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Beginner S1

Comparing in Cantonese

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Traditional Chinese

買呢個啊。
我想要嗰個。
呢個好過嗰個喔。
呢個都貴過嗰個。

Jyutping

Maai5 n11 go3 aa1.
Ngo5 soeng2 jiu1 go2 go3.
Ni1 go3 hou2 gwo3 go2 go3 wo3.
Ni1 go3 dou1 gwai3 gwo3 go2 go3.

English

A Buy this one.
B I want that one.
A This one is better than that one.
B This one is also more expensive than this one.

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Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
呢個	ni1 go3	this one
嗰個	go2 go3	that one
賣	maai6	to sell
買	maai5	to buy
貴	gwai3	expensive
平	peng4	cheap

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我要呢個。	Ngo5 jiu3 ni1 go3.	I want this one.
嗰個幾錢？	Go2 go3 gei2 cin2?	How much is that?
唔賣。	M4 maai6.	I'm not selling it.

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我買。
這個袋太貴。
超級市場的蕃茄好平。

Ngo5 maai5.
Ze2 go3 doi2 taai3 gwai3.
Ciu1 kap1 si5 coeng4 dik1
faan4 ke2 hou2 peng4.

I'll buy it.
This bag is too expensive.
The tomatoes are very cheap
at the supermarket.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is on Comparisons.

呢個好過嗰個㗎。

"This one is better than that one."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is making comparisons in Cantonese using the particle 過 (gwo3). We can do this by adding this particle to the end of any adjective. This is used in constructions of the sort that "A is better than B." Our pattern is very easy: subject A + adjective + 過 (gwo3) + subject B. Consider the following examples:

1. 呢個都貴過嗰個。
Nei1 go3 dou1 gwai3 gwo3 go2 go3.
"This one is also more expensive than that one."
2. 我高過你。
Ngo5 gou1 gwo3 nei5.
"I'm taller than you."
3. Peter矮過John.
Peter ngai2 gwo3 John.
"Peter is shorter than John."
4. 橙平過蘋果。
Caang2 gwuai3 gwo3 ping4 gwo2.
"Oranges are more expensive than apples."

Language Tip

You don't always need to provide a point of comparison to say that something is superior or inferior in some way. For instance, if you're comparing A with another object which is implied you can simply leave B out of your sentence by saying something along the lines of A好睇㗎 (A hou2 tai2 di1). The pattern here is subject + adjective + 㗎.

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Cultural Insight

Bag a Bargain with Cantonese

There are several places you can bargain when shopping in Hong Kong. The most important are Temple Street (廟街) and Women's Street (女人街). When shopping in these two areas, the best bargaining strategy is telling the shop owner your ideal price and then walking away if he or she does not agree to your price. Repeat this technique by increasing your price until you reach the market rate. If you are shopping for jewelry you can also bargain in shops like Chaw Sang Sang (周生生) and Chow Tai Fook (周大福). While the price of gold is the same in Hong Kong as in other places, there is a processing fee charged by most shops where you can save a lot of money. In some cases, it is not difficult to get 40% off if you ask.