

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #6

## Taking photos in Hong Kong

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# 6

# TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 咪郁!
2. 我都有郁。
3. 笑下喇。
4. 得唔得?
5. 一，二，三……
6. 俾我睇下喇。

# JYUTPING

1. Mai5 juk1 !
2. Ngo5 dou1 mou5 juk1。
3. Siu3 haa5 laa1。
4. Dak1 m4 dak1 ?
5. Jat1 ji6 saam1 ……
6. Bei2 ngo5 tai2 haa5 laa1。

# ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Don't move!
2. B: I didn't move.
3. A: Smile a bit!
4. B: Is this okay?
5. A: One, two, three...
6. B: Let me take a look.

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
下	haa5	a bit	adverb
得唔得	dak1 m4 dak1	okay or not	phrase
咪	mai5	don't	imperative
睇	tai2	to watch	verb
笑	siu3	to smile	verb
郁	juk1	to move	verb
俾	bei2	to give	verb
都	dou1	also	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>考慮下啦？ <i>Haa2 leoi6 haa5 laa1?</i></p> <p>Think about it a bit?</p>	<p>唔好笑，得唔得？ <i>m4 hou2 siu3, dak1 m4 dak1 ?</i></p> <p>Can you stop laughing?</p>
<p>咪亂講嘢。 <i>Mai5 lyun6 gong2 je5 ,</i></p> <p>Don't say the wrong thing.</p>	<p>不如睇戲？ <i>bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?</i></p> <p>How about seeing a movie?</p>
<p>笑口常開。 <i>Siu3 hau2 soeng4 hoi1.</i></p> <p>Keep smiling all the time.</p>	<p>郁下張凳。 <i>Juk1 haa5 zoeng1 dang3.</i></p> <p>Move the chair a bit.</p>
<p>你唔好郁嚟郁去。 <i>Nei5 ng4 hou2 juk1 lei4 juk1 heoi3.</i></p> <p>Don't move around so much.</p>	<p>俾呢本書我。 <i>Bei2 ni1 bun2 syu1 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Give me this book.</p>
<p>你都好可愛。 <i>Nei5 dou1 hou2 ho2 oi3.</i></p> <p>You are also very cute.</p>	<p>我都鍾意佢。 <i>ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5.</i></p> <p>I also like him(/her/it).</p>

## GRAMMAR

### Our Grammar Focus is Just "a bit" Tricky

笑下喇。

"Smile a bit!"

Our grammar focus today is on how to do things just a bit by using the verb complement 下 (*haa5*). The structure for doing this is fairly easy: just add 下 *haa5* ("a bit") immediately after your single-character action verb.

The character 下 (*haa5*) here is a colloquial shortening of the phrase 一下 (*jat1 haa5*), which means one time. In its full form the verb complement literally meant that you would be doing

something one time, as in the phrases 打一下 *daa2 jat1 haa5* ("to hit once"), or 踢一下 *tek3 jat1 haa5* ("to kick once"). Gradually it became common to drop the number one and this shortened phrase picked up the more vague sense of "doing something for a little bit of time," as in the following examples:

1. 笑下啦！  
*siu3 haa5 laa1*  
"Smile a bit!"
2. 睇下啦！  
*tai2 haa5 laa1!*  
"Look a bit!"
3. 俾我睇下啦！  
*bei2 ngo5 tai2 haa5 laa1!*  
"Let me have a look."
4. 試下  
*si3 haa5*  
"Have a try."
5. 試下，好味咖！  
*si3 haa5, hou2 mei6 gaa3*  
"Try it. It tastes good."

## Bonus Point

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Our lesson today focuses on single-character verbs. But what happens when you want to use multiple-character verbs? In cases where those verbs consist of a verb and then its object, we simply split them apart and stick our verb complement right in the middle. 行街 *haang4 gai1* ("to go shopping") thus becomes 行下街, while 食飯 *sik6 faan6* (to have dinner) becomes 食下飯.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Put a Smile on Somebody's

## Face

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"Cheese" is what English speakers say when taking photographs, while 茄子 ("eggplant") is what most Mandarin speakers use. But what about Cantonese? When you're in Hong Kong, try saying 笑下啦 (*siu3 haa5 laa1*). This is the most simple and common way to get people smiling.