



## Basic Bootcamp

Numbers 1 to 100 in Cantonese

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## Traditional Chinese

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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

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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

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one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten

twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety, one hundred

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## Vocabulary

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
一	jat1	one (1)
二	ji6	two (2)
三	saam1	three (3)
四	sei3	four (4)
五	ng5	five (5)
六	luk6	six (6)
七	cat1	seven (7)
八	baat3	eight (8)
九	gau2	nine (9)
十	sap6	ten (10)
二十	ji6 sap6	twenty (20)
四十	sei3 sap6	forty (40)
五十	ng5 sap6	fifty (50)
六十	luk6 sap6	sixty (60)
七十	cat1 sap6	seventy (70)
八十	baat3 sap6	eighty (80)
九十	gau2 sap6	ninety (90)
一百	jat1 baak3	one hundred (100)
三十	saam1 sap6	thirty (30)

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

佢俾咗一本書我。	keoi5 bei2 zo2 jat5 bun2 syul ngo5.	He gave me a book.
我屋企喺二樓。	ngo5 uk1 kei2 hai2 ji6 lau2.	My home is on the second floor.
佢有三個細路。	keoi5 jau5 saam1 go3 sai3 lou6.	He has three children.
我有四個細路。	ngo5 jau5 sei3 go3 sai3 lou6.	I have four children.
俾我五蚊就得啦。	bei2 ngo5 ng5 man1 zau6 dak1 laa3.	Give me five HKD, that's fine.
我個女六歲。	ngo5 go3 nei5 luk6 sei3.	My daughter is six years old.
我哋公司有七個人。	ngo5 dei2 gung1 sil1 jau5 cat1 go3 jan4.	There are seven people in our company.
佢住喺八樓。	keoi5 zyu6 hai2 baat3 lau2.	He lives on the eighth floor.

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佢爸爸一九八九年嚟美國。	keoi5 baa4 baal jat1 gau2 baat3 gau2 nin4 lai4 mei5 gwok3.	His dad came to America in 1989.
而家十點鐘。 我哋班得二十個學生。	ji4 gaal sap6 dim2 zung1. ngo5 dei2 baan1 dak1 ji6 sap6 go3 hok6 saang1.	It's ten o'clock now. Our class has only twenty students.
我哋班有四十個學生。	ngo5 dei2 baan1 jau5 sei3 sap6 go3 hok6 saang1 .	Our class has forty students.
我媽媽五十歲。	ngo5 maa4 maal ng5 sap6 sei3 .	My mom is fifty years old.
借六十蚊俾我，得唔得？	ze3 luk6 sap6 man1 bei2 ngo5, dak1 m4 dak1 ?	Could you lend me sixty HKD?
出便七十度。	ceot1 bin6 cat1 sap6 dou6 .	It's seventy degrees outside.
八十蚊得唔得？	baat3 sap6 man1 dak1 m4 dak1 ?	Is eighty HKD okay?
嗰個老人家九十歲。	go2 go3 lou5 jan4 gaal gau2 sap6 sei3 .	That old grandpa is ninety years old.
呢個大樓有一百年歷史。	nil go3 daai6 lau4 jau5 jat1 baak3 nin4 lik6 si2.	This building has one hundred years of history.
三十號係我生日，你得唔得閒 ？	saaml sap6 hou6 hai6 ngo5 saang1 jat6, nei5 dak1 m4 dak1 haan4?	The 30th is my birthday. Do you have time?

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## Grammar Points

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

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Number	Cantonese	Pinyin
1	一	jat1
2	二	ji6
3	三	saaml
4	四	sei3
5	五	ng5
6	六	luk6
7	七	cat1
8	八	baat3
9	九	gau2
10	十	sap6
20	二十	ji6 sap6
30	三十	saaml sap6
40	四十	sei3 sap6
50	五十	ng5 sap6
60	六十	luk6 sap6
70	七十	cat1 sap6
80	八十	baat3 sap6
90	九十	gau2 sap6
100	一百	jat1 baak3

## Additional Numbers Discussed in the Lesson

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1. "21"  
ji6 sap6 jat1  
二十一
2. "23"  
ji6 sap6 saaml  
二十三
3. "65"  
luk6 sap6 ng5  
六十五
4. "88"  
baat3 sap6 baat3  
八十八
5. "39"  
saaml sap6 gau2  
三十九

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6. "44"  
sei3 sap6 sei3  
四十四
7. "19"  
sap6 gau2  
十九

## Cultural Insight

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### Cantonese Superstitious Numbers

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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.