LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #8
Cantonese Coworkers

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8

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你忙唔忙呀?

2. 麻麻地啦。

3. 幫我查啲資料吖?

4. 查咩啊?

5. 等陣話你知。

6. 咁我得閒先查喇。

JYUTPING

1. Nei5 mong4 m4 mong4 aa3 ?

2. Maa4 maa2 dei2 laa1 .

3. Bong1 ngo5 caa4 di1 zi1 liu2 aa1 ?

4. Caa4 me1 aa3 ?

5. Dang2 zan6 waa6 nei5 zi1

6. Gam2 ngo5 dak1 haan4 sin1 caa4 laa1 .

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Are you busy?
2.	B:	A little.
3.	A:	Can you help me find some info?
4.	B:	Find what?
5.	A:	I'll tell you later.
6.	B:	Then I'll search when I'm free.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
等陣	dang2 zan6	later	adverb
得閒	dak1 haan4	to be available, to be free	phrase
幫	bong1	to help	verb
忙	mong4	busy	adjective
資料	zi1 liu2	information, materials	noun
咩	me1	what	pronoun
查	caa4	to search, to find	verb
麻麻哋	maa4 maa2 dei2	a little/sort of	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我等陣去書店。 *Ngo5 dang2 zan6 heoi2 syu1 dim3.* I'll go to the bookshop later.	我得閒就去書店。 *Ngo5 dak1 gaan1 zau6 heoi2 syu1 dim3.* I go to bookshops whenever I am free.
得閒去兜風。 *dak1 haan4 heoi3 dau1 fung1。* (When you/I) have time, go have a joyride.	多謝你幫我。 *do1 ze6 nei5 bong1 ngo5。* Thank you for helping me.
唔該幫下我。 *m4 goi1 bong1 haa5 ngo5* Please help me.	我工作好忙。 *Ngo5 gung1 zok3 hou2 mong4.* I have a busy job.
忙咩啊? *mong4 me1 aa3?* What are you busy with?	我要睇好多資料。 *Ngo5 jiu3 tai2 hou2 do1 zi1 liu2.* I have to read a lot of materials.
發生咩事? *Faat3 saang1 me1 si6 ?* What happened?	你叫咩名? *nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 ?* What's your name?
幫我查啲資料。 *Bong1 ngo5 caa4 di1 zi1 liu2.* Help me search for some info.	佢麻麻哋有錢。 *Keoi5 maa4 maa2 dei2 jau5 cin2.* He's sort of rich.

GRAMMAR

Asking Questions with Adjectives
你忙唔忙呀?
"Are you busy?"

Our grammar focus today is on asking yes/no questions using adjectives. The structure for doing this is very simple—start the sentence with the subject of the question, and then follow

this with the adjective, then the character 唔 (*m4/ng4*), and then repeat the adjective. In the dialogue we saw this in our very first line, in which one of the speakers asked the other if they were busy using the question 你忙唔忙呀, *nei5 mong4 m4 mong4 aa3* ("Are you busy?"). For more examples, consider the following two questions:

1. 中文難唔難？

   Zung1 man2 naan4 m4 naan4?

   "Is Chinese difficult?"

2. 工作煩唔煩？

   Gung1 zok3 faan4 m4 faan4?

   "Is work bothersome?"

Bonus Point

The structure above is only used for single-character adjectives. In the chase of two-character adjectives, the trick is to say only the first character and then our negation word 唔 (*m4*) and then the whole adjective again. For example, 新鮮 (*san1 sin1*) means "fresh" and is turned into a question such as 新唔新鮮 (*san1 m4 san1 sin1*). If you want to know whether a piece of fruit is fresh or not, you should ask 水果新唔新鮮, *seoi2 gwo2 san1 m4 san1 sin1* ("Is the fruit fresh?").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where to Find Wireless Internet

Wi-Fi is more and more pervasive in Hong Kong and is by now available in many public places and even outdoor areas like Kowloon Park. If you don't have your own laptop or smartphone but need to get online, one good option is finding a public library. All Hong Kong libraries have computers with Internet access you can use for free. The largest of these is the Hong Kong Central Library, located at 66 Causeway Rd. The computers at this branch can be found on the ground and first floors and can be reserved in advance by calling 852/2921 0384. A list of all other public libraries along with their addresses can be found at http://www.hkpl.gov.hk.