

LESSON NOTES

3-Minute Cantonese #4 Asking How Someone Is

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你點呀?
2. 你好嗎?
3. 我幾好,多謝。
4. 麻麻喇。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 dim2 aa3
2. nei5 hou2 maa3?
3. ngo5 gei2 hou2, do1 ze6
4. maa4 maa2 dei2

ENGLISH

1. How are you?
2. How are you?
3. I'm fine. Thank you.
4. Not so well.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
啲	dei2	a bit	adverb
麻麻	maa4 maa2	below average	adjective
謝	ze6	thanks	noun
你	nei5	you	pronoun
點	dim2	how	pronoun, adverb
呀	aa3	final particle	final particle
好	hou2	good	adjective
嗎	maa3	final particle for question	final particle
我	ngo5	I	pronoun
幾好	gei2 hou2	quite well	adjective
多	do1	much, many	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你去照吓鏡，睇吓自己點嘅樣。
nei5 heoi3 ziu3 haa5 geng3, tai2 haa5 zi6 gei2 dim2 ge3 joeng2.

Go look in the mirror and see how you look.

我叫Nicole。
ngo5 giu3 Nicole.

I'm (called) Nicole.

仲有咁多作業未做，睇嚟今晚又有覺好瞓。
zung6 jau5 gam3 do1 zok3 jip6 mei6 zou6, tai2 lai4 gam1 maan5 jau6 mou5 gaau3 hou2 fan3.

With so much homework, we'll surely have a sleepless night tonight.

GRAMMAR

In this lesson you will learn how to ask and answer the question How are you?

	Register	Cantonese	Jyutping	English
Phrase 1	informal	你點呀?	nei5 dim2 aa3	How are you?
Word 1		你	nei5	you
Word 2		點	dim2	how
Word 3		呀	aa3	final particle
Phrase 2	formal	你好嗎?	nei5 hou2 maa3?	How are you?
Word 1		你	nei5	You
Word 2		好	hou2	good
Word 3		嗎	maa3	final particle for question
Phrase 3	formal	我幾好,多 謝。	ngo5 gei2 hou2, do1 ze6	I'm fine. Thank you.
Word 1		我	ngo5	I
Word 2		幾好	gei2 hou2	quite well
Word 3		多	do1	many
Word 4		謝	ze6	thanks
Phrase 4	informal	麻麻哋。	maa4 maa2 dei2	Not so well.
Word 1		麻麻	maa4 maa2	below average
Word 2		哋	dei2	a bit

CULTURAL INSIGHT

If you asked a friend how he/she is, and the response is 麻麻地 (*maa4 maa2 dei2*), you can ask 做咩呀? (*zou6 me1 aa3*), meaning ‘what happened?’ to ask for more details, and hopefully you can help your friend cheer up!