

CantoneseClass101

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Beginner S1

The Cantonese Boss

25

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Traditional Chinese

- A 佢成日講大話，冇句真話。
B 你當佢講估仔咯。
A 總之唔好信佢。
B 收到。

Jyutping

- A Keoi5 sing4 jat6 gong3 daai3 waa6, mou5 geoi6 zaan1 waa2.
B Nei5 dong3 keoi5 gong2 gu2 zai2 lo1.
A Zung2 zi1 m4 hou2 seon3 keoi5.
B Sau1 dou2.

English

- A He's always lying, and never tells the truth.
B Just take it as a joke.
A All in all, don't trust him.
B Got it.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
成日	seng4 jat6	always
講	gong2	to speak
大話	daai6 waa6	a lie
真話	zan1 waa2	the truth
估仔	gu2 zai2	story
當	dong1	to assume
總之	zung2 zi1	all in all
信	seon3	to trust; to believe
收到	sau1 dou2	got it

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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唔好成日掛住玩。	M4 hou2 seng4 jat6 gwaa3 zyu6 waan2.	Don't always be playing all day.
你識唔識講廣東話？	nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2?	Do you speak Cantonese?
我好憎人講大話。	Ngo5 hou2 zang1 jat4 gong2 daai6 waa6.	I hate when people lie.
我希望你講真話。	Ngo5 hei1 mong6 nei5 gong2 zan1 waa2.	I hope you'll tell the truth.
呢個估仔好得意。	Nei1 go3 gu2 zai2 hou2 dak1 ji3.	This story is very interesting.
你唔好當佢唔知道。	Nei5 m4 hou2 dong3 keoi5 m4 zi1 dou3.	Don't assume he doesn't know.
總之講大話就唔得。	Zung2 zi1 gong2 daai6 waa6 zau6 m4 dak1.	All in all, telling lies is not OK.
你太容易信人啦。	Nei5 taai3 jung4 ji6 seon3 jan4 laa3.	You trust people too easily.
我今日收到你嘅信。	Ngo5 gam1 jat6 sau1 dou2 nei5 ge2 seon3.	I received your letter today.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is A Seasonal Review!

Congratulations on making it to the end of our Beginner series. Considering that this is the last lesson in our first Beginner series, rather than give you a lengthy new grammar point to remember, we wanted to take a bit of time and review some of the more difficult things we've covered in this session. Since this is a review, we'll also be keeping the detailed discussion of the grammar points themselves. For details on each one, listen to our podcast. Here, we want to give you a lot of examples we didn't have the time to mention.

Ways to say "Don't":

1. 唔好 (m4 hou2), "don't"
2. 唔好講大話 (m4 hou2 gong2 daai6 waa6), "Don't tell a lie."
3. 咪 (mai5) "don't"
4. 咪講大話 (mai5 gong2 daai6 waa6) "Don't tell a lie."

Ways to ask "How Many":

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1. 幾 (gei2), "how many"
2. 幾歲 (gei2 sei3), "how old"
3. 你幾歲 (nei5 gei2 sei3), "how old are you"
4. 你幾高 (nei5 gei2 gou1), "how tall are you"

The Simple Past Tense:

1. 買咗 (maai5 zo2), "bought"
2. 食咗 (sik6 zo2), "ate"
3. 睇咗 (tai2 zo2), "watched"

The Continuous Tense:

1. 買緊 (maai5 gan2), "buying"
2. 食緊 (sik6 gan2), "eating"
3. 睇緊 (tai2 gan2), "watching"

Making Comparisons:

1. 我睇咗套戲 (ngo5 tai2 zo2 tou3 hei3), "I watched a movie."
2. 我睇緊套戲 (ngo5 tai2 gan2 tou3 hei3), "I'm watching a movie."

Everything and Everyone:

1. 人人 (jan4 jan4), "every person"
2. 日日 (jat6 jat6), "everyday"
3. 年年 (nin4 nin4), "every year"

A Versatile Word:

1. 我有車，我仲有樓 (ngo5 jau5 ce1, ngo5 zung6 jau5 lau2), "I have a car. I also have a house."
2. 你仲有十分鐘 (nei5 zung6 jau5 sap6 fan1 zung1), "You still have ten minutes."

A Bonus Point:

1. 下個季度見啦 (haa6 go3 gwai3 dou6 gin3 laa1), "See you next season!"

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Cultural Insight

Cantonese Stories

Speaking of fiction, did you know that many people in Hong Kong enjoy listening to traditional Cantonese stories as a sort of performance art? This kind of storytelling is known as 講估仔, with many of the local tales involving stories about kungfu fighters, swashbuckling heroes and historical legends. The most famous performer of this type of storytelling is Zhang Yuekai (張悅楷), whose popular stories include A Story in Luding Mountain (鹿鼎記), The Yang Family (楊家將) and Romance of the Three Kingdoms (三國演義).