Lesson 6: Transportation

Dialogue 1

Yale Romanization

Subway Announcement: lit^{6}che^1 jik^{1}jeung^1 dou^{3}daat^6, ching^2 sin^{1}yeung^6 che^1 seung^6 sing^{4}haak^3 lok^{6}che^1(followed by Mandarin, English)

(Kevin's phone rings)

Kevin: wei^2!

Jerry: wei^6 Kevin! Jerry a^3! nei^5 yi^{4}ga^1 hai^2 bin^1 a^3?

Kevin: ngo^5 yi^{4}ga^1 daap^3-gan^2 ba^{1}si^2, jau^{6}faai^3 dou^3 la^3! nei^5 ne^1?

Jerry: ngo^5 ngaam^{1}ngaam^1 seung^5-jo^2 dei^{6}tit^3. hai^{6}wo^3, nei^{5}kyut^{3}ding^6-jo^2 heui^3 bin^{1}dou^6 yam^{2}cha^6 mei^6 a^3?

Kevin: ngo^{5}dei^6 heui^3 Fun^{1}Lok^{3}Lau^4, hou^2-m^4-hou^2 a^3?

Jerry: hou^2 a^6! dim^2 heu…?

Subway Announcement: ching^{2}mat^6 kaau^{3}gan^6 che^{1}mun^4 (followed by Mandarin, English)

Kevin: …dang^2, jan^{6}gaan^1 gin^3! baai^{1}baai^1!

Jerry: mat^{1}ye^{5}wa^2? wei^2, wei^2, wei^2?

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	Part of Speech	English Meaning
mat^{1}ye^{5}wa^2?	Expression	What did you say?
Daap^3	V	to take/ride
jau^{6}faai^3	Adv	about to, soon
dei^{6}tit^3	N	subway
kyut^{3}ding^6	V	to decide
yam^{2}cha^4	VO	to have dim sum
che^{1}mun^4	N	car door
jan^{6}gaan^1	Time Word/Adv	in a while, soon; a moment
lok^{6}che^1	VO	to get off, alight
gin^3	V	to see; to meet

Extra Vocabulary

Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	English Meaning
sing^{4}haak^3	N	passenger (fml.)
jik^{1}jeung^1	Adv	about to; soon (fml.)
dou^{3}daat^6	V	to arrive (fml.)
yeung^6	V	to yield to, to let
lit^{6}che^3	N	train (fml.)
ching^{2}mat^6…	V	Please do not…(fml.)
kaau^{3}gan^6	Expression	to get close to, near (fml.)

Dialogue 2

Yale Romanization

Jerry: bai^6 la^3, haang^4 cho^3-jo^2 lou^6. siu^{2}je^2, cheng^{2}man^6, ngo^5 seung^2 heui^3 Tong^{4}Yan^{4}Fau^6. nei^{5}ji^1-m^4-ji^1 dim^2 haang^4 a^3?

Passer-by: la^4, nei^5 sau^{2}sin^1 hai^2 ni^{1}go^3 gaai^{1}hau^2

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

Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	English Meaning
bai⁶ la³	Expression	Shoot! Darn it! Crap!
lou⁶	N	road
siu²je²	N	Miss
Tong⁴Yan⁴Fau⁶ *also* Tong4Yan4Gaai1	N	Chinatown
ji¹	V	to know
heui³…dim² haang⁴ a³?	Expression	How do I get to…?
sau²sin¹	Adv	first(ly)
gaai¹hau²	N	block, intersection
jyun³	V	to turn
yau⁶	Adv	right
jo²	Adv	left
yin⁴ (ji¹) hau⁶	Adv/Conj.	after that; afterwards
joi³	Adv	in addition, again
jik⁶	Adv	straight
gwo³	V	to cross; to pass
gaai³	N	street
jeui³hau⁶	Adv	last, finally
Gau²Gaai¹	Proper N	Ninth Street
jung⁶yau⁵…	Expression	Also…
Fun¹Lok⁶Lau⁴	Proper N	Happy Happy Restaurant
ting⁴che¹cheung⁴	N	parking lot
deui³min⁶	N	across from
wui⁵	V	will, would
gin³	V	to see
gaan¹	N	measure for rooms, some buildings
cha⁴lau⁴	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! yau⁵mou⁵gaau³cho³a³?

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

Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	English Meaning
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] *lit.* again
faai^3	Adj	fast
sau^{1}sin^3	V	to hang up the phone

Supplementary Vocabulary

Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	English Meaning
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 + dou^3 to arrive at, to get to …(by V-ing)

Adding dou^3 (third tone) to the verb shows that an action has reached a certain point in time or location.

Example:

    ngo^5 duk^6 *dou^3* dai^6 saam^1 yip^6. keui^5 faan^2 *dou^3* uk^{1}kei^2 la^3!
    'I read to page three.' 'He's arrived home!'

    ngo^5 kam^{4}maan^6 jou^6 *dou^3* saam^1 dim^2 sin^{1}ji^3 fan^{3}gaau^3.
    Last night, I worked until 3, (and it wasn't until 3) that I went to bed.

2) Resultative Complement

V + dou^2 to be able to V, could V

By adding dou^2 (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 tai^2-m^4-tai^2 dou^2 ngo^2 a^3? ngo^5 tau^{4}sin^1 gam^{2}gok^3 dou^2.

Can you see me? I could feel it earlier.

keui^5 yaai^2 *dou^2* ngo^5 bou^6 din^6 a^3! ngo^5 gin^3 *dou^2* keui^3 tau^{1}ye^5.
He stepped on my computer! I saw him steal.

Negative: V + m^4 + dou^2

ngo^5 ting^{1}yat^6 faan^1 m^4 *dou^2* uk^{1}kei^5.
I won't be able return home tomorrow.

keui^5 gei^3 m^4 *dou^2* ngo^5 go^3 dei^{6}ji^2 (gei6: 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.

…sin^1 *or* sau^{2}sin^1…	^{1}First…
yin^1(ji^1)hau^6 … *or* gan^{1}jyu^6…	And then…/Afterwards…
joi^3	In addition…
jeui^{3}hau^6	Finally/Lastly….

Example:

ngo^5 gam^{1}yat^1 yiu^3 tiu^{3}mou^5 *sin^1*, *gan^{1}jyu^6* da2 mong^{5}kau^4, *gan^{1}jyu^6* cheung^{3}go^1, *jeui^{3}hau^6* yau^{4}seui^2.
'Today I need to dance first, then play tennis, then sing, and swim last.

Note: ^{1}Spoken Cantonese places sin^1 after the verb, but when you use sau^{2}sin^1 or use more formal Cantonese, it goes before the verb.

Example:

Formal: ching^2 *sin^1* yeung^6 che^1 seung^6 sing^{4}haak^3 lok^{6}che^1
'Please let passengers exit first.' (verb here is yeung6 'to yield/let')
Colloquial: nei^5 bei^2 keui^5 lok^{6}che^1 *sin^1* la^1! (bei^2: to allow/let)
'Let him get off first!'

4) *sik^1* versus *ji^1* 'to know'

The verb *sik^1* is used to mean 'to know' when you are talking about knowing a person or knowing some sort of skill. On the other hand, *ji^1* (sometimes *ji^{1}dou^6*) is usually used when you know a fact or some sort of information.
Example:

nei^5 *sik^1*-m^4-*sik^1* ngo^5 go^3 pang^{4}yau^5 a^3?   'Do you know my friend?'

keui^5 *sik^3* (gong^2) Gwong^{2}Dung^{1}Wa^2.
'He knows (how to speak) Cantonese'

ngo^5 *ji^1*dou^3 saai^3 nei^5 di^1 bei^{3}mat^6!   'I know all your secrets!'

keui^5 m^4 *ji^1* nei^5 hai^6 hok^{6}saang^1.   '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:

yu^{4}gwo^2 nei^5 dak^{1}haan^4 ge^{3}wa^2, nei^5 *wui^5 m^4 wui^5* bong^1 keui^5 a^3?
'Would you help him if you had time?'

ngo^{5}dei^6 ting^{1}yat^6 *wui^5* cheung^3 K.   'We will go to karaoke tomorrow'

ngo^{5}dei^6 ting^{1}yat^6 heui^3 cheung^3 K, hou^2 m^4 hou^2? (no *wui^5* needed)
'How about we sing karaoke tomorrow?'

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

keui^5 yat^{1}ding^6 *wui^5* lei^4 ngo^5 go^3 pa^{1}ti^4
'He will definitely come to my party'

keui^5 ho^{2}nang^4 *wui^5* lei^4.   'He might come'

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

Examples:

ngo^5 *yat^1* jou^6 yun^5 gung^{1}fo^3, *jau^6* fan^{3}gaau^3.
'As soon as I finish my homework, I go to sleep'

keui^5 ma^{4}ma^1 *yat^1* tai^2 keui^5 jeung^1 sing^{4}jik^{1}biu^2 *jau^6* m^4 hoi^{1}sam^1.
'As soon as his mother saw his report card, she became unhappy.'

sin^{1}saang^1 *yat^1* haang^4 yap^6 lei^4, go^{3}go^3 *jau^4* m^4 cheut^{1}seng^1
(cheut^{1}seng^1: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.

ngo^5 mat^{1}ye^5 dou^1 tai^2 m^4 dou^2 *wo^3*! 'I can't see anything!'

yi^{4}ga^2 Hon^{4}Kek^4 hou^2 lau^{4}hang^4 *wo^3*!
' Korean dramas are popular now!'

nei^5 lam^2 ching^{1}cho^2 *wo^3*.   'Think over it clearly!'

nei^5 lau^{4}yi^3-ha^5 *wo^3*.   '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:

keui^5 *bin^{1}go^3* dou^1 jung^{1}yi^3 'He likes anyone/any one'

nei^5 pang^{1}yau^5 *mat^{1}ye^5* dou^1 sik^6 'Your friend eats anything'

ngo^5 *gei^{2}si^4* dou^1 dak^{1}haan^4 'I'm free anytime'

Negative: QW + *dou^1* + *m^4/mei^6/mou^5* + V

ngo^5 gam^{1}yat^6 *mat^{1}ye^5* dou^1 mei^6 jou^6
'I haven't done anything today'

keui^5 *gei^{2}si^4* dou^1 m^4 jou^6 gung^{1}fo^3
'She doesn't do homework anytime'

keui^5 *bin^{1}dou^6* dou^1 mou^5 heui^5-gwo^3
'He hasn't been to anywhere'

9) Pattern: *yi^{5}wai^4*… 'thought (mistakenly)'

The expression *yi^{5}wai^4* is used to mean 'thought' only when if what the speaker says a mistaken thought or notion is. It is typically followed by *daan^{6}hai^6* 'but', *kei^{4}sat^6* 'actually', and *yun^{4}loi^4* 'it turns out that…'
Example:

ngo^5 *yi^{5}wai^4* keui^5 hai^6 sin^{1}saang^1, yun^{4}loi^4 keui^5 dou^1 hai^6 hok^{6}saang^1
'I thought he was a teacher, but it turns out he is also a student.'

ngo^5 *yi^{5}wai^4* ngo^4 pang^{4}yau^5 gam^{1}yat^6 wui^6 lei^4, daan^{6}hai^6 keui^5 jeui^{3}hau^6 mou^5 lei^4.
'I thought my friend would come, but in the end he did not come.'

ngo^5 *yi^{5}wai^4* keui^5 hou^5 lek^1, kei^{4}sat^4 keui^5 jung^6 cheun^2 gwo^3 jek^3 ma^{5}lau^1.
'I thought he was really smart, actually he's even dumber than a monkey'

10) *gong^2* versus *wa^6* 'to speak/tell' versus 'to say/tell'

In Cantonese, *gong^2* means 'to speak' or 'to tell N', for example:

gong^2 Gwok^{3}Yu^5 'speak Mandarin'

gong^2 gu^{3}si^6 'tell a story'

keui^5 *gong^2* dak^1 hou^2 ching^{1}cho^2 'he speaks very clearly'

When you quote someone, you must use *wa^6* 'to say…'
keui^5 *wa^6* nei^6 hou^2 jung^{1}yi^3 cheung^{3}go^1 wo^3.
'He says that you really like to sing'

ngo^6 *wa^6*-jo^2 hai^2 lau^{4}seung^4 dang^2.
'I said to wait upstairs'

However, when you are telling somebody something, wa^6 and gong^2 are usually interchangeable.
keui^5 *wa^6/gong^2*-gwo^3 hou^2 do^1 ci^3
'He's said it many times'

nei^5 *wa^6/gong^2* bei^2 ngo^5 teng^1 la^1!
'(You) Tell me!'

Note the pattern above:
A + wa^6/gong^2 + bei^2 + B + teng^1/ji^1
'A told B / A let B know'

Transportation

English	**Yale Romanization**
car	che^1
car (private)	si^1 ga^1 che^1
automobile	hei^3 che^1
motorcycle	din^6 daan^1 che^1
bicycle	daan^1 che^1
bus	ba^1 si^2
minibus	siu^2 ba^1
taxi	dik^1 si^2
train	fo^2 che^1
subway	dei^6 tit^3
light rail	hing^1 tit^3
airplane	fei^1 gei^1
helicopter	jik^6 sing^1 gei^1
boat	syun^4
ferry	dou^6 leun^4
MW for vehicles (car, train, bus, taxi)	ga^3, bou^6
MW for flying machines (airplane, helicopter)	ga^3
MW for boat	jek^3
to ride	daap^3, cho^5
to ride a bike	chaai^2/yaai^2 daan^1 che^1
to drive	ja^1
driver	si^1 gei^1
to board (car, taxi, bus, train)	seung^5 che^1
to alight (car, taxi, bus, train)	lok^6 che^1
bus/taxi/train fare	che^1 fai^3
bus stop	ba^1 si^2 jaam^6
stop/station (bus, train, subway)	jaam^6
platform	yut^6 toi^4
elevator	lip^1 (<Eng. Lift)
street/road	gaai^1/lou^6
freeway	gou^1 chuk^1 gung^1 lou^6
parking lot	ting^4 che^1 cheung^4
parking space	che^1 wai^2
airport	(fei^1) gei^1 cheung^4
gate	jaap^6 (hau^2)

Location Outline

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

[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 in which the action is static.

keui^5 kei^5 *hai^2* mun^{4}hau^2 *dou^6*.
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 + hai^2 + Location + *Localizer*

bun^2 syu^1 hai^2 toi^2 *dai^{2}ha^6/ha^{6}min^6.*   Dwinelle hai^2 nei^2 *jo^{2}sau^{2}bin^6*.
'The book is below the table   'Dwinelle is to your left.''

How to express the existence of an object (note: the noun is indefinite):
[a] Location + *Localizer* + yau^5 + Noun

hok^{6}haau^6 *deui^{3}min^6* yau^5 yat^1 gaan^1 chaan^{1}gun^2.
'There is a restaurant across from school'

How to express the location of an action (note: the subject is definite):
[a] Subject + hai^2 + Location + *Localizer* + Verb + (Object)

keui^{5}dei^6 hai^2 tou^{4}syu^{1}gun^2 *cheut^{1}min^6* duk^6-gan^2 syu^1.
'They are reading outside the library'

[b] Subject + Verb + ha^{i2} + Location + *Localizer*

ngo^5 pang^{4}yau^5 kei^5 hai^2 ngo^5 *gaak^{3}lei^4*   keui^5 fan^3 hai^2 so^{1}fa^2 seung^{3}min
'My friend is standing beside me.'   'He sleeps on the sofa.'

How to express the existence of an action (note: the subject is indefinite):
[a] yau^5 + Noun + *hai^2* + Location + *Localizer* + Verb (+Object)

yau^5 (yat^1) go^3 sin^{1}saang^1 hai^2 fo^{3}sat^1 *yap^{6}min^6* gaau^3-gan^2 syu^1.
'There is a teacher teaching inside the classroom'

[b] yau^5 + Noun + Verb + *hai^2* + Location + *Localizer*

yau^5 go^3 sai^{3}lou^6 gwai^6 hai^2 cheung^{1}mun^2 *chin^{4}min^6*.
'There is a kid kneeling before the window'