

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #22

A Cantonese Romance

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我可唔可以錫吓你?
2. 唔可以。
3. 咁攞吓呢?
4. 都唔可以。

JYUTPING

1. ngo5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 sek3 haa5 nei5 ?
2. m4 ho2 ji5 。
3. gam2 laam2 haa5 ne1 ?
4. dou1 m4 ho2 ji5 。

ENGLISH

1. A: Can I kiss you?
2. B: No.
3. A: How about a hug?
4. B: Still no.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
掂	dim3	to touch	verb
拖手	to1sau2	to hold hands	verb
攬	laam5	to hug	verb
摸	mo2	to feel	verb
錫	sek3	to kiss	verb
拍拖	paak3 to1	to be in a relationship	verb
結婚	git3 fan1	to get married	verb
離婚	lei4 fan1	to get divorced	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

唔好掂我! <i>m4 hou2 dim3 ngo5!</i>	佢哋開始拖手。 <i>keoi5 dei6 hoi1 ci2 to1 sau2.</i>
Don't touch me!	They began to hold hands.
攬住我。 <i>laam5 zyu6 ngo5.</i>	佢摸咗隻貓。 <i>keoi5 mo2 zo2 zek3 maa1.</i>
Hug me.	He petted the cat.
媽媽錫咗我一吓。 <i>maa4 maa1 sek3 zo2 ngo5 jat1 haa5.</i>	佢哋以前拍拖。 <i>keoi5 dei6 ji5 cin4 paak3 to1.</i>
Mom kissed me.	They were in a relationship before.
今年好多人結婚。 <i>Gam1 nin2 hou2 do1 jan4 git3 fan1.</i>	我舊年離婚。 <i>ngo5 gau6 nin2 lei4 fan1.</i>
Many people are getting married this year.	I was divorced last year.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Verb Complement

咁攞吓呢？

gam2 laam2 haa5 ne1 ?

"How about a hug?"

We already know what a verb is. In this lesson, we're going to learn a verb complement that means to do something for a little bit. The pattern is like this:

verb + 吓 = "to do something for a little bit/while."

For example, "to kiss" is 錫 (*sek3*). "To kiss a little bit" is 錫吓 (*sek3 haa5*). "To hold hands" is 拖手 (*to1 sau2*). "To hold hands for a little while" is 拖吓手 (*to1 haa5 sau2*).

Sample Sentences

Cantonese	Romanization	"English Translation"
睇吓得唔得？	<i>tai2 haa5 dak1 m4 dak1 ?</i>	"Can I have a look?"
試吓得唔得？	<i>si3 haa5 dak1 m4 dak1 ?</i>	"Can I have a try?"
我想坐吓先。	<i>ngo5 soeng2 co5 haa5 sin1</i>	"I want to sit for a bit."

Examples from This Lesson

- 我可唔可以錫吓你？
ngo5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 sek3 haa5 nei5 ?
"Can I kiss you?"
- 咁攞吓呢？
gam2 laam2 haa5 ne1 ?
"How about just a hug?"

Language Tip

This verb complement of 吓 is also, if not always, used when you want to take it down a

notch. For example, 睇吓啫 ("Just looking. No big deal. You don't have to yell").