

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #9

Lost in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 請問課室喺幾樓?
2. 喺三樓。
3. 唔該!
4. 唔使客氣。

JYUTPING

1. Ceng2 man6 fo3 sat1 hai2 gei2 lau2?
2. Hai2 saam1 lau2
3. Ng4 goi1!
4. Ng4 sai2 haak3 hei3

ENGLISH

1. A: Excuse me, on which floor is the classroom?
2. B: On the third floor.
3. A: Thank you!
4. B: You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
喺	hai2	to be	verb
課室	fo3 sat1	classroom	noun
請問	ceng2 man6	excuse me	expression
樓	lau2	floor	noun
唔使	m4 sai2	no need to	phrase
唔該	m4 goi1	thank you	verb
客氣	haak3 hei3	polite	adjective
幾	gei2	how many	interrogate

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>你喺邊? <i>Nei5 hai2 bin1 ?</i></p> <p>Where are you?</p>	<p>學生正在課室。 <i>hok6 sang1 zing3 zoi6 fo3 sat1。</i></p> <p>The kids are in the classroom.</p>
<p>請問你叫咩名? <i>Ceng2 man6 nei5 giu3 me1 meng2?</i></p> <p>Excuse me, what's your name?</p>	<p>戲院喺七樓。 <i>Hei3 jyun2 hai2 cat1 lau2。</i></p> <p>The cinema is on the seventh floor.</p>
<p>失戀啫，唔駛咁鬱結嚟。 <i>sat1 lyun2 ze1, ng4 sai2 gam2 wat1 git3 bo3.</i></p> <p>You don't need to be depressed just because you broke up with your girlfriend.</p>	<p>唔駛咁緊張。 <i>ng4 sai2 gam3 gan2 zoeng1.</i></p> <p>No need to be so anxious.</p>
<p>唔該晒你! <i>ng4 goi1 saai3 nei5 !</i></p> <p>Thank you very much!</p>	<p>你真客氣! <i>Nei5 zan1 haak3 hei3.</i></p> <p>You are so polite.</p>

聽日係星期幾?

Ting1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?

What day will it be tomorrow?

GRAMMAR

How to Talk about Building Floors in Cantonese

喺幾樓

"Which floor?"

Our grammar focus today is on asking for locations in buildings using the phrase 喺幾樓 (*hai2 gei2 lau2*). This literally translates as "to be at how many floors." We start with the verb 喺 (*hai2*), which is used to introduce locations as with 喺學校 *hai2 hok6 hau6* ("to be at school"), or 喺醫院 *hai2 ji1 jyun2* ("to be in the hospital"). 幾 (*gei2*) is our question word asking "how much/many," while 樓 (*lau2*) refers to both buildings as well as the stories within buildings. Consider the following examples:

1. 喺幾樓?
hai2 gei2 lau2
"On which floor?"
2. 喺三樓。
hai2 saam1 lau2
"On the 3rd floor."
3. 喺四樓。
hai2 sei3 lau2
"On the 4th floor."
4. 喺五樓
hai2 ng5 lau2
"On the 5th floor."

5. 喺十七樓。
hai2 sap6 cat1 lau2
"On the 17th floor."

6. 喺地下。
hai2 dei6 haa2
"On the ground floor."

Language Tip

If you need to specify the exact room in an address, provide the room information after the floor. In English we might say "Room 3 on Floor 2." This order is reversed in Cantonese, where the same address is spoken as 二樓三號房 *ji6 lau2 saam1 hou6 fong2* ("second floor, room three"). Note that you can use 室 (*sat1*) interchangeably with 房 (*fong2*) when referring to rooms in buildings.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What Floor is That?

Hong Kong tends to follow British conventions when it comes to naming floors, with the first floor in Hong Kong referring to what in the United States would be considered the second floor. In Cantonese, the first floor in any building is known as the "G/F" (ground floor) or 底層 (*dai2 cang4*). The first floor is also often referred to as "P/F" (platform floor) or 平台 (*ping4 toi4*). Subterranean floors start at 地下一層 (*dei6 haa6 jat1 cang4*) and keep counting down as with 地下二層 (*dei6 haa6 ji6 cang4*).