



Absolute Beginner S1

Bargaining in the Cantonese Market

17

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

Traditional Chinese

呢個幾錢？
一百蚊。
太貴喇。
五十。

Jyutping

ni1 go3 gei2 cin2 ?
jat1 baak3 man1。
taai3 gwai3 laa3。
ng5 sap6。

English

How much is this?
One hundred HKD.
Too expensive.
Fifty HKD.

2

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
幾錢	gei2 cin2	How much...?
蚊	man1	man (hkd currency)
講價	gong2 gaa3	to bargain
貴	gwai3	expensive
平/便	peng4	cheap
買	maai5	to buy
賣	maai6	to sell
太	taai3	too

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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嗰個幾錢？
兩蚊一個。
冇得講價。
咁貴？
平啲啦。
我買。
唔賣。
太好啦！

go2 go3 gei2 cin2?
loeng5 man1 jat1 go3。
mou5 dak1 gong2 gaa3。
gam3 gwai3?
peng4 di1 laa1。
ngo5 maai5。
m4 maai6
taai3 hou2 laa1!

How much is that?
Two HKD each.
No bargaining.
That expensive?
Please lower the price.
I'll buy it.
I'm not selling it.
So great!

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is 太, (taai3"too..")

太貴喇。

taai3 gwai3 laa1。

"Too expensive."

Cantonese uses the adverb 太, meaning "excessive" or "to a high degree." You place this adverb in front of the adjective you want to modify. An example from the dialogue is 太貴喇 (taai3 gwai3 laa1) - "too expensive". Remember to add 喇 after the adjective for dramatic effect. You can add a subject to the beginning of the sentence, but it is not mandatory. If you decide to omit the subject, make sure that it is clear what you are describing.

Formula: 太 + Adjective + 喇

For Example:

1. 太好了！
taai3 hou2 liu5
"That's great!"
2. 呢個太貴！
ni1 go3 taai3 gwai3
"This is too expensive!"
3. 呢個太大！
ni1 go3 taai3 daai6
"This is too big!"
4. 我唔可以食，太熱啦！
ngo5 m4 ho2 ji5 sik6 taai3 jit6 laa3
"I can't eat it. It's too hot!"

Cultural Insight

Shopping in the Hong Kong Market

Hong Kong offers a veritable paradise for shopaholics, and stands as a centerpiece of Hong Kong's culture of consumerism. Standing at the crossroads of mainland China's factories and the West's appetite for consumption, Hong Kong offers anything and everything under the sun at a value. Hong Kong's integrated city offers shopping at both high-end malls and small side streets full of vendors, both in a stone's throw from each other. Nathan Road and Tsim Sha Tsui are two of the biggest areas in Kowloon to do your bargain shopping on. In addition to finding bargains, some bargains may find you. Indian and Pakistani immigrants will stand on the street soliciting suits, watches, and sunglasses at a discount.

For locals on the island, the place to go find big names, small boutiques, and bargain stalls, all in a tight cluster is Causeway Bay. The main strip is located outside the MTR exit, with buildings on each side of the road offering multiple stories of restaurants and shops.