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Beginner S1

Going to a Hong Kong Wedding

21

Traditional	2
Jyutping	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3

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Traditional Chinese

- A 你就嚟結婚，恭喜晒喔。
B 多謝晒。
A 祝你哋白頭到老。
B 你咁老土㗎。

Jyutping

- A Nei5 zau6 lai4 git3 fan1, gung1 hei2 saai3 wo3.
B Do1 ze6 saai3.
A Zuk1 nei5 dei6 baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5.
B Nei5 gam2 lou5 tou2 gaa3.

English

- A You are getting married soon, congratulations!
B Thank you.
A Here's wishing you two grow old together.
B You are so old-fashioned.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
結婚	git3 fan1	to get married
嗌	aai3	to ask
恭喜	gung1 hei2	congratulations
祝	zuk1	to wish
白頭到老	baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5	to grow old together
生日快樂	saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6	happy birthday
老土	lou5 tou2	old-fashioned
咁	gam3	so
就嚟	zau6 lai4	soon

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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今年好多人結婚。	Gam1 nin2 hou2 do1 jan4 git3 fan1.	Many people are getting married this year.
點解佢哋唔嗌我去尋晚個party啊？	Dim2 gaai2 keoi5 dei6 m4 aai3 ngo5 heoi3 cam4 maan5 go3 party aa3?	Why didn't they ask me to the party last night ?
恭喜發財。	Gung1 hei2 faat3 coi4.	Wishing you prosperity!
祝你身體健康。	Zuk1 nei5 san1 tai2 gin6 hong1.	Wishing you good health.
個個都想白頭到老。	Go3 go3 dou1 soeng2 baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5.	Everyone wants to grow old with someone.
祝佢生日快樂。	Zuk1 keoi5 saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6.	Happy birthday to him.
有咩辦法唔老土？	Jau5 me1 baan6 faat3 m4 lou5 tou2.	Is there any way to not be so old-fashioned?
成日咁多人。	seng4 jat6 gam3 do1 jan4.	There're always so many people.
就嚟要落雨啦，快啲返屋企。	Zau6 lai4 jiu3 lok6 jyu5 laa3, faai3 di1 faan1 uk1 kei2.	It's going to rain soon, go home quickly.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Congratulate People in Cantonese

祝你哋白頭到老

"Here's wishing you two grow old together."

Our focus in this lesson is on using Cantonese to congratulate others. We see the verb "to congratulate" itself in this lesson as 恭喜 (gung1 hei2) as in the simple phrase 恭喜你 (gung1 hei2 nei5) "congratulations to you." This verb is not terribly versatile, though, since more often than not we see it in self-contained phrases. This is why we cover the most important phrases using it in this lesson. These are: 祝你 (zuk1 nei5) or "wishing you," a phrase which can be followed by any good wishes you want to say for the occasion. The subject of 祝你 (zuk1 nei5) is usually "I" or "we" and is left unspoken, although you could always if somewhat awkwardly say 我祝你 (ngo5 zuk1 nei5)...

For more examples of conventional well-wishing, look at our following examples:

1. 祝你快樂。

Zuk1 nei5 faai3 lok6.

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"Wishing you happiness"

2. 祝你聖誕快樂。

Zuk1 nei5 sing3 daan3 faai3 lok6.

"Wishing you a Merry Christmas."

3. 祝你新年快樂。

Zuk1 nei5 san1 nin4 faai3 lok6.

"Wishing you a Happy New Year."

4. 祝你農曆新年快樂。

Zuk1 nei5 nung4 lik6 san1 nin4 faai3 lok6.

"Wishing you a Happy Chinese New Year."

5. 祝你春節快樂。

zuk1 nei5 cun1 zit3 faai3 lok6.

"Wishing you a happy Spring Festival."

On more formal occasions, you may hear people use the more polite word 恭祝 (gung1 zuk1) to pass along well-wishes as well. 恭祝 (gung1 zuk1) is a combination of 恭喜 (gung1 hei2) and 祝賀 (zuk1 ho6). It can be followed by sentences and phrases as with its less formal and more common counterpart. For instance, the most traditional phrase Cantonese speakers use to wish their elders a happy birthday is 恭祝你福如東海，壽比南山 (gung1 zuk1 nei5 fuk1 jyu4 dung1 hoi2, sau6 bei2 naam4 saan1), which means that one is wishing happiness that is "as vast as the Eastern Sea" and a longevity as "great as the Southern Mountain."