

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #4

Are you Late for Work in Hong Kong Today?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我今朝遲到。
2. 遲到幾耐?
3. 少少啫。十點。
4. 一個鐘頭?

JYUTPING

1. ngo5 gam1 ziu1 ci4 dou3。
2. ci4 dou3 gei2 noi6 ?
3. siu2 siu2 ze1。 sap6 dim2。
4. jat1 go3 zung1 tau4 ?

ENGLISH

1. A: I was late this morning.
2. B: How late?
3. A: Just a little. 10 o'clock.
4. B: An hour?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
啫	ze1	just (placed after an adjective)	adverb
朝早	ziu1 zou2	morning	noun
下晝	haa6 zau3	afternoon	noun
中午	zung1 ng5	noon	noun
日頭	jat6 tau2	daytime	noun
夜晚	je6 maan5	evening	noun
今朝	gam1 ziu1	this morning	noun
遲到	ci4 dou3	to be late	verb
幾耐	gei2 noi6	how long	phrase
少少	siu2 siu2	a little	adjective
今晚	gam1 maan1	tonight	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>少少啫。 <i>siu2 siu2 ze1.</i></p> <p>Just a little bit.</p>	<p>朝早去飲茶。 <i>ziu1 zou2 heoi3 jam2 caa4.</i></p> <p>(I) have Cantonese brunch in the morning.</p>
<p>下晝好忙。 <i>haa6 zau3 hou2 mong4.</i></p> <p>(I'm) busy in the afternoon.</p>	<p>中午好熱。 <i>zung1 ng5 hou2 jit6.</i></p> <p>It's hot at noon.</p>
<p>日頭要返工。 <i>jat6 tau2 jiu3 faan1 gung1.</i></p> <p>(I) need to work in the daytime.</p>	<p>夜晚去玩。 <i>je6 maan5 heoi3 waan2.</i></p> <p>(I) go out at night.</p>

<p>今朝冇遲到。 <i>gam1 ziu1 mou5 ci4 dou3.</i></p> <p>(I) wasn't late this morning.</p>	<p>你又遲到。 <i>nei5 jau6 ci4 dou3.</i></p> <p>You're late again.</p>
<p>遲到幾耐? <i>ci4 dou3 gei2 noi6 ?</i></p> <p>How long were you late for? (how late?)</p>	<p>佢高少少。 <i>keoi5 gou1 siu2 siu2.</i></p> <p>He's a little bit taller.</p>
<p>我哋今晚去玩。 <i>ngo5 dei6 gam1 maan1 heoi3 waan2.</i></p> <p>We're going out tonight.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

time-of-day 表示時間的詞語一般放在句子開頭、謂語之前。有主語的時候可以放在主語前或者主語後。

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Where to Put Time Words in Cantonese

我今朝遲到

"I was late this morning."

In Cantonese, we generally put time words at the start of sentences before the main verb of our sentences. This lets us know right away whether we are talking about something that will happen tonight, tomorrow, or something that happened yesterday. If there is a subject in the sentence, we can put the time word either immediately before or immediately after the subject. For an example, consider the sentence 今日我去街, *gam1 jat6 ngo5 heoi3 gaai1* ("Today, I go shopping"). The word for "today" (今日) is placed right at the beginning of our sentence, even before the subject (我). For more examples, consider the following sentences:

For Example:

1. 朝早去飲茶。
ziu1 zou2 heoi3 jam2 caa4 。
"(I) have Cantonese brunch in the morning."
2. 中午好熱。
zung1 ng5 hou2 jit6 。
"It's hot at noon."
3. 下晝好忙。
haa6 zau3 hou2 mong4 。
"(I'm) busy in the afternoon."
4. 日頭要返工。
jat6 tau2 jiu3 faan1 gung1 。
"(I) need to work in the daytime."