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Beginner S1

Eating Out in Hong Kong

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Traditional Chinese

- A 你想食咩餸？
B 是但啦。
A 雞肉定牛肉？
B 乜都得啦。

Jyutping

- A Nei5 soeng2 sik6 me1 sung3?
B Si6 daan6 laa1.
A Gai1 juk6 ding6 ngau4 juk6?
B Mat1 dou1 dak1 laa1.

English

- A What do you want to eat?
B Whatever.
A Chicken or beef?
B Everything is fine.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
想	soeng2	to want
食	sik6	to eat
餸	sung3	food (dish)
是但	si6 daan6	whatever
牛肉	ngau4 juk6	beef
雞肉	gai1 juk6	chicken
羊肉	joeng4 yuk6	lamb
定	ding6	or

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

唔該，我想訂枱。 m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 deng6 Can I make a reservation?

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一齊食嘢。 今晚有三個餸。	toi2. jat1 cai4 sik6 je5. Gam1 maan5 jau5 saam1 go3 sung3.	Eat together. We have three dishes tonight.
是但啦。 呢塊牛肉好細。	Si6 daan6 laa1. Nei1 faai3 ngau4 juk6 hou2 sai3.	Whatever. This piece of beef is very small.
佢想要啲雞肉。 羊肉已經賣晒。	Koi5 soeng2 jiu3 di1 gai1 juk6. Joeng4 juk6 ji2 ging1 maai6 saai3.	He wants some chicken. The lamb is sold out.
電影定話劇?	Din6 jing2 ding6 waa2 kek6?	Movie or play?

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "Everything"

乜都得啦。

"Everything is fine."

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Our grammar focus in this lesson is learning how to say "everything." In our dialogue, we do this by using the phrase 乜都 (mat1 dou1) to refer to "everything." We'll give you examples in a moment, but before we do it's important to point out that the typical placement for this word is at the beginning of a sentence, where it can act as the subject of the sentence, as in the line from our dialogue 乜都得啦 ("everything is fine"). For two more examples, consider the sentences below:

1. 乜都好。
"Everything is good."
2. 我也都食。
"I eat everything."

Two somewhat tricky points to note. The first is that this can refer to "anything" as well as "everything," and figuring out exactly what is meant requires an awareness of the context. The second thing to be aware of is the placement of this word in the sentence when it functions as a direct object, as in our second sentence. Here, we typically place 乜都 after the subject but before the verb in question. This is a different word order than is common in

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English, and while it is easy, be aware of the difference.

Cultural Insight

[Eat Local in Hong Kong](#)

Although people can find food from almost all over the world in Hong Kong, the most popular restaurants are still those that provide traditional Hong Kong cuisine. When it comes to eating out, Hong Kong people often go to Wellington Street (威靈頓街), where the top three recommended restaurants are Yung Kee (鑄記酒家) which is famous for its roast duck, Lotus House (蓮香樓) which is a typical Guangdong restaurant which is more than 100 years old, and The Ninth's (九記) which is renowned for being a favorite for the family of HKSAR Chief Executive Donald Tsang (曾蔭權).