



Absolute Beginner S1

No Free Cantonese Lunch

11

Traditional	2
Jyutping	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3
Cultural Insight	4

Traditional Chinese

弊！
咩事？
我有晒cash！
唔使驚，我大把。

Jyutping

bai6 !
me1 si6 ?
ngo5 mou5 saai3 cash !
m4 sai2 geng1, ngo5 daai6 baa2.

English

Shoot!
What?
I ran out of cash!
Don't worry. I've got plenty.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
弊	bai6	shoot!
咩事	me1 si6	What (thing happened)?
冇晒	mou5 saai3	to run out of
唔使	m4 sai2	no need to
驚	geng1	to be scared of
擔心	daam1 sam1	to worry
唔使驚	m4 sai2 geng1	Don't worry.
大把	daai6 baa2	to have plenty (of)

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

CantoneseClass101.com

Learn Cantonese with **FREE** Podcasts

弊啦!	bai6 laa3!	Oh, shoot!
咩事?	me1 si6?	What?
佢冇晒面。	keoi5 mou5 saai3 min2。	He is so embarrassed.
唔使緊張。	m4 sai2 gan2 zoeng1。	Don't be nervous.
我好驚老鼠。	ngo5 hou2 geng1 lou5 syu2。	I'm scared of mice.
媽媽好擔心你。	maa1 maa1 hou2 daam1 sam1 nei5。	Mom is so worried about you.
我係你身邊,唔使驚!	ngo5 hai6 nei5 san1 bin1, m4 sai2 geng1!	Don't worry, I am by your side.
慢慢嚟,我大把時間。	maan6 maan2 lai4, ngo5 daai6 baa2 si4 gaan3。	Take it easy, I have plenty of time.

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Reviewing Basic Sentence Structure

我有晒 cash !

ngo5 mou5 saai3 cash!

"I ran out of cash!"

The basic Cantonese sentence structure follows the English pattern: Subject + Verb/Adverb + Object. A sample sentence is 我好口渴 (ngo5 hou2 hau2 hot3.) - "I'm very thirsty." In this sentence, the object of the sentence is the adjective 口渴 ("thirsty"). We connect the subject 我 to the adjective/object by the adverb 好. In this context, the adverb 好 functions as the English equivalent of "to be" and "very" combined.

More examples using the adverb 好:

1. 佢好肚餓。

keoi5 hou2 tou5 ngo6

"He is hungry."

2. 我好𩚑。

ngo5 hou2 gui6

"I am tired."

To negate a sentence in Cantonese, simply replace the adverb 好 with 唔 (m4).

For Example:

1. 我唔𩚑。

ngo5 m4 gui6

"I'm not tired."

CantoneseClass101.com

Learn Cantonese with **FREE** Podcasts

We can place other verbs into our formula of Subject + Verb + Object, including 有 (jau5) - "to have," 要 (jiu3) - "to want," and 鍾意 (zung1 ji3) "to like".

For Example:

1. 我有錢。
ngo5 jau5 cin2
"I have money."
2. 我要呢個。
ngo5 jiu3 ni1 go3
"I want this"
3. 我鍾意你。
ngo5 zung1 ji3 nei5
"I like you."

Cultural Insight

Purchasing Power in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is based on commerce, and it functions as an Asian financial hub. People travel from all over the world to shop in one of Hong Kong's many department stores. Customers need easy access to these goods, so the use of credit and debit cards is everywhere. Aside from being able to pay with a card, Hong Kong has colorful and interesting banknotes. Individual banks inside Hong Kong print their own money. Money from different banks will appear and feel different, sometimes having a clear, see-through portion. Coins are also quite common in Hong Kong since a large number of people take public transportation. Coins are easily distributed and collected.