

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #22

## It Runs in the Cantonese Family

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 22

# TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 佢係邊個嚟咖?
2. 我大佬。
3. 佢好似劉德華嘅!
4. 就係佢啊。

# JYUTPING

1. keoi5 hai6 bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3 ?
2. ngo5 daai6 lou2。
3. keoi5 hou2 ci5 lau4 dak1 waa4 bo3 !
4. zau6 hai6 keoi5 aa6。

# ENGLISH

1. Who is he?
2. My older brother.
3. He looks a lot like Andy Lau.
4. He is.

# VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
似	ci5	to look like	adjective
老婆	lou5 po4	wife	noun
細妹	sai3 mui2	younger sister	noun
家姐	gaa1 ze1	older sister	noun
細佬	sai3 lou2	younger brother	noun
大佬	daai6 lou2	older brother	noun
爸爸	baa4 baa1	father	noun
媽媽	maa4 maa1	mother	noun
邊個黎咖	bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3	who	pronoun
邊個	bin1 go3	who	pronoun
老公	lou5 gung1	husband	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>你好似我一個朋友。 <i>nei5 hou2 ci5 ngo5 jat1 go3 pang4 jau5.</i></p> <p>You look like a friend of mine.</p>	<p>我老婆上班。 <i>ngo5 lou5 po4 soeng6 baan1.</i></p> <p>My wife is at work.</p>
<p>佢有兩個細妹。 <i>keoi5 jau5 loeng5 go3 sai3 mui2.</i></p> <p>She has two younger sisters.</p>	<p>呢個係我家姐。 <i>nei1 go3 hai6 ngo5 gaa1 ze1.</i></p> <p>This is my older sister.</p>
<p>我係佢細佬。 <i>ngo5 hai6 keoi5 sai3 lou2.</i></p> <p>I'm his younger brother.</p>	<p>我有兩個大佬。 <i>ngo5 jau5 loeng5 go3 daai6 lou2.</i></p> <p>I have two older brothers.</p>

你爸爸幾歲? <i>nei5 baa4 baa1 gei2 sei3</i> How old is your father?	媽媽唔得閒。 <i>maa4 maa1 m4 dak1 haan4.</i> Mom's busy.
邊個嚟咖? <i>bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3?</i> Who is he?	你係邊個? <i>nei5 hai6 bin1 go3?</i> Who are you?
呢個係佢老公。 <i>nei1 go3 hai6 keoi5 lou5 gung1.</i> This is her husband.	

## GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 係, *hai6* ("to be")

係咩?

*hai6 me1* ?

"Really?"

係 is a verb with many different functions. Often, it translates to the English verb "to be." However, we primarily use 係 to express that one noun is equivalent to another, as in the sentence 我係你爸爸 (*ngo5 hai6 nei5 baa4 baa1.*) - "I am your father." Adjectives do not link to nouns often using 係. So the English sentence "He is tall," would not use 係 in Cantonese.

In a simple sentence using 係, the noun after 係 is usually more general in meaning or reference than the noun before 係. Only when both nouns are equally specific can they be interchanged.

**For Example:**

1. 我係你大佬。  
*ngo5 hai6 nei5 daai6 lou2*  
"I'm your brother."
2. 佢係劉德華。  
*heoi5 hai6 lau4 dak1 waa4*  
"He is Andy Lau."
3. 呢個係我爸爸。  
*ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 baa4 baa1*  
"This is my father."
4. 嗰個係佢家姐。  
*go 2 go3 hai6 heoi5 gaa1 ze1*  
"That is her older sister."
5. 我哋係老公老婆。  
*ngo5 dei2 hai6 lou5 gung1 lou5 po4*  
"We are husband and wife."
6. 邊個係你男朋友？  
*bin1 go3 hai6 nei5 naam4 pang4 jau5*  
"Who is your boyfriend?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### The Legend of Andy Lau

---

What's that? You haven't heard of Andy Lau? The incredible acting, singing, and dancing Andy Lau? The entertainment tycoon of the Orient and cover boy for Asian men's magazines?

The Hong Kong film industry is relatively small, which means that you'll see the same actors again and again in different films. Andy Lau is one of the most popular and bankable Hong Kong stars, and if you don't know him now, you'll recognize him on sight before spending too

long in Hong Kong. Lau started his career on television in the early 1980s. His increasing popularity lead him into a singing career and then into film. To date, he has made over one hundred movies, including silly Hong Kong films like *Future X-Cops* and *Cat and Mouse* and more artistically ambitious films like Zhang Yimou's 2004 film *House of Flying Daggers*.

As his wealth and fame has grown, Andy Lau has attempted to play a greater role in expanding the Hong Kong film industry. In 1991, he set up his own production company called Teamwork Motion Pictures. This led him to being recognized as the "Asian Filmmaker of the Year" in the Pusan International Film Festival in 2006. In addition to being an active singer and director, Andy is increasingly well-known for ongoing speculation about his love life, a perennial subject in the Hong Kong entertainment dailies.