

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #14

A Visit To the Hospital in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 醫生，我唔舒服。
2. 邊度唔舒服呀？
3. 度度都唔舒服。
4. 點解人人都咁講？

JYUTPING

1. Ji1 saang1, ngo5 m4 syu1 fuk6.
2. Bin1 dou6 m4 syu1 fuk6 aa3?
3. Dou6 dou6 dou1 m4 syu1 fuk6.
4. Dim2 gaai2 jan4 jan4 dou1 gam2 gong2?

ENGLISH

1. A: Doctor, I'm not comfortable.
2. B: Where are you not comfortable?
3. A: Everywhere is not comfortable.
4. B: Why does everyone say the same thing?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
醫院	ji1 jyun2	hospital	noun
醫生	ji1 sang1	doctor	noun
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
護士	wu6 si6	nurse	noun
舒服	syu1 fuk6	comfortable	adjective
點解	dim2 gaai2	why	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>呢度有冇醫院?</p> <p><i>ni1 dou6 jau5 mou5 ji1 jyun2 ?</i></p> <p>Is there a hospital near here?</p>	<p>我要睇醫生。</p> <p><i>ngo5 jiu3 tai2 ji1 sang1.</i></p> <p>I need to see a doctor.</p>
<p>邊度有廁所?</p> <p><i>bin1 dou6 jau5 ci3 so2 ?</i></p> <p>Where is the washroom?</p>	<p>你見咗護士先。</p> <p><i>nei5 gin3 zo2 wu6 si6 sin1.</i></p> <p>Why don't you see a nurse first.</p>
<p>我間屋麻雀雖小，五臟俱全，好舒服咖。</p> <p><i>ngo5 gaan1 uk1 maa4 zoek3 seoi1 siu2, ng5 zong6 keoi1 cyun4, hou2 syu1 fuk6 gaa3 .</i></p> <p>My apartment may be small, but it is perfectly laid out and very cozy.</p>	<p>點解咁認真?</p> <p><i>dim2 gaai2 gam3 jing6 zan1?</i></p> <p>Why so serious?</p>

GRAMMAR

A Grammar Point You'll See Everywhere

度度都唔舒服。

"Everywhere is not comfortable."

Our grammar focus in this lesson involves learning a neat way to say "every" in Cantonese by duplicating the object to which we are referring. The example of this we see in our dialogue involves the character 度 (*dou6*) being used to refer to a place, as in the phrase 邊度 (*bin1 dou6*) which we have already learned. 度度 (*dou6 dou6*) thus literally translates as "place, place" but has the meaning "everywhere" or "all places." Although you can't use this with every single character noun, it is a very common pattern in Cantonese. Other examples include 人人 *jan4 jan4* ("every person") and 日日 *jat6 jat6* ("every day"). Consider the following examples:

1. 點解人人都咁講?
Dim2 gaai2 jan4 jan4 dou1 gam2 gong2?
"Why does everyone say the same thing?"
2. 我日日打電話俾你。
Ngo5 jat6 jat6 daa2 din6 waa2 bei2 nei5.
"I call you everyday."
3. 我年年都返屋企過聖誕。
Ngo5 nin4 nin4 dou1 faan1 uk1 kei2 gwo3 sing3 daan3.
"I go home for Christmas every year."
4. 佢次次都遲到。
Keoi5 ci3 ci3 dou1 ci4 dou3.
"He is late every time."

Language Tip

Another way to express the idea of "every" is to use the word 每 (*mui5*). You can use this word with any noun and avoid the need to duplicate characters. For instance, 每日 (*mui5 jat6*) means exactly the same thing as 日日 (*jat6 jat6*). 人人 (*jan4 jan4*) can also be replaced by 每人 (*mui5 jan4*). Although this second approach is probably easier to remember, you need to be aware of the first since it is used very often, especially when referring to people and times.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What to say When You're Injured in Hong Kong

Chinese speakers tend to use the phrase "uncomfortable" (唔舒服) as a catchbasket expression to refer to a general sense of malaise, and often fairly minor stomach discomfort and/or headaches. So be aware that while this word communicates that something is physically wrong, it does not carry a sense of urgency or imply that you need immediate assistance. If you are wounded or in pain and need help immediately, you are better off using the adjective 疼 (*tong1*), which means "painful" and is a much more forceful expression.