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Beginner S1

Working Late in Hong Kong

23

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Traditional Chinese

- A 仲有幾耐做完？
 B 就嚟搞掂。
 A 快啲啦！
 B 就得啦。

Jyutping

- A Zung6 jau5 gei2 noi6 zou6 jyun4 ?
 B Zau6 lai4 gaau2 dim1.
 A Faai3 di1 laa1 !
 B Zau6 dak1 laa3.

English

- A How long do you have left?
 B I'll be finished soon.
 A Faster!
 B Almost done.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
仲有	zung6 jau5	still to have; also have
幾耐	gei2 noi6	how long
做完	zou6 jyun4	to finish
搞掂	gaau2 dim1	to resolve
快	faai3	fast
嗌	aai3	to ask
得	dak1	okay

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

- 頭等飛仲有冇？ tau4 dang2 fei1 zung6 jau5 Do you have any first class
 mou5 ? tickets left?

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英文課上咗幾耐？	Jing1 man2 fo3 soeng5 zo2 gei2 noi6?	How long is the English class?
做完未？	Zou6 jyun4 mei6.	Have you finished yet?
仲未搞掂？	Zung6 mei6 gaau2 dim1?	Still haven't completed yet?
講快啲。	gong2 faai3 di1。	Speak faster.
點解佢哋唔啱我去尋晚個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 ?
你鍾意點都得。	Nei5 zung1 ji3 dim2 dou1 dak1.	Whatever you want to do is okay.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Talking about When Something is Happening Soon in Cantonese....

就嚟搞掂。

"It'll be done soon."

In our grammar point in this lesson, we want to review how to communicate the idea that something will be happening "soon" using the word 就嚟 (zau6 lai4). Translated literally, this word means something like "immediately coming," but in practice you should treat it as a phrase and not overanalyze it. Simply put 就嚟 (zau6 lai4) before any verb you wish to modify, as in the following examples:

1. 我就嚟搞掂。
Ngo5 zau6 lai4 gaau2 dim6
"I'm almost done."
2. 我哋就嚟放工。
Ngo5 dei6 zau6 lai4 fong3 gung1
"We are getting off work soon."
3. 你就嚟放工。
Nei5 zau6 lai4 fong3 gung1
"You are getting off work soon."
4. 佢就嚟結婚。
Keoi5 zau6 lai4 git3 fan1
"She's getting married soon."
5. 班機就嚟飛。
Baan1 gei1 zau6 lai4 fei1

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"The flight is taking off soon."

Bonus Point

Synonyms of 就嚟 (zau6 lai4) include 就快 (zau6 faai3), 即刻 (zik1 haak1) and 馬上 (maa5 seung6). While these are almost equivalents, the word 即刻 (zik1 haak1) is probably the most immediate, since it means "in an instant." The other three suggest that someone will be happening soon, but don't imply immediately. But since all four of these words are adverbs they are totally interchangeable grammatically, so you can say either 班機就嚟飛 or 班機就快飛 if your flight is taking off soon, for instance.

Cultural Insight

Working Hours in Hong Kong

Hong Kong people are famous for working long hours. According to the latest research from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (香港工聯會), 62% of office workers, 53.3% of retail workers and 45.5% of catering workers routinely work overtime. Although so many workers are required to work overtime, overtime pay itself is not common. At present, the government is considering legislation to deal with the problem, with many people in Hong Kong looking to South Korea as a model in this regard.