



## Absolute Beginner S1

Time for Cantonese

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## Traditional Chinese

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你幾時得閒啊？  
下個禮拜丫。  
禮拜六？  
禮拜日。

## Jyutping

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nei5 gei2 si4 dak1 haan4 a3 ?  
haa6 go3 lai5 baai3 a1。  
lai5 baai3 luk6 ?  
lai5 baai3 jat6。

## English

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When will you have time?  
Next week.  
Saturday?  
Sunday.



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## Vocabulary

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

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

你幾時到？  
得閒去兜風。

nei5 gei2 si4 dou3?  
dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1  
fung1.

When will you arrive?  
(When you/I) have time, go  
have a joyride.

下個人。  
上個禮拜。  
四個禮拜。  
四個星期。  
上個禮拜六。  
下個禮拜日。

haa6 go3 jan4.  
soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3.  
sei3 go3 lai5 baai3.  
sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.  
soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3 luk6.  
haa6 go3 lai5 baai3 jat6.

Next (person).  
Last week.  
Four weeks.  
Four weeks.  
Last Saturday.  
Next Sunday.

一個人。  
二號位。  
三百人。  
四個星期。  
俾我五蚊就得啦。

jat1 go3 jan4.  
ji6 hou6 wai2.  
saam1 baak3 jan4.  
sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.  
bei2 ngo5 ng5 man1 zau6  
dak1 laa3.

One person.  
The position number two.  
Three hundred people.  
Four weeks.  
Give me five HKD, that's fine.

我個女六歲。

ngo5 go3 nei5 luk6 sei3.

My daughter is six years old.

## Grammar Points

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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?"

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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

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### Counting the Days in Cantonese

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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."