴ lok ⁶ cheung ⁴	<i>theme park</i>
waat ⁶ syut ³	<i>skiing</i>

Activities

Pair up in groups of two. Make a skit of asking each other out. Try to use both of the sentence structures you have learned in this lesson.

Comparison of Commonly Used Words

Mandarin	Cantonese	English	Mandarin	Cantonese	English
不	唔 m4	negative	可以(+V)	可以 ho2 yi5	allowed to
沒, 沒有	冇 mou5	not-have	能(+V)	可以/能夠 nang4	can/be capable of
沒, 還沒	未 mei4, 未曾 mei4 chang4 重未	not yet	可以/能 +V(O)	可以 + V(O) V 得 (O)	allowed to/able to
別, 不要	唔好 m4 hou2 (mou2), 咪 mai2	not yet (emphatic) don't (negative imperative)	不可以/不 能(+V)	唔可以(+V) m4 ho2 yi5 唔 (+V) 得 m4_dak1 (V+) 唔到 m4 dou2	not allow
不用	唔使 m4sai2	no need to	不能(+V)	唔能夠 m4 nang4 gau3 (+V)	unable to unable to must
千萬	千祈 chin1 kei4	(emphatic)	不可以/不 能	冇得 mou2 dak1	not/incapable of don't get to/not possible for
想 + Phrase 難道...	諗 + Phrase lam2 唔通... m4 tung1	I think... it can't be that...	<i>Examples:</i> 你可以走 了	你可以走喇! nei5 ho2 yi5 jau2 la3 你走得喇 nei5 jau2 dak1 la3	<i>You can leave now. You can leave now</i>
難怪, 怪不得	唔怪得之 / 之得 m4 gwaai6 dak1 ji1	no wonder...	現在下 雨, 我不 能走	而家落緊雨, 我唔走 得 yi4 ga1 lok6 gan2 yu5, ngo5 jau2 m4 dou2 我有得走 ngo5 mou5 dak1 jau2	<i>It's raining now, I'm unable to leave. I don't get to leave/No way I can leave I'm can't leave.</i>
還 還	重 jung6 都 dou1	still still; nevertheless	Also: 我走 不到	我走唔到 ngo5 jau2 m4 dou2	
Examples: 還不錯	都唔錯 dou1 m4 cho3	<i>Not bad</i>	這, 那	呢 ni1, 嗰 go2	this, that
還在家裏	重喺屋企 jung6 hai2 uk1 kei2	<i>Still at home</i>	這麼/那麼 + Verb 這樣/那樣 + Verb	咁 gam2 +Verb 咁樣 gam2yeung2 + Verb	this/that way
很 也	好 hou2 都 dou1, 又 yau6, 亦 都 yik6 dou1	very also	這麼/那麼/ 這樣/那樣 + Adjective	咁 gam3 + Adjective	so
一點兒	(一)啲 yat1 di1 啲多 dit1 deu1	a bit a tiny bit	的	MW (ex:我本書) 啲 di1 (plural) 嘅 ge3	possessive
			還是	定係 ding6 hai6 抑或 yik1 waak6	or (choice question)

(一)些	(一)啲 yat1 di1	some	或者 也許	或者 waak6 je2 或者 waak6 je2	or (declarative) perhaps, maybe
只是	只係 ji2 hai6	only	一定	一定, 實 yat1ding6, sat6	certainly, surely
只是 (cont'd)	靜係 jing6 hai6	only	不一定, 不見得	未必, 唔一定 mei6bit1,m4yat1ding6	not necessarily
(只)剩下	得番 dak1 faan1 靜低 jing6 dai1	only ...left	和, 跟, 與	同(埋) tung4 maai4	and; with
有點	有啲 yau5 di1	there's a bit	從	由 yau4 (time/loc) 喺 hai2 (locative)	from
一點...也	一啲...都 yat1 di1...dou1	didn't even...a bit... of	在 往, 向 ...以前/以後 以前/以後	向 heung3 ...之前/之後 ji1 chin4/ ji1 hau6 以前/以後 yi5 “ “	at towards, facing before.../after... In the past/future
剛剛	啱啱 ngaam1 ngaam1	Just (a moment ago)	整... 每..	成 seng4 每 mui5 or repeat measure word	the entire... each...
剛才	頭先 tau2 sin1 正話 jing3 wa6	A moment ago	Ex: 每 個, 每天	個個/日日	
才	先(至) sin1 ji3	not until; (emphatic)	讓, 被 給 偶爾 一直	畀 bei2 + Agent 俾 bei2 耐不耐 一路 yat1 lou6	let, by (passive) give occasionally all along
<i>Example:</i> 我才不相信.	我先至唔信 ngo5 sin1 ji3 m4 seun3	<i>I, for one, don't believe it.</i>	在 V	V 緊 gan2	progressing action
他才是好人。	佢先至係好人 keui5 sin1 ji3 hai6 hou2 yan4	<i>He's what a good person is.</i>	V 著	V 住 jyu6	continuous/ simultaneous action long time sometimes
常常	成日 seng4 yat6	always; frequently	久 有時候	耐 noi6 有時 yau5	
經常	週詩 jau1 si4 經常 ging1 soeng4	always			

Grammar Review

Lesson 2

A-not-A question

- 1) nei5 jung1 m4 jung1 yi3 tai2 din6si6 a3? Do you like to watch TV?
 2) nei5 hai6 m6 hai6 hok6saang1 a3? Are you a student?

Preposition hai2 at/from

- 1) ngo5 hai2 uk1kei2 jou6 gung1fo3. I do homework at home
 2) keui5 hai2 Gwong2Dung1 lei4 ge3 He is from Guangdong.
 3) nei5 jyu6 hai2 bin1dou6 a3?/nei hai2 bin1dou6 jyu6 a3? Where do you live?

Lesson 3:

Comparative A adj. gwo3 B [degree]

- 1) keui5 lek1 gwo3 ngo5 (hou2 do1). He is (a lot) smarter than me.
 2) ngo5 daai6 (gwo3) ngo5 sai3lou2 saam3 nin4 I am 3 years older than my brother.

seui1yin4...daan6hai6/bat1gwo3 Although..., but...

- 1) seui1yin4 keui5 hai6 hok6saang1, daan6hai6 keui5 seng4yat6 dou1 m4 seung4tong3.
 Although he is a student, he always does not go to class.
 2) seui1yin4 ngo5 hai2 Heung1Gong2 lei4, daan4hai6 ngo5 m4 sik1 gong2 Gwong2Dung1Wa2
 Although I'm from Hong Kong, I don't speak Cantonese.

yan1wai6...so2yi5 Because..., therefore...

- 1) yan1wai6 keui6 m4 jung1yi3 cheung3go1, so2yi5 keui5 m4 heui3 cheung3 K.
 Because he does not like to sing, therefore he is not going to sing karaoke.
 2) yan1wai6 ngo5 hai6 Jung1Gwok3Yan2, so2yi5 ngo5 yiu3 hok6 Jung1Man4.
 Because I am Chinese, therefore I have to learn Chinese.

ni3 (this) vs. go2 (that)

- 1) ni1 bun2 syu2 m4 hou2 tai2 This book isn't good.
 2) go2 go3 yan2 hai6 bin1go3 a3? Who is that person?

tung4(maai4) and/with

- 1) nei5 tung4maai4 ngo5 heui5 leui5hang4, hou2m4hou2?
 You travel with me, does that sound good?
 2) ngo5 yau5 ng5 bou3 din6nou5 tung4maai4 saam3 bou3 din6si6
 I have five computers and three televisions.

Lesson 4:

Emphatic hai6...(ge3/ga3/a3)

- 1) ngo5 hai6 m4 jung1yi3 tiu3mou5 a3 I (really) don't like to dance.
 2) ni1 bun2 syu1 hai6 fei1seung4ji1 hou2tai2 ga3 This book (really) is excellent.

...ji1chin4/...ji1hau6 Before.../After...

- 1) ngo seung5tong4 ji1chin4 yau5 yam2-jo2 yat1 bui1 ga3fe1
 Before class, I drank a cup of coffee.
 2) nei5 bat1yip6 ji1hau6 jou6 di1 mat1ye5 ne1? After you graduate, what are you doing?

Completed Action jo2

- 1) ngo5 dew6-jo2 ngo5 di1 gung1fo3 I threw away my homework

2) ngo5 duk6-jo2 leung5 nin4 Jung1Man4 I studied two years of Chinese

seung2 V (to want to V) vs. yiu3 V (to need to V)

- 1) ngo5 yi4ga1 seung2 sik6faan6! I want to eat now!
 2) keui5 yi4ga1 yi3 heui3 seung5tong4 He has to go to class now.

...sin1ji6 not until...(or emphasizing a contrast)

- 1) keui5 ting1yat6 sin1ji3 faan1 uk1kei2 He's not going home until tomorrow.
 2) ngo5 sin1ji3 hai6 hou2 hok6saang1 Now, I am (what you call) a good student.

gam3 Adj. (so..., that...) vs. gam2[yeung2] Verb (like this/that way)

- 1) ni1ga6 che1 gam3 gwai3 ga3! This car is so expensive!
 2) nei5 gam2[yeung2] jou6 hai3 cho3 ge3! The way you're doing it is wrong!

yu4 gwo2...(ge3wa2), jau6.... If...,then...

- 1) yu4gwo2 ngo5 yau5 si4gaan3 ge3wa2, ngo5 jau6 lei4 la1! If I have time, I will come.
 2) yu4gwo2 nei2 seung2 heui3 Jung1Gwok3, nei5 jau6 yiu3 hok6 Jung1Man4.
 If you go to China, then you need to learn Chinese.

Possessives:

Possessor + (ni1/go2) + Measure Word + Possessed Thing

- 1) ngo3 bun2 syu1 My book ngo5 ni1 bun2 syu1 This book of mine.

Possessor + ge3 + Possessed (formal/abstract contexts generally)

- 1) Mei5Gwok3 ge3 ging1jai3 America's economy.

Lesson 5:

(yau5)/mou5 V did not V (yau5 only for emphasis)

- 1) ngo5 mou5 sik6faan6 I did not eat.
 2) keui5 mou5 seung5tong4 He did not go to class.

Experience gwo3 to have the experience of

- 1) ngo5 heui3-gwo3 hou2 do1 dei6fong1. I've been to many places.
 2) nei5 tai2-gwo3 ni1 tou3 hei3 mei6 a3? Have you watched this movie before.

dou1 or yau6 (also)

Generally yau6 for two different predicates, yau6/dou1 for two different subjects

- 1) ngo5 hai6 hok6saang1. keui yau6/dou1 hai6 hok6saang1
 I'm a student, he's also a student
 2) ngo5 jung1yi3 tai2syu1, ngo5 yau6 jung1yi3 teng1 yam1ngok6
 I like to read books, I also like to listen to music.

Progressive gan2 V-ing

- 1) hou2 do1 yan4 hok6-gan2 Gwok3Yu5 Many people are learning Mandarin
 2) ngo2 yi4ga1 jou6-gan2 gung1fo3 I'm doing homework now.

V ha5 'do...for a bit/for a while/some'

- 1) keui5 dak1haan4 jung1yi3 tai2-ha5 din6si6 I like to watch some TV when I'm free
 2) ngo5dei6 ting1yat6 heui3 cheung3-ha5 K, hou2m4hou2?
 We'll go singing some karaoke tomorrow, how about that?

Resultative Complements

V saai3 'all; completely V-ed'		
1) ngo5 sik6-saai3 di1 tong2 la3!		I ate all the candy.
2) ngo5 tai2-saai3 di1 syu1 la3!		I've read all the books.
V yun4 'finished V'		
1) ngo5 gam1yat6 seung5-yun4 tong4 la3!		I've finish class today.
2) nei2 gei2si4 duk6-yun4 syu1 a3?		When will you finish school?
gok3dak1... (think that...)		
1) ngo5 gok3dak1 ni1bun2 syu m4 hou2 tai2.		I think this book isn't good
Forming adjectives with hou2+ V		
1) hou2waan2 'fun'	hou2teng1 'good(to listen to)	hou2sik6 'good, delicious (to eat)'
hou2yam2 'good, delicious (to drink)'	hou2tai2 'good to read/watch, interesting	
Negatives		
m4 'not, do not'	mou5 + N 'not have'; +V 'did not'	mei6 'have not (yet)'
1) ngo5 m4 hai6 sin1saang1	I am not a teacher	
2) keui5 m4 jung1yi3 ngo5	He does not like me.	
3) ngo5 uk1kei2 mou5 din6nou5	There are no computers in my house.	
4) ngo5 mou5 da2 keui5 a3!	I did not hit him	
5) ngo5 mei6 sik6 faan6	I haven't eaten yet.	
6) ngo5 mei6 heui3-gwo3 go2dou6	I haven't been there before.	
Question Structures with Negatives		
V-jo2 (Object) mei6	'Have you V-ed yet'	
V-gwo3 (Object) mei6	'Have you V-ed before/had to experience of V'	
V-m4-V		
yau5mou5 + N	'Is there N/Do you have N?'	
yau5mou5 + V (Object)	'Did you V?'	