CantoneseClass101.com

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #20 Telecom in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

20

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 點解唔接我電話?

2. 冇信號。

3. 點解冇信號?

4. 過緊海底隧道。

JYUTPING

1. dim2 gaai2 m4 zip3 ngo5 din6 waa2 ?

2. mou5 seon3 hou4 。

3. dim2 gaai2 mou5 seon3 hou4 ?

4. gwo3 gan2 hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6 。

ENGLISH

1. A: Why didn't you pick up my call?

2. B: There was no signal.

3. A: Why wasn't there any signal?

4. B: I was going through the Cross Harbor Tunnel.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
點解	dim2 gaai2	why	adverb
接	zip3	to answer (the phone)	verb
信號	seon3 hou6	signal	noun
過	gwo3	to go through	verb
隧道	seoi6 dou6	tunnel	noun
海底隧道	hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6	Cross Harbour Tunnel	noun
紅磡隧道	hung4 ham3 seoi6 dou6	Hung Hum Tunnel	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

點解你唔嚟?
dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lai4?

Why don't you come?

唔該接電話。
m4 goi1 zip3 din6 waa2.

Please answer the phone.

呢度冇信號。
ni1 dou6 mou5 seon3 hou6。

There's no signal here.

過馬路要小心。
gwo3 maa5 lou6 jiu3 siu2 sam1。

Be careful when you cross the street.

香港好多隧道。
hoeng1 gong2 hou2 do1 seoi6 dou6。

There are many tunnels in Hongkong.

海底隧道好長。
hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6 hou2 coeng4。

The Cross Harbour Tunnel is really long.

海底隧道又叫紅磡隧道。
hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6 jau6 giu3 hung4 ham3 seoi6 dou6 。

The Cross Harbour Tunnel is also called the Hung Hum Tunnel.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Difference between the Present Tense and the Past Tense When You're Negating

點解唔接我電話？

dim2 gaai2 m4 zip3 ngo5 din6 waa2 ?

"Why didn't you answer my call?"

In the dialogue we heard 點解唔接我電話, which we translated as "Why didn't you answer my call?" based on the context. But it's actually more close to "Why aren't you answering my call?" The pattern 唔 + verb is negating something in a present tense, or is describing a negative action as a habit or a phenomenon, or that a certain action is against someone's will so they won't do it, while 冇 + verb is negating something in the past tense that something wasn't done.

唔 + verb = "do not do."
冇 + verb = "did not do /have not done."

Sample Sentences

Cantonese	*Romanization*	**"English Translation"**
我唔去。	*ngo5 m4 heoi3 。*	"I don't/won't go."
我冇去。	*ngo5 mou5 heoi3 。*	"I didn't go."
佢哋唔食飯。	*keoi5 dei6 m4 sik6 faan6 。*	"They don't/won't eat."
佢哋冇食飯。	*keoi5 dei6 mou5 sik6 faan6 。*	"They didn't eat."
唔過隧道。	*m4 gwo3 seoi6 dou6 。*	"(I/We/You...) don't/won't cross the tunnel."
冇過隧道。	*mou5 gwo3 seoi6 dou6 。*	"(I/We/You...) didn't cross the tunnel."

Examples from This Lesson

點解唔接我電話？

1. *點解唔接我電話？*
   dim2 gaai2 m4 zip3 ngo5 din6 waa2 ?
   "Why didn't you answer my call?"

1. *點解唔接我電話？*
   dim2 gaai2 m4 zip3 ngo5 din6 waa2 ?
   "Why didn't you answer my call?"