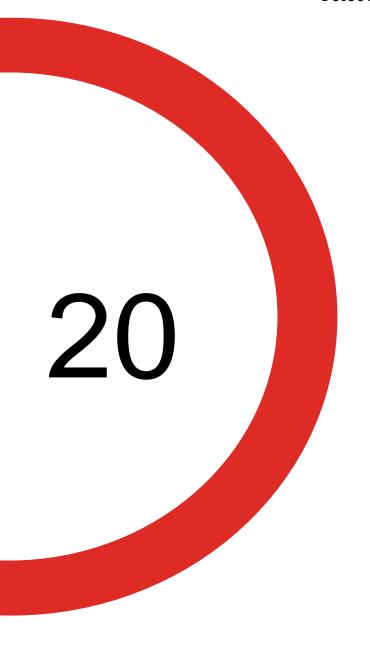
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Absolute Beginner S2
Telecom in Hong Kong



Traditional
Jyutping
English
Vocabulary
Grammar Points

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Traditional Chinese

點解唔接我電話? 冇信號。 點解冇信號? 過緊海底隧道。

Jyutping

dim2 gaai2 m4 zip3 ngo5 din6 waa2 ? mou5 seon3 hou4 。 dim2 gaai2 mou5 seon3 hou4 ? gwo3 gan2 hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6 。

English

A Why didn't you pick up my call?
B There was no signal.
A Why wasn't there any signal?
B I was going through the Cross Harbor Tunnel.

Vocabulary

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

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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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 pick up the phone. There's no signal here. 呢度冇信號。 ni1 dou6 mou5 seon3 hou6. 過馬路要小心。 gwo3 maa5 lou6 jiu3 siu2 Be careful when you cross the sam1. street. 香港好多隧道。 hoeng1 gong2 hou2 do1 seoi6 There are many tunnels in Hongkong. 海底隧道好長。 hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6 hou2 The Cross Harbour Tunnel is really long. coeng4. 海底隧道又叫紅磡隧道。 hoi2 dai2 seoi6 dou6 jau6 giu3 The Cross Harbour Tunnel is hung4 ham3 seoi6 dou6 。 also called the Hung Hum Tunnel.

Grammar Points

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

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Cantonese	Romanization	"English Translation"	
我唔去。	ngo5 m4 heoi3 。	"I don't/won't go."	
我冇去。	ngo5 mou5	"I didn't go."	
	heoi3 <i>。</i>		
佢哋唔食飯。	keoi5 dei6 m4 sik6	"They don't/won't eat."	
	faan6 <i>。</i>		
佢哋冇食飯。	keoi5 dei6 mou5 sik	6 "They didn't eat."	
	faan6 <i>。</i>		
唔過隧道。	m4 gwo3 seoi6	"(I/We/You) don't/won't cross	
	dou6 <i>。</i>	the tunnel."	
<u></u> 有過隧道。	mou5 gwo3 seoi6	"(I/We/You) didn't cross the	
	dou6 <i>。</i>	tunnel."	

Examples from This Lesson

1. 點解唔接我電話?

dim2 gaai2 m4 zip3 ngo5 din6 waa2 ?
"Why didn't you answer my call?"