

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #2

Friday in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 今日係星期幾?
2. 星期五，做咩?
3. 聽日放假喇!

JYUTPING

1. Gam1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?
2. Sing1 kei4 ng5 , zou6 me1?
3. Ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3 laa3!

ENGLISH

1. What day is it today?
2. Friday, why?
3. Tomorrow is a holiday!

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
聽日	ting1 jat6	tomorrow	noun
尋日	cam4 jat6	yesterday	noun

今日	gam1 jat6	today	noun
做咩	zou6 me1	what (to do)	phrase
放假	fong3 gaa3	to be on holiday	verb
係	hai6	to be	verb
星期	sing1 kei4	week	noun
幾	gei2	how many	interrogate

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>聽日放假。 <i>ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3.</i></p> <p>"Tomorrow is a holiday."</p>	<p>你尋日去咗邊? <i>nei5 cam4 jit6 heoi3 zo2 bin1?</i></p> <p>Where did you go yesterday?</p>
<p>今日係星期一。 <i>Gam1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 jat1.</i></p> <p>"It's Monday today."</p>	<p>佢哋做咩咖? <i>Keoi5 dei6 zou6 me1 gaa3?</i></p> <p>What do they do?</p>
<p>我下星期三放假，不如一齊食飯。 <i>Ngo5 haa6 sing1 kei4 saam1 fong3 gaa3, bat1 jyu4 jat1 cai4 sik6 faan6.</i></p> <p>I am on holiday next Wednesday , how about having dinner together?</p>	<p>幾時開始放假? <i>Gei2 si4 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3?</i></p> <p>When will the holiday begin?</p>
<p>我係學生。 <i>Ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1.</i></p> <p>"I am a student."</p>	<p>四個星期。 <i>sei3 go3 sing1 kei4.</i></p> <p>"Four weeks."</p>
<p>聽日係星期幾? <i>Ting1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?</i></p> <p>What day will it be tomorrow?</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is All About Why

星期五，做咩？

"Friday, why?"

In this lesson we learn the useful question 做咩 (*zou6 me1*), which literally means, "do what?" This question has two major usages in modern Cantonese. The first usage is to ask the question "why," as in the example in our dialogue. The second usage is related. 做咩 is also used to ask *what someone has done*, as with the following example:

1. 你尋日做咩？
Nei5 cam4 jat6 zou6 me1?
"What did you do yesterday?"

This division between asking why and what is more natural in English than in Cantonese. Note that even in this second example there is really an implied question about why things happened the way they did tucked into the tone of the question. Why were you acting so weird yesterday? What happened? What did you do? This sense of probing for underlying reasons gives 做咩 a very colloquial and conversational sense. Consider how natural the following examples are:

1. 你做咩咁忙？
Nei5 zou6 me1 gam3 mong4?
"Why are you so busy?"
2. 你做咩返工？今日星期六。
Nei5 zou6 me1 faan1 gong1? Gam1 jat6 sing1 kei4 luk6.
"Why are you working? It's Saturday today."

Bonus Point

Another common way of asking "why" in Cantonese is to use 點解 (*dim2 gaai2*), which literally means, "how to solve it." We use this in sentences like 你點解咁忙 *nei5 dim2 gaai2 gam3 mong4* ("Why are you so busy?").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bank Operating Hours

In Hong Kong, banks are open on all weekdays and (most) on Saturday mornings. They are closed on Sundays and on general public holidays.