

CantoneseClass101

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Beginner S1

Can't You See I'm Busy in Hong Kong?

18

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Traditional Chinese

你做緊咩？
而家開緊會。
等緊你放工啊。
等多陣啦。

Jyutping

Nei5 zou6 gan2 me1?
Ji4 gaa1 hoi1 gan2 wui2?
Dang2 gan2 nei5 fong3 gung1 aa3.
Dang2 do1 zan6 laa1.

English

A What are you doing?
B I'm having a meeting now.
A I'm waiting for you to get off work.
B Just wait for a little while.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
做咩	zou6 me1	what (to do)
而家	ji6 gaa1	now
散會	saan6 wui2	to end a meeting
返工	faan1 gung1	to go to work
放工	fong3 gung1	to get off work
開會	hoi1 wui2	to hold a meeting
等陣	dang2 zan6	to wait a while
請假	ceng2 gaa3	to take time off

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

佢哋做咩咖？ Keoi5 dei6 zou6 me1 gaa3? What do they do?

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你而家喺邊？
我而家就要！
尋日五點散會。

Nei5 ji4 gaa1 hai2 bin1?
Ngo5 ji6 gaa1 zau6 jiu3 !
Cam4 jat6 ng5 dim2 saan3
wui2.

Where are you now?
I want it now!
The meeting ended at 5:00
yesterday.

禮拜一要返工。

Lai5 baai3 jat1 jiu3 faan1
gung1.

On Monday, we have to work.

我打算放工之後同女朋友去睇
電影。

Ngo5 daa2 syun3 fong3 gong1 I plan to go see a movie with
zi1 hau6 tung4 nei5 pang4 my girlfriend after work.
jau5 heoi3 tai2 din6 jing2.

我啲會星期六開會。

Ngo5 dei6 wui2 sing1 kei4 luk6 We will hold a meeting on
hoi1 wui2. Saturday.

等我一陣。

Dang2 ngo5 jat1 zan6.

Wait for me a while.

你介意我聽日請假嘛？

Nei5 gaai3 ji3 ngo5 ting1 jat6
cing2 gaa3 maa3?

Do you mind if I take tomorrow
off?

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is the Particle 緊 (gan2)

你做緊咩？

Nei5 zou6 gan2 me1?

"What are you doing?"

Our grammar focus in this lesson is on the particle 緊 (gan2). This particle is used to communicate the continuous aspect. Simply place it after the verb to communicate the idea that the action of that verb is ongoing. To provide a few examples, 做緊 (zou6 gan2) means "to be doing," 開緊 (hoi1 gan2) means "to be opening" and 等緊 (dang2 gan2) means "to be waiting." Extra attention is needed when modifying verb phrases that consists of verbs bundled with objects. In cases like this, we stick the particle 緊 (gan2) in between the verb and the object. For instance, 開緊會 (hoi1 gan2 wui2) means "to be holding a meeting") and 食緊飯 (sik6 gan2 faan6) means "to be eating a meal." Look at the following sentences for further examples:

1. 而家開緊會。

ji4 gaa1 hoi1 gan2 wui2

"We're holding a meeting now."

2. 我睇緊戲。

ngo5 tai2 gan2 hei3

"I'm watching a movie"

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3. 我等緊巴士

ngo5 dang2 gan2 baa1 si2

"I'm waiting for the bus."

Cultural Insight

Living to Work

According to official government research from 2010, employees in Hong Kong have the longest working hours of the entire global labor market. Of the roughly four million office workers in the city, around one million people work 48 hours each week, while 250,000 people work sixty hours per week and 38,300 work 72 hours per week. Research also shows that even service jobs in places like restaurants tend to involve longer hours than those in other countries.