



Beginner S1

The Hong Kong Soccer Team

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Traditional Chinese

睇咗場波未？
睇咗，激死我喇。
點解嘍？
又輸波咯！
好正常吖。

Jyutping

Tai2 zo2 coeng4 bo1 mei6 ?
Tai2 zo2, gik1 sei2 ngo5 laa3.
Dim2 gaai2 zak1?
Jau6 syu1 bo1 lo1!
Hou2 zing3 soeng4 aa1.

English

Have you watched the match yet?
Yes, I'm very upset.
Why?
We lost again!
That's normal.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
未	mei6	yet
激	gik1	to anger
又	jau6	again
輸	syu1	to lose
贏	jeng4	to win
正常	zing3 soeng4	normal
點解	dim2 gaai2	why

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

你開始放假未呀？	Nei5 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3 mei6 aa3?	Has your holiday started yet?
如果你呃我，你會激鬪我。	jyu4 gwo2 nei5 ngaak1 ngo5, nei5 wui5 gik1 nau1 ngo5。	If you cheat me, you'll anger me.
你又食麥當勞？	Nei5 jau6 sik6 maak6 dong1 lou4?	You eat McDonald again?
中國隊又輸波。	Zung1 gwok3 deoi2 jau6 syu1 bo1.	The Chinese team lost again.
我尋日打麻雀輸咗十幾萬。	ngo5 cam4 jat6 daa2 maa4 zoek2 syu1 zo2 sap6 gei2 maan6。	I lost 100 thousand playing mahjong yesterday.
我又贏錢啦。	Ngo5 jau6 jeng4 cin2 laa3.	I won money again.
贏小小就好喇，唔好咁貪心。	jeng4 siu2 siu2 zau6 hou2 laa6, m4 hou2 gam3 taam1 sam1。	Winning a bit is fine, don't get greedy.
一切正常。	Jat1 cai3 zing3 soeng4.	Everything is normal.
點解咁認真？	dim2 gaai2 gam3 jing6 zan1?	Why so serious?

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "yet" in Cantonese with 未 (mei6)
睇咗場波未？
"Have you watched the game yet?"

Our grammar focus in this lesson is building questions with 未 (mei6) that communicate the idea of "yet" in Cantonese. This sentence pattern is easy to use. Simply put the character 未 (mei6) at the end of any verb or verb phrase to turn what was originally a statement into a question asking whether something has been done yet. Look at the following two examples:

- 睇咗場波未？
Tai2 zo2 ceong4 bo1 mei6?
"Have you seen the match yet?"
- 食咗未？
Sik6 zo2 mei6?
"Have you eaten yet?"

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In our dialogue, 睇 (tai2) is the verb, which 咗 (zo2) puts into the past tense. 場 (ceong4) is the measure word for 波 (bo1), which means "game" or "match." 睇咗場波 (tai2 zo2 ceong4 bo1) is thus a standalone verb phrase in the past tense and also a statement saying that someone watched some sort of game. By adding 未 (mei6) to the end we make it instantly a question, which asks whether someone has watched a game yet. A few similar examples follow:

1. 你做完 (咗) 未?
Zou6 jyun4 (zo2) mei6?
"Have you finished yet?"
2. 你食咗未?
Nei5 sik6 zo2 mei6?
"Have you eaten yet?"
3. 你睇咗未?
Nei5 tai2 zo2 mei6?
"Have you watched it yet?"

Language Tip

未 (mei6) has the negative meaning of "not yet" when used in front of a verb in a statement. For example: 我未食 (ngo5 mei6 sik6) means "I haven't eaten yet." This sentence pattern can be used to respond to the questions we built earlier with 未 (mei6). If you're ever asked "Have you watched the film yet?" and it is a movie you haven't seen, you can always answer 我未睇 (ngo5 mei6 tai2) "I haven't watched it yet."

Cultural Insight

Have You Seen A Hong Kong Commercial Yet?

Many commercials and adverts in Hong Kong use the 未 question structure introduced in this lesson as commercial slogans. For instance, 你今日飲咗未啊 (nei5 gam1 jat6 jam2 zo2 mei6 aa3), "have you drunk it today yet" is a clichéd advertising slogan for beverages, while 你投咗票未啊 (nei5 tau4 zo2 piu3 mei6 aa3), "have you voted yet" is often used around elections. The reason this pattern is so popular is because of a traditional greeting among Cantonese speakers, 食咗飯未 (sik6 zo2 faan6 mei6) "have you had dinner yet," or 食咗未 (sik6 zo2 mei6), "have you eaten yet." Please note that the answer to this question is always

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supposed to be 食咗喇 (sik6 zo2 laa3) "yes, I've eaten" regardless of whether that's the truth.