



Beginner S1

Fighting Mosquitoes in Hong Kong

1

Traditional	2
Jyutping	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3
Cultural Insight	3

Traditional Chinese

有蚊啊！ 死咗！
搞錯啊，你打我？
打蚊啊！唔好郁！
哎呀！你塊面都有蚊啊。

Jyutping

Jau5 man1 aa3 ! sei2 zo2 !
Gaa2 co3 aa3 , nei5 daa2 ngo5 ?
Daa2 man1 aa3 ! ng4 hou2 juk1 !
Aai1 jaa3 ! nei5 faai3 min6 dou1 jau5 man1 aa3.

English

There's a mosquito! ...It's dead.
What on earth? You hit me!
I'm hitting the mosquitoes! Don't move.
Aar! There's mosquitoes on your face too.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
打	daa2	to hit
搞錯	gaa2 co3	to make a mistake
塊	faai3	measure word for face
面	min6	face
蚊	man1	mosquito
郁	juk1	to move
都	dou1	also
唔好	ng4 hou2	don't

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

你唔好打人。 Nei5 ng4 hou2 daa2 jan4. "Don't hit people."

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有冇搞錯啊？
佢塊面好滑。

jau5 mou5 gaau2 co3 aa3?
Keoi5 faai3 min6 hou2
waat6。

"Are you kidding me?"
"His face is very smooth."

你塊面好瘦。
呢度好多蚊。

Nei5 faai3 min6 hou2 sau3。
Ni1 dou6 hou2 do1 man1。

"Your face is so slim."
"There are lots of mosquitoes
here."

郁下張凳。
你唔好郁嚟郁去。

Juk1 haa5 zoeng1 dang3。
Nei5 ng4 hou2 juk1 lei4 juk1
heoi3。

"Move the chair a bit."
"Don't move around so much."

我都鍾意佢。
你唔好郁嚟郁去。

ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5。
Nei5 ng4 hou2 juk1 lei4 juk1
heoi3。

"I also like him(/her/it)."
"Don't move around so much."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This lesson is on Saying "don't" in Cantonese

打蚊啊！唔好郁！

"I'm hitting the mosquitoes! Don't move!"

3

Our grammar focus this lesson is on learning a very simple sentence structure you can use to tell other people not to do things. In our dialogue, we see this in the line 唔好郁 ng4 hou2 juk1 ("don't move"). The structure here is starting a sentence with 唔好 ("don't") and then following it with a verb like 郁 ("to move"). In our dialogue one of the speakers was telling someone else not to move. But you can use this pattern with any verb. Other common examples might include the sentences, 唔好喊 ng4 hou2 haam3 ("don't cry") or 唔好笑 ng4 hou2 siu3 ("don't laugh"). As a relatively informal way of speaking, the seriousness of the request depends heavily on your tone of voice.

On a final note: while this sentence pattern is used to give negative orders, you can always follow it with a positive verb if you want to tell someone exactly what to do. A good example of this is the sentence we used in our podcast: 唔好訓，做野 ng4 hou2 fan3, zou6 je5 ("Don't sleep, work!") which Gimmy frequently heard from her former boss. In this case the subject "you" is implied and it isn't necessary to specify to whom you are talking.

Cultural Insight

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An Ever-present Pest

The weather in Hong Kong is renowned for being hot and humid year round. While long-time residents often take pride in their ability to deal with the island's extreme heat and humidity, few have any fondness for the dreaded Hong Kong mosquitoes. Although you will run into these insects year round, they are especially common during the island's wet season, which lasts from June through August each year. Conditions are also slightly worse on the mainland than in the outlying islands, where reasonably strong ocean breezes often keep the creatures in check.

Practically speaking, there is little one can do to deal with mosquitoes on a day-to-day basis. Most island residents handle mosquitos the same way they deal with Hong Kong's heat and humidity: retreating into a world of air conditioned offices and transit vehicles. And while mosquitoes these days may be little more than a nuisance, when renting an apartment or turning in for the night in a cheaper hotel room it is wise to check the windows to ensure they are properly screened.