



Absolute Beginner S1

Being Told You're Really Ugly in Cantonese

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Traditional Chinese

廣東話點講 ugly 啊？
樣衰。
哦，"你好樣衰"！

...
啱唔啱啊？
啱。

Jyutping

gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2 ugly a3 ?
joeng2 seoi1 。
o2 , "nei5 hou2 joeng2 seoi1 " !

...
ngaam1 m4 ngaam1 a3 ?
ngaam1。

English

How do you say "ugly" in Cantonese?
Jeong2 seoi1
Oh,"you're very ugly"!

....
Is it right?
Yes.

Vocabulary

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
點講	dim2 gong2	how to say/speak
樣衰	joeng2 sei1	ugly
啱	ngaam1	correct
瘦	sau3	sau3
肥	fei4	fat
熱	jit6	hot
凍	dung3	cold
高	gou1	tall
矮	ai2	short

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

呢個點講？ 佢唔樣衰。 你啱。 我瘦咗。 你肥咗。 太陽晒著炎熱的沙漠。	ni1 go3 dim2 gong2? keoi5 m4 joeng2 sei1。 nei5 ngaam1。 ngo5 sau3 zo2。 nei5 fei4 zo2。 taai3 joeng4 saai3 zoek6 jim4 jit6 dik1 saa1 mok6 gaa1 naa4 daai6 hou2 dung3。	How do you say this? He's not ugly. You're right. I lost weight. You gained weight. The sun is heating the hot desert.
加拿大好凍。	gaa1 naa4 daai6 hou2 dung3。	Canada is cold.
佢又高又瘦。 佢又肥又矮。	keoi5 jau6 gou1 jau6 sau3。 keoi5 jau6 fei4 jau6 ai2。	She's tall and thin. She's fat and short.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is a review of grammatical patterns

你好樣衰 nei5 hou2 joeng2 sei1
"You're very ugly"

好 hou2 is an adverb of degree meaning "very". In Cantonese it functions to connect the subject of the sentence with the object. For example 你好靚 - "you are very pretty". The subject 你 is connected to the object 靚(leng3) by the adverb 好. Another example involving Jackie Chan is 成龍好靚仔 s(ng4 lung4 hou2 leng3 zai) - "Jackie Chan is very handsome."

Two other adverbs of degree that have been covered in the Absolute Beginner series are 太 ("too") and 仲 ("even more"). These two words function in the same manner as 好, being placed in between the subject and object.

Examples:

1. 呢個太貴。
ni1 go3 taai3 gwai3
"That is too expensive."
2. 呢個太大。
ni1 go3 taai3 daai6
"That is too big."
3. 我唔可以食，太熱啦。
ngo5 m4 ho2 ji5 sik6 , taai3 jit6 laa6
"It's too hot, I can't eat it."
4. 佢仲慢。
keoi5 zung6 maan6
"He's even slower."
5. 我仲矮。
ngo5 zung6 aai2
"I'm even shorter."
6. 嗰個仲凍。
go2 go3 zung6 dung3
"That one is even colder."

Cultural Insight

Honest and Direct

It is not uncommon to experience surprisingly blunt and pointed comments while in China. Observations about your body shape, weight, physical appearance, and decision-making skills will be brought to the table by strangers. "You have never met me before" might be the first thought that comes to your mind, but after some time, these seemingly rude inquiries will seem commonplace. After interacting with some locals, you will soon see this is how they treat each other, and not just the out of place "Westerner." Soon you may find yourself asking personal questions such as "are you married?" and "how much do you make?" of random strangers. While in Guangdong these questions may come in higher numbers, Hong Kong's exposure to Western practices has diminished this noisy practice.

In mainland China, the history of the communist party has created an environment where there are no secrets, and the sense of community means everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Even in traditional Chinese culture there were no locked doors in the house. So fair

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warning: expect your privacy to be invaded.



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