



Absolute Beginner S1 Crashing and Burning: Part 2

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Traditional Chinese

嗨，靚女！
咩事？
得唔得閒，飲杯嘢？
Sorry，我趕時間。

Jyutping

haai1, leng3 nei5!
me1 si6 ?
dak1 m4 dak1 haan4, jam2 bui1 je5 ?
Sorry, ngo5 gon2 si4 gaan3.

English

Hey pretty girl
What's wrong?
Do you have time? Fancy a drink?
Sorry, I'm in a rush.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
得閒	dak1 haan4	to be available
趕時間	gon2 si4 gaan3	to be in a rush
食餐飯	sik6 caan1 faan6	to have a meal
飲杯嘢	jam2 bui1 je5	to have a drink
睇部戲	tai2 bou6 hei3	to watch a movie
忙	mong4	busy
有時間	jau5 si4 gaan3	to have time
冇時間	mou5 si4 gaan3	not to have time

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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得閒去兜風。	dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1。	(When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.
唔好意思我趕時間。	m4 hou2 ji3 si1 ngo5 gon2 si4 gaan3。	Sorry, I'm in a rush.
冇冇時間食餐飯？	jau5 mou5 si4 gaan1 sik6 caan1 faan6?	Are you available to have a meal?
飲杯嘢好貴！	jam2 bui1 je5 hou2 gwai3!	So expensive for a drink!
冇時間一齊睇部戲？	jau5 si4 gaan3 jat1 cai4 tai2 bou6 hei3?	Have time to go to a movie together?
忙咩啊？	mong4 me1 aa3?	What are you busy with?
飲水都冇時間。	jam2 sei2 dou1 mou5 si4 gaan3。	I don't even have the time to drink water.

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Measure Words

飲杯嘢？

jam2 bui1 je5 ?

"Fancy a drink?"

You use measure words in Cantonese to specify which type of object you are talking about. Just as English says "A pair of shoes," or a "bottle of water," Cantonese has a similar concept that applies a measure word to each object.

In Cantonese, we use this formula: Verb + Measure Word + Object.

There are many measure words, but the most common measure word by far is 個 (go3). If you find yourself in a situation where you can't remember the exact measure word, you can simply use 個, and no one will think twice.

Some other common measure words include:

1. 支 (zi1)
"bottle"
2. 杯 (bui1)
"cup"
3. 餐 (caan1)
"meal"

For Example:

1. 一支啤酒

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- jat1 zi1 be1 zau2
"a bottle of beer"
2. 一支水
jat1 zi1 sei2
"a bottle of water"
3. 一餐飯
jat1 caan1 faan6
"one meal"
4. 兩餐飯
loeng5 caan1 faan6
"two meals"
5. 幾餐飯
gei2 caan1 faan6
"a couple of meals"

Cultural Insight

Out on the Town in Hong Kong

There are plenty of options for entertainment when the sun goes down in Hong Kong, along with plenty of ways to spend money. Lan Kwai Fong is the icon of nightlife in Hong Kong. From here, you can experience restaurants, pubs, and bars in Hong Kong's trendiest area. Locals come here to relax and socialize, while tourists enjoy the variety of bands and international spirits.

Also on the island, the streets of Wan Chai gained notoriety in the 1940s as Western service men descended on the bars during their R&R. The section has since lost its stigma of being a Mecca of debauchery and hedonism and now enjoys a tamer existence. Sports bars and pubs line the streets with heavy attendance on the weekend, enjoying live cover bands singing crowd pleasers.

For a more relaxed evening focused on eating and shopping, head to Tsim Sha Tsui to sample the local seafood and to pick up bargains on apparel and accessories. This section comes alive at night when outdoor markets open up and restaurants seat guests outside in the street.