



Absolute Beginner S1

Out for a Cantonese Dinner

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Traditional Chinese

我肚餓。
我都係。
一齊食嘢？
好啊。

Jyutping

ngo5 tou5 ngo6。
ngo5 dou1 hai6。
jat1 cai4 sik6 je5 ?
hou2 a3 。

English

I'm hungry.
Me too.
Let's go eat.
Okay.

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Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
口渴	hau2 hot3	thirsty
肚餓	tou5 ngo6	hungry
都	dou1	also
係	hai6	to be
邊	gui6	tired
嘢	je5	thing, things
食	sik6	to eat
好	hou2	all right
一齊	jat1 cai4	together
飲	yam2	to drink

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

口渴的狗在喝泳池裡的水。	hau2 hot3 dik1 gau2 zoi6 hot3 wing6 ci4 lei5 dik1 sei2。	The thirsty dog is drinking from the pool.
女人餓了，她去冰箱裡找食物 。	nei5 jan2 ngo6 liu5 , taa1 heoi3 bing1 soeng1 lei5 zaau2 sik6 mat6。	The woman is hungry. The hungry man is looking for food in the refrigerator.
我都鍾意佢。 佢係女仔。 行咗成日好叻。	ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5。 keoi5 hai6 nei5 zai2。 haang4 zo2 seng4 jat6 hou2 gui6。	I also like him/her/it. She is a girl. After walking for a whole day, I feel tired.
一齊食嘢。 一齊食嘢。 我好好。 一齊食嘢。 你鍾意飲咩？	jat1 cai4 sik6 je5。 jat1 cai4 sik6 je5。 ngo5 hou2 hou2。 jat1 cai4 sik6 je5。 nei5 zung1 ji3 jam2 me1?	Eat together. Eat together. I'm very good/well. Eat together. What do you like to drink?

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Sentence Structure

我肚餓。

ngo5 tou5 ngo6

"I'm hungry"

In Cantonese, the basic sentence pattern is as follows: subject + adverb/verb + adjective. For example, 我好肚餓 (ngo5 hou2 tou5 ngo6.) - "I'm very hungry." The adverb of degree here is 好, and this acts as "to be," linking the subject 我 and the adjective 肚餓.

You can also place verbs to connect both the subject and object.

For Example:

1. 我好肚餓。

ngo5 hou2 tou5 ngo6

"I am hungry."

2. 佢好口渴。

keoi5 hou2 hau2 hot3

"He is thirsty."

If there is both an adverb and a verb in the sentence, place the adverb in front of the verb.

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For instance, subject + adverb + verb + object

For Example:

1. 我哋一齊食嘢。
ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 sik6 je5
"We eat together."
2. 我哋一齊飲嘢。
ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 jam2 je5
"We drink together."

Cultural Insight

Outside Eateries

Hong Kong is notorious for sweltering and humid summers. To beat the heat and avoid stuffy restaurants, many locals and tourists alike head outdoors to enjoy their food and cooler temperatures. Since Hong Kong is situated on the ocean, there is easy access to fresh seafood. Go to any bustling street on the Kowloon side of the territory, and you will find a vast selection of foods to choose from.

The most popular and abundant beer by far in Hong Kong is San Miguel. With their original brewery based in the Philippines, San Miguel is one of the cheapest beers you can buy on the street. San Miguel is also brewed in Hong Kong by the San Miguel Brewery Hong Kong Ltd., where it has a twenty-four percent share compared to European rivals. Pick it up at a corner store or your favorite restaurant.