



## Absolute Beginner S1 It Runs in the Cantonese Family

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## Traditional Chinese

佢係邊個嚟㗎？  
我大佬。  
佢好似劉德華嘅！  
就係佢啊。

## Jyutping

keoi5 hai6 bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3 ?  
ngo5 daai6 lou2。  
keoi5 hou2 ci5 lau4 dak1 waa4 bo3 !  
zau6 hai6 keoi5 aa6。

## English

Who is he?  
My older brother.  
He looks a lot like Andy Lau.  
He is.

## Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
似	ci5	to look like
邊個	bin1 go3	who
邊個黎駕	bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3	who
媽媽	maa1 maa1	mother
爸爸	baa4 baa1	father
大佬	daai6 lou2	older brother
細佬	sai3 lou2	younger brother
家姐	gaa1 ze1	older sister
細妹	sai3 mui6	younger sister
老婆	lou5 po4	wife
老公	lou5 gung1	husband

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

你好似我一個朋友。	nei5 hou2 ci5 ngo5 jat1 go3 pang4 jau5。	You look like a friend of mine.
邊個?	bin1 go3	Who?
邊個嚟咖?	bin1 go3 lai4 gaa3?	Who is he?
媽媽唔得閒。	maa4 maa1 m4 dak1 haan4。	Mom's busy.
你爸爸幾歲?	nei5 baa4 baa1 gei2 seoi3	How old is your father?
我有兩個大佬。	ngo5 jau5 loeng5 go3 daai6 lou2。	I have two older brothers.
我係佢細佬。	ngo5 hai6 keoi5 sai3 lou2。	I'm his younger brother.
呢個係我家姐。	nei1 go3 hai6 ngo5 gaa1 ze1。	This is my older sister.
佢有兩個細妹。	keoi5 jau5 loeng5 go3 sai3 mui2。	She has two younger sisters.
我老婆上班。	ngo5 lou5 po4 soeng6 baan1。	My wife is at work.
呢個係佢老公。	nei1 go3 hai6 keoi5 lou5 gung1。	This is her husband.

## Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is 係, hai6 ("to be")

係咩?

hai6 me1 ?

"Really?"

係 is a verb with many different functions. Often, it translates to the English verb "to be." However, we primarily use 係 to express that one noun is equivalent to another, as in the sentence 我係你爸爸 (ngo5 hai6 nei5 baa4 baa1.) - "I am your father." Adjectives do not link to nouns often using 係. So the English sentence "He is tall," would not use 係 in Cantonese.

In a simple sentence using 係, the noun after 係 is usually more general in meaning or reference than the noun before 係. Only when both nouns are equally specific can they be interchanged.

For Example:

1. 我係你大佬。  
ngo5 hai6 nei5 daai6 lou2  
"I'm your brother."
2. 佢係劉德華。  
heoi5 hai6 lau4 dak1 waa4  
"He is Andy Lau."
3. 呢個係我爸爸。  
ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 baa1 baa1  
"This is my father."
4. 嗰個係佢家姐。  
go 2 go3 hai6 heoi5 gaa1 ze2  
"That is her older sister."
5. 我哋係老公老婆。  
ngo5 dei2 hai6 lou5 gung1 lou5 po4  
"We are husband and wife."
6. 邊個係你男朋友？  
bin1 go3 hai6 nei5 naam4 pang4 jau5  
"Who is your boyfriend?"

## Cultural Insight

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### The Legend of Andy Lau

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What's that? You haven't heard of Andy Lau? The incredible acting, singing, and dancing Andy Lau? The entertainment tycoon of the Orient and cover boy for Asian men's magazines?

The Hong Kong film industry is relatively small, which means that you'll see the same actors again and again in different films. Andy Lau is one of the most popular and bankable Hong Kong stars, and if you don't know him now, you'll recognize him on sight before spending too long in Hong Kong. Lau started his career on television in the early 1980s. His increasing popularity lead him into a singing career and then into film. To date, he has made over one hundred movies, including silly Hong Kong films like Future X-Cops and Cat and Mouse and more artistically ambitious films like Zhang Yimou's 2004 film House of Flying Daggers. As his wealth and fame has grown, Andy Lau has attempted to play a greater role in expanding the Hong Kong film industry. In 1991, he set up his own production company called Teamwork Motion Pictures. This led him to being recognized as the "Asian Filmmaker

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of the Year" in the Pusan International Film Festival in 2006. In addition to being an active singer and director, Andy is increasingly well-known for ongoing speculation about his love life, a perennial subject in the Hong Kong entertainment dailies.