Lesson 3: Family

Dialogue 1 ale Romanizatio

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

 fu^6 mou⁵ tung⁴maai⁴ ngo⁵. ngo⁵ mou⁵

hing¹dai⁶ji²mui²

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.

Note: [1] uk^1kei^2 'home' is used here to refer to immediate family; the word uk^1 by itself refers to house. [2] $ba^4ba^1ma^4ma^1$ is a more colloquial way of referring to both parents, the more formal way is fu^6mou^5 .

Vocabulary		
Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	English Meaning
uk ¹ kei ²	N	home; family
yau ²	V	to exist, to have
go ³	MW	measure for people
ba⁴ba¹	Ν	father
ma⁴ma¹	N	mother
ga¹je¹	Ν	older sister
sai ³ lou ²	N	younger brother
tung⁴maai⁴	Conj.	and, with
mou⁵	V	to not exist, not exist
hing¹dai ⁶ ji²mui²	Ν	brothers and sisters
ji ²	Adv.	only
fu ⁶ mou⁵	Ν	parents
ma⁴ma¹ba⁴ba¹	N	mom and dad
Note: For other family	umembers please refer to l	handout

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

Dialogue 2

Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ yau³ mou⁵ hing¹dai⁶ji²mui² a³? **B**: ngo⁵ yau⁵ ya^{t1} 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.

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.

Note: The comparative gwo³ is occasionally omitted.

Vocabulary		
Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	<u>English Meaning</u>
daai ⁶	Adj.	big, large
gwo ³	V.	to pass
gei ² do ¹ (+ MW)	QW	how many?
sai ³	Adj.	small, little
leung⁵	Det.	two (used with measures)

Supplementary Adjectives		
<u>Yale</u>	Meaning	
do1	Adj./Adv. many/more	

Yale hau⁶saang¹/ nin¹ching¹

<u>Meaning</u>

young

siu ²	Adj./Adv. few/less
gou ¹	tall, high
ai ²	short, low (physically)
dai ¹	low
cheung ⁴	long
dyun ²	short
fei ⁴	fat
sau ³	skinny
hou ²	good
heng ¹	light
chung ⁵	heavy
waai ⁶	bad, out of order
cha ¹	worse, bad, lacking
san ¹	new

Dialogue 3 Yale Romanization

A: nei⁵ uk¹kei² yau⁵ mou⁵ chung²mat⁶ a³? **B**: ngo⁵ yau⁵ yat¹ jek³ gau² tung⁴ yat¹ jek³ maau¹. nei⁵ ne¹?

A: $ngo^5dei^6 gau^2 tung^4 maau^1 dou^1 mou^5$, $daan^6hai^6 ngo^5 yau^5 gei^2 tiu^4 gam^1yu^2$. B: $nei^5dei^6 dim^2gaai^2 mou^5 gau^2 tung^4 maau^1 a^3$? A: $yan^1wai^6 ngo^5 ma^4ma^1 m^4 jung^1yi^6 yeung^5 gau^2 tung^4 maau^1$, $so^2yi^5 ngo^5dei^6 uk^1kei^5 mou^5 lo^1$.

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gwai³ expensive peng⁴ inexpensive lek¹/ smart sing²muk⁶/ chung¹ming⁴ lou⁵ old gau⁶ old cheun² stupid deun⁶ slow-witted yun⁵ far kan² close faai³ fast maan⁶ slow yit⁶ hot dung³ cold naan⁴ difficult

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	Part of Speech	English Meaning
chung ² mat ⁶	Ν	pet
jek ³	MW	measure for many animals, body parts,
		objects
gau ²	Ν	dog
maau ¹	Ν	cat
tung⁴	Conj.	and, with
dou ¹	Adv.	both, all, every
daan ⁶ hai ⁶	Conj.	but, however
gei ² + MW	Det.	several, few
tiu ⁴	MW	measure for long animals and objects
gam ¹ yu ²	Ν	goldfish
yan ¹ wai ⁶	Conj.	because, since
yeung⁵	V.	to raise, train, foster
so²yi ⁵	Conj.	therefore, so
Note: [1] This use of a	lou ¹ is different from the	e usage of dou ¹ meaning 'also'.

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

Supplementary Vocabulary	1	
Yale Romanization	Part of Speech	<u>English Meaning</u>
ni ¹ + MW	Dem.	this
go² + MW	Dem.	that
ni ¹ dou ⁶	Ν	here
go ² dou ⁶	Ν	there, over there

.. . .

ni ¹ bin ⁶ (¹)	Ν	this side
go²bin ⁶ (1)	Ν	that side, over that side

Grammar

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

In Cantonese, the verb yau^5 , 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 yau^5 followed by nouns, which has the above-mentioned meaning of existence and possession.

Examples:

 $ngo^5 yau^5 saam^1 jek^3 gau^2$. I have three dogs.

Paak³Hak¹Loi⁴ *yau*⁵ hou² do¹ hok⁶saang¹.

Berkeley has many students/There are many students in Berkeley.

 $ni^1 dou^6 yau^5 yat^1 jek^3 maau^1$ There is a cat here.

The negative form of yau^5 is mou^5 , which means 'to not have, to not exist'.

Example:

ngo⁵ *mou*⁵ hing¹dai⁶ji²mui².

I have no brothers and sisters.

 $fo^3 sat^1$ leui⁵min⁶ *mou*⁵ toi²dang³. (*fo*³*sat*¹: classroom, *leui*⁵*min*⁶: inside, *toi*²*dang*³: tables and chairs) There are tables or chairs in the classroom.

 $go^2dou^6 mou^5 chi^3 so^2$ (*chi*³ so²: 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 jek^3 gau² 'one dog'; mui⁵ tiu^4 fish 'every fish'
- b) with demonstratives ni^1 'this', go^2 'that'
- Ex: ni¹ *go*³ hok⁶saang¹ 'this student'; go² *gaan*¹ hok¹haau⁶ 'that school' c) with question words (QW)
 - Ex: gei²do¹ *go*³ yan⁴ 'how many persons?'; bin¹ *jo*⁶ suk¹se⁵ 'which dorm?'

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

*tung*⁴ or *tung*⁴*maai*⁴ 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 tung⁴ dou² laap⁶saap³. (jang¹: to hate, sai² saam¹: to wash clothes; dou² laap⁶saap³: to take out the trash) I really hate doing laundry and taking out the trash.

ngo⁵ *tung*⁴ keui⁵ yat¹chai⁴ heui³ leui⁵hang⁴. (*yat¹chai⁴*: together; *heui*³: to go; *leui⁵hang*⁴: travel)

I go traveling together with him/He and I go traveling together.

4) Making Comparisons with gwo³

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

A + Adj. + gwo³ + B + [Adv/degree modifier] "A is more [adj.] than B"

Examples: keui⁵ gou¹ gwo³ ngo⁵.

He is taller than me.

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

 $ngo^5 ga^1je^1 daai^6 (gwo^3) sei^3 nin^4$. 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 *daan⁶hai⁶* '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, *daan⁶hai*⁶ ngo⁵ m⁴ sik¹ Gwong²Dung¹Wa². (*sik*¹: to know, *Gwong²Dung¹Wa*²: Cantonese) Although I am Cantonese, (but) I don't know Cantonese.

*seui¹yin*⁴ ngo⁵ ma⁴ma¹ m⁴ jung¹yi³ gau², *daan*⁶hai⁶ ngo⁵ jung¹yi⁶. Although my mom dislikes dogs, I like (them).

In the dialogue *daan⁶hai⁶* is used by itself in the second clause, which simply concedes what was mentioned before it.

Examples:

ni¹ bun² syu¹ hou² cheung⁴, *daan⁶hai⁶* hou² tai². (bun²: MW, syu¹: book, tai²: to look)

This book is long, but good.

ngo⁵ jung¹yi³ yeung⁵ maau¹, *daan⁶hai⁶* m⁴ jung¹yi³ yeung⁵ gau². I like raising cats, but I dislike raising dogs.

6) Expression yan¹wai⁶...so²yi⁵... 'since/because..., therefore..."

The expression $yan^1wai^6...so^2yi^5...$ 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:

*yan¹wai*⁶ jyu⁶ dorm hou² gwai⁶, *so²yi*⁵ ngo⁵ jou¹ paak¹man² jyu⁶. (*jou*¹: to rent)

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

*yan¹wai*⁶ ngo⁵ jung¹yi³ gai³sou³, *so²yi*⁵ ngo⁵ jyu²sau¹ sou³hok⁶. (gai³sou³: to do calculations, do math)

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

 so^2yi^5 'therefore, so' can also be used by itself in the second clause.

Example:

keui⁵ hai² Heung¹Gong² lei⁴, *so²yi*⁵ keui⁵ sik¹ Gwong²Dung¹Wa². He's from Hong Kong, so he knows Cantonese.

7) Adverb *dou*¹ 'both, all, every, each'

 dou^1 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:

ngo⁵dei⁶ 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)

ngo⁵dei⁶ gau² tung⁴ maau¹ dou¹ yau⁵. We have both cats and dogs.

Other Examples:

keui⁵ ga³ga³ che¹ dou¹ jung¹yi³. (ga³: MW, che¹: car) He likes every car.

ngo⁵ mat¹ye⁵ 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 ni¹ 'this', go² 'that' must be accompanied by a measure word.

Example:

ni¹ go³ pang⁴yau⁵ 'this friend' go² go³ tung⁴hok⁶ 'that classmate' ni¹ jo⁶ daai⁶ha⁶ 'this building' go² bun² syu¹ 'that book'

Family Terms (ga¹ juk⁶)

father mother brother (older) (younger) brothers sister (older) (younger) sisters	$ba^{4} ba^{1} / a^{3} ba^{4} / lou^{2} dau^{6} (colloq.)$ $ma^{4} ma^{1} / a^{3} ma^{1}$ $go^{4} go^{1} / a^{3} go^{1} / daai^{6} lou^{2} (colloq.)$ $sai^{3} lou^{2}$ hing^{1} dai^{6} $ga^{1} je^{1}$ $sai^{3} mui^{2} / mui^{2}$
son daughter husband wife	jai ² neui ² jeung ⁶ fu ¹ / lou ⁵ gung ¹ (colloq.) taai ³ taai ² / lou ⁵ po ⁴ (colloq.)
Paternal Relatives grandfather grandmother cousin (male, older) (male, younger) (female, older) (female, younger) uncle (older than father) uncle's wife uncle (younger than father) uncle's wife aunt (older than father) (younger than father) aunt's husband	ye ⁴ ye ² / a^3 ye ⁴ ma ⁴ ma ⁴ / a^3 ma ⁴ tong ⁴ a ³ go ¹ tong ⁴ sai ³ lou ² tong ⁴ ga ¹ je ¹ tong ⁴ sai ³ mui ² baak ³ fu ⁶ baak ³ leung ⁴ /baak ³ mou ⁵ a ³ suk ¹ a ³ sam ² gu ¹ ma ¹ gu ¹ je ¹ gu ¹ jeung ²
Maternal Relatives grandfather grandmother cousin (male, older) (male, younger) (female, older) (female, younger) uncle uncle's wife aunt (older than mother) (younger than mother) aunt's husband	gung ¹ gung ¹ / a^3 gung ¹ po ⁴ po ² / a^3 po ⁴ biu ² go ¹ biu ² dai ⁶ biu ² je ² biu ² mui ² kau ⁵ fu ² kam ⁵ mou ² yi ⁴ ma ¹)a ³ yi ¹ yi ⁴ jeung ²