



## Beginner S1

### Getting News in Hong Kong

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## Traditional Chinese

喂，今日上咗網未啊？  
未喔，有咩新聞？  
冇啊，都係咁啦，你自己睇咯。

## Jyutping

Wai3, gam1 jat6 soeng5 zo2 mong5 mei6 aa3?  
Mei6 wo3, jau5 me1 san1 man4?  
Mou5 aa3, dou1 hai6 gam2 laa1, nei5 zi6 gei2 tai2 lo1.

## English

A Hey, have you been online today yet?  
B Not yet, any news?  
A None, nothing's changed. Take a look yourself.

## Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
今日	gam1 jat6	today
上網	soeng5 mong5	to go online
自己	zi6 gei2	oneself
新聞	san1 man4	news
電視	din6 si6	television
報紙	bou3 zi2	newspaper
網絡	mong5 lok3	Internet

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我今日見到你。      ngo5 gam1 jat6 gin3 dou2      I saw you today.  
nei5。  
我屋企可以上網。      ngo5 uk1 kei2 ho2 ji5 soeng5      You can get online at my  
mong5。      place.  
你自己煮飯食。      Nei5 zi6 gei2 zyu2 faan6 sik6.      You cook for yourself.

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今日有咩新聞？	Gam1 jat6 jau5 me1 san1 man4?	Any news today?
家人在一起看電視。	gaa1 jan4 zoi6 jat1 hei2 hon3 din6 si6.	The family is watching television.
一路食早餐，一路睇報紙。	jat1 lou6 sik6 zou2 can1, jat1 lou6 tai2 bou3 zi2.	Reading the newspaper while eating breakfast.
網絡上有好多詐騙案。	mong5 lok3 soeng6 jau5 hou2 do1 zaa3 pin3 on3.	There is a lot of internet fraud.

## Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Talk About the Past Tense in Cantonese

喂，今日上咗網未啊？

"Hey, have you been online today yet?"

In our grammar section today, we want to review how to put sentences into the simple past tense, or what is known in Cantonese as the past aspect. This requires the use of something called an "aspectual particle." The most important of these is the aspectual particle used to tell us that a verb action has been completed, or took place sometime in the past. This is the particle 咗 (zo2). To use it simply add 咗 after simple verbs to indicate that the action has been completed. Look at the following examples:

1. 買  
maai5  
"to buy."
  2. 買咗  
maai5 zo2  
"to have bought."
  3. 我買咗  
ngo5 maai5 zo2  
"I've bought it."
  4. 佢買咗  
Keoi5 maai5 zo2  
"He's bought it."
- 
1. 睇  
tai2  
"to watch."

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2. 睇咗  
tai2 zo2  
"to have watched."
3. 睇咗新聞  
tai2 zo2 san1 man4  
"to have watched the news."
4. 你睇咗新聞未?  
nei5 tai2 zo2 san1 man4 mei6?  
"Have you watched the news?"

This transformation works for both single-character and double-character verbs. Note that for verbs which consist of a verb/object compound, we stick 咗 right after the verb and before the object, meaning that compounds such as 上網 soeng5 mong5 ("to go online") becomes soeng5 zo2 mong5 上咗網 ("to have been online"). There is no easy rule for differentiating between which two-character verbs are standalone verbs and which are verb-object combinations. This requires a familiarity with the meaning of individual characters.

## Language Tip

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We have covered additional aspectual particles in previous lessons. 過 (gwo3) is the major alternate particle used to communicate aspect completion, as with the sentence 我去過香港 ngo5 heoi3 gwo3 hoeng1 gong2 ("I've been to Hong Kong"). While both 咗 and 過 are indicators of past tense, 咗 stresses the neutral completion of the action while 過 emphasizes that the action has been done in the past.

## Cultural Insight

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### The News Landscape in Hong Kong

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Hong Kong is a major press center in Asia. The leading Chinese language newspapers in the city are the Oriental Daily News, Apple Daily and the Sun Daily, while the leading financial newspaper is the Hong Kong Economic Times. The most prestigious English language newspaper is the South China Morning Post, referred to locally as the acronym SCMP. It is dominated in circulation figures by the Hong Kong Standard, a lower-market tabloid that tends to highlight local and tabloid news.