

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #24

Because It's Cantonese

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

24

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 唔該電視細聲啲吖。
2. 點解?
3. 因為太大聲。

JYUTPING

1. m4 goi1 din6 si6 sai3 seng1 di1 aa1.
2. dim2 gaai2 ?
3. jan1 wai6 taai3 daai6 seng1 。

ENGLISH

1. A: Please turn the TV down a bit.
2. B: Why?
3. A: Because it's too loud!

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
電視	din6si6	television	noun
因為	jan1 wai6	because	conjunction

音響	jam1hoeng2	stereo	noun
收音機	sau1jam1gei1	radio	noun
雪櫃	syut3 gwai6	fridge	noun
微波爐	mei4 bo1 lou4	microwave oven	noun
所以	so2 ji5	therefore	conjunction

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>家人在一起看電視。 <i>Gaa1 jan4 zoi6 jat1hei2 hon3 din6si6.</i></p> <p>The family is watching television.</p>	<p>因為我病咗，所以唔返學。 <i>jan1 wai6 ngo5 beng6 zo2 , so2 ji5 m4 faan1 hok6.</i></p> <p>Because I'm ill, I don't go to school.</p>
<p>呢套音響好高級。 <i>Ni1 tou3 jam1hoeng2 hou2 gou1kap1.</i></p> <p>This stereo is really classy.</p>	<p>我鍾意聽收音機。 <i>Ngo5 zung1ji3 teng1 sau1jam1gei1.</i></p> <p>I like listening to the radio.</p>
<p>雪櫃有雪糕。 <i>syut3 gwai6 jau5 syut3 gou1.</i></p> <p>There's ice-cream in the fridge.</p>	<p>微波爐好方便。 <i>mei4 bo1 lou4 hou2 fong1 bin6.</i></p> <p>The microwave is convenient.</p>
<p>因為你忙，所以唔搵你。 <i>jan1 wai6 nei5 mong4 , so2 ji5 m4 wan2 nei5.</i></p> <p>Because you were busy, therefore I didn't ask for you.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Explaining Why

因為太大聲！

jan1 wai6 taai3 daai6 seng1 .

"Because it's too loud!"

Unlike English, when explaining, Cantonese employs both 因為 ("because") and 所以 ("so") in one sentence. But in oral Cantonese, it's not a must. You could drop out either 因為 or 所以 if you want, sometimes even both. Also, Cantonese prefers to state the cause before the result (因為A, 所以B), but when the result is stated first, it's going to be either zero 所以 (so2 ji5) or beginning with 之所以 (zi1 so2 ji5).

For Example:

1. 因為A, 所以B。
"Because A, (so) B."
2. 之所以B, 係因為A。
"B, is because of A."
3. B, 係因為A。
"B, is because of A"

Sample Sentences

Sample Sentences

Cantonese	Romanization	"English Translation"
因為佢嚟咗, 所以我走。	jan1 wai6 keoi5 lei4 zo2 , so2 ji5 ngo5 zau2 。	"Because he came, I left."
因為熱, 所以開冷氣。	jan1 wai6 jit6 , so2 ji5 hoi1 laang5 hei3 。	"Because it's hot, we turn the cooler on."
因為口渴, 所以飲水。	jan1 wai6 hau2 hot3 , so2 ji5 jam2 seoi2 。	"Because of the thirst, we drink water."
因為𩇛, 所以打的。	jan1 wai6 gui6 , so2 ji5 daa2 dik1 。	"Because (I was) tired, (I) took a taxi."

Examples from This Lesson

1. 因為太大聲。
jan1 wai6 tai3 daai6 seng1.
"Because it's too loud."

Language Tip

There are other words in Cantonese that mean "because" and can be causes or reasons, such as 由於 (*jau4 jyu1*) and 基於 (*gei1 jyu1*). But they are more formal and less common than 因為.