

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4 A Beer to Quench your Cantonese Thirst

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 小姐，唔該！
2. 唔？
3. 我要一支啤酒。
4. 冇問題。

JYUTPING

1. siu2 ze2, m4 goi1 !
2. m2 ?
3. ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 be1 zau2。
4. mou5 man6 tai4。

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me, Miss?
2. Hmm?
3. I would like a beer.
4. No problem.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
小姐	siu2 ze2	miss	noun
果汁	gwo2 zap1	juice	noun
個	go3	(measure word)	measure word
兩	loeng5	two (2)	numeral
靚女	leng3 neoi5	pretty girl	noun
靚仔	leng3 zai2	handsome boy	noun
先生	sin1 saang1	sir, mister	noun
冇問題	mou5 man6 tai4	no problem	phrase
啤酒	be1 zau2	beer	noun
支	zi1	(measure word for bottle)	measure word
一	jat1	one	noun
要	jiu3	to want / to need	verb
水	seoi2	water	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>小姐，唔該借過。 <i>siu2 ze2, m4 goi1 ze3 gwo3.</i></p> <p>Miss, please let me through.</p>	<p>兩杯果汁，唔該。 <i>loeng5 bui1 gwo2 zap1, m4 goi1.</i></p> <p>Two glasses of juice, please.</p>
<p>我有兩個姊妹。 <i>ngo5 jau5 loeng5 go3 ze4 ze1.</i></p> <p>I have two older sisters.</p>	<p>兩位。 <i>loeng5 wai2.</i></p> <p>For two.</p>

<p>我姐姐係一個靚女。 <i>ngo5 ze4 ze1 hai6 jat1 go3 leng3 nei5.</i></p> <p>My sister is a pretty girl.</p>	<p>嘉玲好靚女。 <i>gaa1 ling4 hou2 leng3 nei5.</i></p> <p>Carling Lau is very good-looking.</p>
<p>偉仔好靚仔。 <i>wai5 zai2 hou2 leng3 zai2.</i></p> <p>Tony Leung is very good-looking.</p>	<p>先生，幾位？ <i>sin1 saang1, gei2 wai2?</i></p> <p>How many people, sir?</p>
<p>冇問題嘅，等我接手啦。 <i>Mou5 man6 tai4 ge3,dang2 ngo 5 zip3 sau2 laa1.</i></p> <p>No problem, let me take over.</p>	<p>一樽啤酒 <i>jat1 zeon1 be1 zau2</i></p> <p>bottle of beer</p>
<p>我要一支紅酒。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 hung4 zau2.</i></p> <p>I'd like a bottle of red wine.</p>	<p>一個人嚟？ <i>jat1 go3 jan4 lai4 ?</i></p> <p>You here alone?</p>
<p>我要兩個pizza。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 pizza.</i></p> <p>I want two pizzas.</p>	<p>水對身體好。 <i>seoi2 deoi3 san1 tai2 hou2.</i></p> <p>Water is good for the body.</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking for Something

我要一支啤酒。

ngo5 jiu3 jat1 zi1 be1 zau2.

"I would like a beer."

The grammar focus of this lesson is the verb "to want" (要, *jiu3*). You can use this to express desire, interest, or a set plan for something that you want. The sentence structure for this verb follows the familiar pattern S+V+O where 要 is the verb, and what you want is the object.

For Example:

1. 小姐，我要百威。
siu2 ze2, ngo5 jiu3 baak3 wai1
"Miss, I want a Budweiser."

2. 香港啤酒好好飲。
hoeng1 gong2 be1 zau2 hou2 hou2 jam2
"Hong Kong beer tastes good."

3. 我要水。
ngo5 jiu3 sei2
"I want water."

4. 我要果汁。
ngo5 jiu3 gwo2 zap1
"I want fruit juice."

5. 我要兩個菜。
ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 coi3
"I want two dishes."*

6. 我要兩個飯。
ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 faan6
"I want two bowls of rice."*

* Remember that Cantonese uses measure words like 個 (*go3*) to distinguish the object. Remember that the measure word goes after the verb and before the object.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Calling Out in Cantonese

When traveling through a street in either Hong Kong or Guangdong, many roadside vendors will yell out at you 喂，靚仔! (*wai2, leng3 zai2!*) - "Hey gorgeous!" just to get your attention. Another common call is 靚女 (*leng3 nei5*), which literally translates to "woman wearing makeup." You might look back amusingly to see what all the commotion is about, but this kind

of yelling out is just a Cantonese custom.