



Absolute Beginner S1

It's Quitting Time in Hong Kong!

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Traditional Chinese

而家幾點？
五點半。
夠鐘收工。
走啦。

Jyutping

ji4 gaa1 gei2 dim2 ?
ng5 dim2 bun3.
gau3 zung1 sau1 gung1.
zau2 laa1.

English

What time is it now?
Half past five.
It's time to leave work.
Let's go.

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Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
而家	ji6 gaa1	now
幾點	gei2 dim2	what time
半	bun3	half
夠鐘	gau3 zung1	it's time
收工	sau1 gung1	to leave work
開工	hoi1 gung1	to start work
走	zau2	to leave, to walk
十一	sap6 jat1	eleven
十二	sap6 ji6	twelve

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我而家就要！ 幾點收工？	ngo5 ji6 gaa1 zau6 jiu3 ! gei2 dim2 sau1 gung1?	I want it now! What time (do you) get off work?
十二點半 夠鐘收工。 夠鐘收工。 夠鐘開工。 一齊走啦。 十一點半左右你有可能見到佢。 。	sap6 ji6 dim2 bun3 gau3 zung1 sau1 gung1。 gau3 zung1 sau1 gung1。 gau3 zung1 hoi1 gung1。 jat1 cai4 zau2 laa1。 sap6 jat1 dim2 bun3 zo2 jau2 nei5 jau5 ho2 nang4 gin3 dou3 keoi5。 sap6 ji6 ceoi4 luk6 dak1 ji6。	12 : 30 Time to leave work. Time to leave work. Time to start work. Let's go together. You might catch her at about half past eleven.
十二除六得二。		Six goes into twelve twice.

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Time Expressions

五點半。
ng5 dim2 bun3。
"Half past five"

When talking about time, the numbers one to twelve are used primarily. The method we use for telling time is very similar to how a clock works using numbers in Cantonese that correspond to the numbers on an hour and minute-hand clock.

To say what time it is, use the number (1-12) + 點 = __ o'clock.

For Example:

1. 10:00 = 十點 sap6 dim2

To say "half past," use the number (1-12) + 點半 = half past ____.

For Example:

1. 9:30 = 九點半 gau2 dim2 bun3

To say a specific hour and minute, use number (1-12) + number (1-12) = .

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For Example:

1. 4:15 = 四點三 sei3 dim2 saam1

Notice that 三 corresponds to the clock and indicates "fifteen minutes."

To say a little past some hour, for example, 4:03, use = 四點多小小 sei3 dim2 do1 siu2 siu2 ("a little past four o'clock")

Special Note: When talking about 2:00 or 2:30 = 兩點 loeng5 dim2 or 兩點半 loeng5 dim2 bun3 (not 二點 ji6 dim2).

Cultural Insight

Working in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is regarded as the gateway into the Chinese market and has the advantages of both transparency and rule of law. Many multinational companies have their China headquarters in Hong Kong with their manufacturing and back offices across the border. In addition, many mainland Chinese companies tend to register in Hong Kong due to simpler and clearer rules.

In Hong Kong, the working week is a little longer with averages around fifty hours per week. Some differences in the work place include handing and accepting business cards with both hands and having the boss foot the entire bill for any entertainment function, which hosts employees or clients.

Many visitors holding a foreign passport can enjoy a visa-free visit of 14 to 180 days depending on your nationality. Visitors, however, are not allowed by law to take up employment or to enter school as a student without a proper visa. To obtain a working permit, the Immigration Department will look at a few key areas including educational background and whether or not the Hong Kong economy is in demand of the specific skill area. The processing time for work permits is between six and eight weeks. All Hong Kong residents require a Hong Kong ID card.