

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #4

Numbers 1 to 100 in Cantonese

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

- 一, 二, 三, 四, 五, 六, 七, 八, 九, 十
- 二十, 三十, 四十, 五十, 六十, 七十, 八十, 九十, 一百

JYUTPING

- jat1, ji6, saam1, sei3, ng5, luk6, cat1, baat3, gau2, sap6
- ji6 sap6, saam1 sap6, sei3 sap6, ng5 sap6, luk6 sap6, cat1 sap6, baat3 sap6, gau2 sap6, jat1 baak3

ENGLISH

- one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten
- twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety, one hundred

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
一	jat1	one (1)	noun
一百	jat1 baak3	one hundred (100)	noun
九十	gau2 sap6	ninety (90)	number
八十	baat3 sap6	eighty (80)	number
七十	cat1 sap6	seventy (70)	number
六十	luk6 sap6	sixty (60)	number

五十	ng5 sap6	fifty (50)	number
四十	sei3 sap6	forty (40)	number
二十	ji6 sap6	twenty (20)	noun
十	sap6	ten (10)	noun
九	gau2	nine (9)	noun
八	baat3	eight (8)	noun
七	cat1	seven (7)	noun
六	luk6	six (6)	noun
五	ng5	five (5)	noun
四	sei3	four (4)	noun
三	saam1	three (3)	noun
二	ji6	two (2)	noun
三十	saam1 sap6	thirty (30)	number

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>佢俾咗一本書我。 <i>keoi5 bei2 zo2 jat5 bun2 syu1 ngo5。</i></p> <p>He gave me a book.</p>	<p>呢個大樓有一百年歷史。 <i>ni1 go3 daai6 lau4 jau5 jat1 baak3 nin4 lik6 si2。</i></p> <p>This building has one hundred years of history.</p>
<p>嗰個老人家九十歲。 <i>go2 go3 lou5 jan4 gaa1 gau2 sap6 sei3。</i></p> <p>That old grandpa is ninety years old.</p>	<p>八十蚊得唔得? <i>baat3 sap6 man1 dak1 m4 dak1?</i></p> <p>Is eighty HKD okay?</p>
<p>出便七十度。 <i>ceot1 bin6 cat1 sap6 dou6。</i></p> <p>It's seventy degrees outside.</p>	<p>借六十蚊俾我，得唔得? <i>ze3 luk6 sap6 man1 bei2 ngo5, dak1 m4 dak1?</i></p> <p>Could you lend me sixty HKD?</p>

<p>我媽媽五十歲。 <i>ngo5 maa4 maa1 ng5 sap6 sei3.</i></p> <p>My mom is fifty years old.</p>	<p>我哋班有四十個學生。 <i>ngo5 dei6 baan1 jau5 sei3 sap6 go3 hok6 saang1.</i></p> <p>Our class has forty students.</p>
<p>我哋班得二十個學生。 <i>ngo5 dei6 baan1 dak1 ji6 sap6 go3 hok6 saang1.</i></p> <p>Our class has only twenty students.</p>	<p>而家十點鐘。 <i>ji4 gaa1 sap6 dim2 zung1.</i></p> <p>It's ten o'clock now.</p>
<p>佢爸爸一九八九年嚟美國。 <i>keoi5 baa4 baa1 jat1 gau2 baat3 gau2 nin4 lai4 mei5 gwok3.</i></p> <p>His dad came to America in 1989.</p>	<p>佢住喺八樓。 <i>keoi5 zyu6 hai2 baat3 lau2.</i></p> <p>He lives on the eighth floor.</p>
<p>我哋公司有七個人。 <i>ngo5 dei2 gung1 si1 jau5 cat1 go3 jan4.</i></p> <p>There are seven people in our company.</p>	<p>我個女六歲。 <i>ngo5 go3 nei5 luk6 sei3.</i></p> <p>My daughter is six years old.</p>
<p>俾五蚊我就得喇。 <i>bei2 ng5 man1 ngo5 zau6 dak1 laa3.</i></p> <p>Give me five HKD, that's fine.</p>	<p>我有四個細路。 <i>ngo5 jau5 sei3 go3 sai3 lou6.</i></p> <p>I have four children.</p>
<p>佢有三個細路。 <i>keoi5 jau5 saam1 go3 sai3 lou6.</i></p> <p>He has three children.</p>	<p>我屋企喺二樓。 <i>ngo5 uk1 kei2 hai2 ji6 lau2.</i></p> <p>My home is on the second floor.</p>

三十號係我生日，你得唔得閒？

saam1 sap6 hou6 hai6 ngo5 saang1 jat6, nei5 dak1 m4 dak1 haan4?

The 30th is my birthday. Do you have time?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Numbers 1 to 100 in Cantonese

Number	Cantonese	Jyutping
1	一	<i>jat1</i>
2	二	<i>ji6</i>
3	三	<i>saam1</i>
4	四	<i>sei3</i>
5	五	<i>ng5</i>
6	六	<i>luk6</i>
7	七	<i>cat1</i>
8	八	<i>baat3</i>
9	九	<i>gau2</i>
10	十	<i>sap6</i>
20	二十	<i>ji6 sap6</i>
30	三十	<i>saam1 sap6</i>
40	四十	<i>sei3 sap6</i>
50	五十	<i>ng5 sap6</i>
60	六十	<i>luk6 sap6</i>
70	七十	<i>cat1 sap6</i>
80	八十	<i>baat3 sap6</i>
90	九十	<i>gau2 sap6</i>

Additional Numbers Discussed in the Lesson

1. "21"
ji6 sap6 jat1
二十一
2. "23"
ji6 sap6 saam1
二十三
3. "65"
luk6 sap6 ng5
六十五
4. "88"
baat3 sap6 baat3
八十八
5. "39"
saam1 sap6 gau2
三十九
6. "44"
sei3 sap6 sei3
四十四
7. "19"
sap6 gau2
十九

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cantonese Superstitious Numbers

The Cantonese are quite superstitious about numbers, believing some to be auspicious, and others to be avoided as very unlucky. This originates from the fact that a lot of Cantonese words are homophones. Some numbers have pronunciations that are similar to other words with different meanings—words that have either good or bad connotations.

For example, the number four is believed to be very unlucky and avoided whenever possible. The reason is that the pronunciation of the number "four" (四, *sei3*) in Cantonese is very similar in sound to the word for "death" (死, *sei2*). The words are phonetically identical; they only differ in tone.

On the other hand, the word for "eight" (八, *baat3*) sounds very similar to the word for "prosper" or "wealth" (發, *faat3*), and therefore, is considered very lucky. Because of the supposed auspiciousness of certain numbers, some Cantonese people will even pay large sums of money for phone numbers, street addresses, vehicle license plate numbers, or bank account numbers that they feel are lucky.