

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #4

Running Late in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 哎呀，就遲到啦。
2. 而家幾點呀？
3. 就快兩點啦。
4. 咁就要快啲啦！

JYUTPING

1. Aai1 jaa3 , zau6 ci4 dou3 laa3。
2. Ji4 gaa1 gei2 dim2 aa3 ?
3. Zau6 faai3 loeng5 dim2 laa3。
4. Gam2 zau6 jiu3 faai3 di1 laa3 !

ENGLISH

1. Ar, we are going to be late!
2. What time is it?
3. Almost two.
4. Then we have to hurry.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
就快	zau6 faai3	almost	adverb
兩點	loeng5 dim2	two (o'clock)	phrase
快啲	faai3 di1	quicker	expression
準時	zeon2 si4	to be on time	verb
而家	ji4 gaa1	now	adverb
幾點	gei2 dim2	what time	phrase
遲到	ci4 dou3	to be late	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>就快搞掂。 <i>zau6 faai3 gaau2 dim6.</i></p> <p>It's almost done.</p>	<p>而家兩點正。 <i>Ji4 gaa1 leong5 dim2 zing3.</i></p> <p>It's exactly two o'clock now.</p>
<p>行慢啲定行快啲? <i>Haang4 maan6 di1 ding6 haang4 faai3 di1?</i></p> <p>Should we slow down or hurry up?</p>	<p>記得每個月準時交租。 <i>gei3 dak1 mui5 go3 jyut6 zeon2 si4 gaau1 zou1.</i></p> <p>Remember to pay rent on time every month.</p>
<p>我而家好開心。 <i>Ngo5 ji4 gaa1 hou2 hoi1 sam1.</i></p> <p>I'm very happy now.</p>	<p>幾點啊? <i>gei2 dim2 aa3?</i></p> <p>What time is it?</p>
<p>你又遲到。 <i>nei5 jau6 ci4 dou3.</i></p> <p>You're late again.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Tricks of How Many and How Much

而家幾點呀？

"What time is it?"

Our grammar focus this lesson is learning how to ask questions using the character 幾 *gei2* ("how many/how much"). This question word is typically followed by nouns or adjectives. For example, we can ask 幾點 *gei2 dim2* ("what time is it"), 幾歲 *gei2 sei3* ("how old are you"). In those sentences 點 refers the number of hours in the current day while 歲 refers to years of age. In the sentence 你幾高 *nei5 gei2 gou1* ("how tall are you"), 高 is an adjective meaning "tall."

1. 而家幾點啊？

Ji4 gaa1 gei2 dim2 aa3?

"What time is it now?"

As mentioned above, the question 幾點 (*gei2 dim2*) literally means how many hours. In conversational Cantonese it is common to add the word 而家 *ji4 gaa1* ("now") at the end of the sentence, making the full question 幾點啊而家 ("what time is it now")? Here are a few more examples:

1. 你個細路幾歲？

Nei5 go3 sai3 lou6 gei2 sei3?

"How old is your child?"

2. 生日快樂！你幾歲啊？

Saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6! Nei5 gei2 sei3 aa3?

"Happy birthday! How old are you?"

Bonus Point:

In addition to adjectives and nouns, 幾 (*gei2*) can also be followed by measure words in order to ask how many things there are or how much of something you would like. For instance 幾個人 *gei2 go3 jan4* means "how many people", 幾杯 *gei2 bui1* asks "how many glasses" and 幾杯酒 *gei2 bui1 zau2* asks "how many glasses of wine."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Telling Time in Hong Kong

Telling the time in Hong Kong is easy: you're always running late. If you need to handle talking about it though, the rule is to say the hour plus 點 (*dim2*), followed by the number of minutes past the hour. For instance, if it's 10:15 you can say 十點三 (*sap6 dim2 saam1*), while at 6:45 you can say 六點九 (*luk6 dim2 gau2*). As with the United States, Hong Kong follows a twelve hour cycle in which the time repeats itself in both the morning and afternoon.