



Beginner S1

At the Hong Kong Airport

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Traditional Chinese

我地班機幾點啊？
仲有半個鐘度。
希望今次準時，唔好遲啦。
遲咗，都有辦法。

Jyutping

Ngo5 dei6 baan1 gei1 gei2 dim2 aa3?
Zung6 jau5 bun3 go3 zung1 dou2.
Hei1 mong6 gam1 ci3 zeon2 si4, m4 hou2 ci4 laa1.
Ci4 zo2, dou1 mou5 baan6 faat3.

English

What time is our flight?
Another half an hour or so.
I hope it'll be on time this time, and not late.
If it is, there's nothing that can be done.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
飛機	fei1 gei1	airplane
機場	gei1 cheong4	airport
班機	baan1 gei1	flight
幾點	gei1 dim2	what time
希望	hei1 mong6	to hope
準時	zeon2 si4	to be on time
遲	ci4	to be late
登記	dang1 gei3	to check-in

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

而家飛機票唔貴。 Ji4 gaa1 fei1 gei1 piu3 m4 Plane tickets now are not

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到機場要二百蚊。	gwai3. dou3 gei1 coeng4 jiu1 ji6 baak3 man1.	expensive. It's 200 HKD to go to the airport.
我班機幾點呀？	Ngo5 baan1 gei1 gei2 dim2 aa6 ?	What time is my flight?
幾點啊？	gei2 dim2 aa3?	What time is it?
今次嘅活動真係意義重大，希 望大家多多支持。	Gam1 ci3 ge3 wut6 dung6 zan1 hai6 ji3 ji6 zung6 daai6 , hei1 mong6 daai6 gaa1 do1 do1 zi1 ci4.	This activity is meaningful, I hope everyone will support it.
記得每個月準時交租。	gei3 dak1 mui5 go3 jyut3 zeon2 si4 gaau1 zou1.	Remember to pay rent on time every month.
對唔住我嚟遲咗。	deoi3 m4 zyu6 ngo5 lai4 ci4 zo2.	Sorry I was late.
我去邊度登記呀？	Ngo5 heoi3 bin1 dou6 dang1 gei3 aa6 ?	Where can I check in?

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Making Wishes in Cantonese

希望今次準時，唔好遲啦。

"I hope it'll be on time this time, and not late."

If it is true that you need to ask before you will receive, then our grammar point today is tremendously important since we're going to cover how to wish for things in Cantonese. Doing this involves starting a sentence with the magic word 希望 (hei1 mong6), which literally translates as, "to wish" or "to hope". When using this structure, we typically follow our verb by a time phrase and then another verb.

For Example:

1. 希望今次準時。
Hei1 mong6 gaam1 ci3 zan2 si4.
"I hope this time it's on time."
2. 希望班機準時。
Hei1 mong6 baan1 gei1 zan2 si4.
"I hope the flight is on time."
3. 希望有辦法。
Hei1 mong6 jau5 baan6 faat3.

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"I hope there is a solution."

4. 希望我有遲到。

Hei1 mong6 ngo5 mou5 ci4 dou3.

"I hope I wasn't late."

5. 希望佢有辦法。

Hei1 mong6 keoi5 jau5 baan6 faat3.

"I hope he has a solution."

Note that while we've specified the subject as "I" in all of the above sentences, it would be equally valid to drop it and translate the sentences as starting "hopefully," implying a more vague sense that things would be better in this case. If you wish to provide a subject explicitly, you can always add 我 (ngo5) at the start of the sentence to make it perfectly clear you're talking about yourself.

Language Tip

希望 (hei1 mong6) is also a noun meaning "hope." It's one of the many verbs in Cantonese which also functions as a noun expressing the concept of the verb.

Cultural Insight

Tomorrow is Another Day!

The best known Cantonese phrase that has our magic word for today is probably 希望在明天 (hei1 mong6 zoi6 ming4 tin1), which literally translates as, "hope is in tomorrow," or perhaps, "tomorrow is another day." This is what you'll hear when someone tries to comfort you when you lose a sports match or are rejected by the girl or boy of your dreams. This phrase became particularly popular in the early 2000s when Vita (a popular beverage in Hong Kong) used it as the closing line in a popular commercial.