



## Beginner S1

### Friday in Hong Kong

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## Traditional Chinese

今日係星期幾？  
星期五，做咩？  
聽日放假喇！

## Jyutping

Gam1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?  
Sing1 kei4 ng5 , zou6 me1?  
Ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3 laa3!

## English

What day is it today?  
Friday, why?  
Tomorrow is a holiday!

## Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
今日	gam1 jat6	today
聽日	ting1 jat6	tomorrow
尋日	cam4 jat6	yesterday
星期	sing1 kei4	week
做咩	zou6 me1	what (to do)
係	hai6	to be
放假	fong3 gaa3	holiday
幾	gei2	how many

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

今日係星期一。 Gam1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 jat1. "It's Monday today."  
聽日放假。 ting1 jat6 fong3 gaa3. "Tomorrow is a holiday."  
你記唔記得尋日去咗邊？ Nei5 gei3 m4 gei3 dak1 cam4 "Do you remember where did

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你尋日去咗邊？ 四個星期。 畢業都唔知做咩好，不如自己 做老板！	jat6 heoi2 zo2 bin1. nei5 cam4 jit6 heoi3 zo2 bin1? sei3 go3 sing1 kei4. bat1 jip6 dou1 m4 zi1 zou6 me1 hou2, bat1 jyu4 zi6 gei2 zou6 lou5 baan2!	you go yesterday ? " "Where did you go yesterday?" "Four weeks." I don't know what to do after I graduate, why not be a boss!
佢哋做咩咖？ 我係學生。 幾時開始放假？ 聽日係星期幾？	keoi5 dei6 zou6 me1 gaa3 ? Ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1. Gei2 si4 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3? Ting1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?	"What do they do?" "I am a student." "When will the holiday begin?" "What day will it be tomorrow?"

## Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is All About Why

星期五，做咩？

"Friday, why?"

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In this lesson we learn the useful question 做咩 (zou6 me1), which literally means, "do what?" This question has two major usages in modern Cantonese. The first usage is to ask the question "why," as in the example in our dialogue. The second usage is related. 做咩 is also used to ask what someone has done, as with the following example:

1. 你尋日做咩？  
Nei5 cam4 jat6 zou6 me1?  
"What did you do yesterday?"

This division between asking why and what is more natural in English than in Cantonese. Note that even in this second example there is really an implied question about why things happened the way they did tucked into the tone of the question. Why were you acting so weird yesterday? What happened? What did you do? This sense of probing for underlying reasons gives 做咩 a very colloquial and conversational sense. Consider how natural the following examples are:

1. 你做咩咁忙？  
Nei5 zou6 me1 gam3 mong4?  
"Why are you so busy?"
2. 你做咩返工？今日星期六。  
Nei5 zou6 me1 faan1 gong1? Gam1 jat6 sing1 kei4 luk6.  
"Why are you working? It's Saturday today."

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## Bonus Point

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Another common way of asking "why" in Cantonese is to use 點解(dim2 gai2), which literally means, "how to solve it." We use this in sentences like 你點解咁忙 nei5 dim2 gai2 gam3 mong4 ("Why are you so busy?").

## Cultural Insight

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### Bank Operating Hours

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In Hong Kong, banks are open on all weekdays and (most) on Saturday mornings. They are closed on Sundays and on general public holidays.