

LESSON NOTES

3-Minute Cantonese #5 Making Apologies

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 唔該。
2. 唔好意思。
3. 我有心㗎!
4. 對唔住。

JYUTPING

1. m4 goi1
2. m4 hou2 ji3 si1
3. ngo5 mou5 sam1 gaa3
4. deoi3 m4 zyu6

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me.
2. Excuse me.
3. I didn't mean it.
4. I'm sorry.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
唔該	m4 goi1	excuse me, please, thank you	phrase
唔	m4	not	co-verb
好	hou2	good	adjective
意思	ji3 si1	meaning	noun
我	ngo5	I	pronoun
冇	mou5	without	co-verb
心	sam1	heart	noun
㗎	gaa3	final particle	final particle
對唔住	deoi3 m4 zyu6	sorry	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>唔該，我諗你坐緊呢個位係我嘅。 <i>m4 goi1, ngo5 lam2 nei5 co5 gan2 ni1 go3 wai2 hai6 ngo5 ge3.</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, I think this is my seat you are sitting on."</p>	<p>唔該細聲啲。 <i>m4 goi1 sai3 seng1 di1.</i></p> <p>Please lower your volume.</p>
<p>佢老公唔高興。 <i>keoi5 lou5 gung1 m4 gou1 hing3.</i></p> <p>Her husband's not happy.</p>	<p>佢唔係男仔。 <i>keoi5 m4 hai6 naam4 zai2.</i></p> <p>She is not a boy.</p>
<p>咩意思？ <i>me1 ji3 si1?</i></p> <p>What does it mean?</p>	<p>我叫Nicole。 <i>ngo5 giu3 Nicole.</i></p> <p>I'm (called) Nicole.</p>

對唔住我嚟遲咗。

deoi3 m4 zyu6 ngo5 lai4 ci4 zo2.

Sorry I was late.

GRAMMAR

In this lesson you will learn how to apologize yourself and say that you didn't do it on purpose and that you're sorry in Cantonese.

	Register	Cantonese	Jyutping	English
Phrase 1	informal	唔該。	<i>m4 goi1</i>	Excuse me.
Word 1		唔該	<i>m4 goi1</i>	Excuse me
Phrase 2	formal	唔好意思。	<i>m4 hou2 ji3 si1</i>	Excuse me.
Word 1		唔	<i>m4</i>	not
Word 2		好	<i>hou2</i>	good
Word 3		意思	<i>ji3 si1</i>	meaning
Phrase 3		我冇心㗎!	<i>ngo5 mou5 sam1 gaa3</i>	I didn't mean it.
Word 1		我	<i>ngo5</i>	I
Word 2		冇	<i>mou5</i>	without
Word 3		心	<i>sam1</i>	heart
Word 4		㗎	<i>gaa3</i>	final particle
Phrase 4		對唔住。	<i>deoi3 m4 zyu6</i>	I'm sorry.
Word 1		對唔住	<i>deoi3 m4 zyu6</i>	Sorry

CULTURAL INSIGHT

If you accidentally bump into someone in Hong Kong, you can say 唔好意思 (*m4 ho2 ji3 si1*), which means “excuse me”, or 對唔住 (*deoi3 m4 zyu6*) meaning “I’m sorry”. But don’t say 唔該 (*m4 goi1*), because this phrase cannot be used to apologize.