

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

Time for Cantonese

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你幾時得閒啊?
2. 下個禮拜𠵼。
3. 禮拜六?
4. 禮拜日。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4 a3 ?
2. haa6 go3 lai5 baai3 a1。
3. lai5 baai3 luk6 ?
4. lai5 baai3 jat6。

ENGLISH

1. When will you have time?
2. Next week.
3. Saturday?
4. Sunday.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
幾時	gei2 si4	when	adverb
五	ng5	five (5)	noun
四	sei3	four (4)	number
三	saam1	three (3)	number
二	ji6	two (2)	number
一	jat1	one (1)	number
禮拜日	lai5 baai3 jat6	Sunday	noun
禮拜六	lai5 baai3 luk6	Saturday	noun
星期	sing1 kei4	week	noun
禮拜	lai5 baai3	week	noun
上個	soeng6 go3	last (one)	adjective
下個	haa6 go3	next (one)	adjective
得閒	dak1 haan4	to be available, to be free	phrase
六	luk6	six (6)	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>你幾時到? <i>nei5 gei2 si4 dou3?</i></p> <p>When will you arrive?</p>	<p>俾五蚊我就得喇。 <i>bei2 ng5 man1 ngo5 zau6 dak1 laa3。</i></p> <p>Give me five HKD, that's fine.</p>
<p>四個星期。 <i>sei3 go3 sing1 kei4。</i></p> <p>"Four weeks."</p>	<p>三百人。 <i>saam1 baak3 jan4。</i></p> <p>Three hundred people.</p>

<p>二號位。 <i>ji6 hou6 wai2.</i></p> <p>The position number two.</p>	<p>一個人。 <i>jat1 go3 jan4.</i></p> <p>One person.</p>
<p>下個禮拜日。 <i>haa6 go3 lai5 baai3 jat6.</i></p> <p>Next Sunday.</p>	<p>上個禮拜六。 <i>soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3 luk6.</i></p> <p>Last Saturday.</p>
<p>四個星期。 <i>sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.</i></p> <p>"Four weeks."</p>	<p>四個禮拜。 <i>sei3 go3 lai5 baai3.</i></p> <p>Four weeks.</p>
<p>上個禮拜。 <i>soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3.</i></p> <p>Last week.</p>	<p>下個人。 <i>haa6 go3 jan4.</i></p> <p>Next (person).</p>
<p>我得閒就去書店。 <i>ngo5 dak1 haan4 zau6 heoi2 syu1 dim3.</i></p> <p>I go to bookshops whenever I am free.</p>	<p>得閒去兜風。 <i>dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1.</i></p> <p>(When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.</p>
<p>我個女六歲。 <i>ngo5 go3 nei5 luk6 sei3.</i></p> <p>My daughter is six years old.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Talking about 幾時, *gei1 si4* ("time")

你幾時得閒？

nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4 ?

"When will you have time?"

When asking about a general time in Cantonese, use the word 幾時 (*gei2 si4*). This is a

combination of the words 幾 ("how much") + 時 ("time"). When phrasing this in a question, you want to follow this pattern: Subject + 幾時 + Verb. For example, in the dialogue, we saw this sentence: 你幾時得閒? (*nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4?*) "When will you have time?" To ask about a specific time, use the phrase 幾點 (*gei2 dim2*).

Examples using 幾時:

1. 你哋幾時食飯?
nei5 dei6 gei2 si4 sik6 faan6
"When will you eat?"
2. 你幾時得閒?
nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4
"When will you be available?"
3. 佢幾時到?
keoi5 gei2 si4 dou3
"When will he arrive?"
4. 我哋幾時走?
ngo5 dei6 gei2 si4 zau2
"When do we leave?"
5. 佢哋幾點到?
keoi5 dei6 gei2 dim2 dou3
"What time will they arrive?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Counting the Days in Cantonese

While the handful of tones and countless characters may prove daunting to the fresh student learning Cantonese, at least one thing won't make your head spin. That is the weekly calendar. In Cantonese, instead of having individual names for days, the days are counted off from one to seven. "One" being Monday, and "seven" being Sunday. To say a day, simply put

the word for "week" (禮拜) followed by the number of the day. For example, Thursday will be 禮拜四 (*lai5 baai3 sei3*), or "day four." We use the same number scheme for months also. Instead of placing the number after the week, you place the calendar number of the month before 月 (*jyut6*). So for example, March will become 三月 (*saam1 jyut6*), or the "third month."