



## Beginner S1

### Taking photos in Hong Kong

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## Traditional Chinese

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咪郁！  
我都有郁。  
笑下喇。  
得唔得？  
一，二，三  
俾我睇下喇。

## Jyutping

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Mai5 juk1 !  
Ngo5 dou1 mou5 juk1。  
Siu3 haa5 laa1。  
Dak1 m4 dak1 ?  
Jat1 ji6 saam1  
Bei2 ngo5 tai2 haa5 laa1。

## English

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A	Don't move!
B	I didn't move.
A	Smile a bit!
B	Is this okay?
A	One, two, three...
B	Let me take a look.

## Vocabulary

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
咪	mai5	don't
下	haa5	a bit
得唔得	dak1 m4 dak1	okay or not
俾	bei2	to give
睇	tai2	to watch
郁	juk1	to move
笑	siu3	to smile
都	dou1	also

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

咪亂講嘢。 考慮下啦？ 唔好笑，得唔得？ 俾呢本書我。 不如睇戲？ 郁下張凳。 你唔好郁嚟郁去。	Mai5 lyun6 gong2 je5 , Haa5 lei6 haa5 laa1? M4 hou2 siu3 dak1 m4 dak1. Bei2 ni1 bun2 syu1 ngo5. bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3? Juk1 haa5 zoeng1 dang3. Nei5 ng4 hou2 juk1 lei4 juk1 heoi3.	Don't say the wrong thing. Think about it a bit? Can you stop laughing? Give me this book. How about seeing a movie? Move the chair a bit. Don't move around so much.
笑口常開。 你都好可愛。 我都鍾意佢。	Siu3 hau3 soeng4 hoi1. Nei5 dou1 hou2 ho2 ngoi3 ngo5 dou1 zung1 ji3 keoi5.	Keep smiling all the time. You are also very cute. I also like him(/her/it).

## Grammar Points

Our Grammar Focus is Just "a bit" Tricky

笑下喇。

"Smile a bit!"

Our grammar focus today is on how to do things just a bit by using the verb complement 下 (haa5). The structure for doing this is fairly easy: just add 下 (haa5) ("a bit") immediately after your single-character action verb.

The character 下 (haa5) here is a colloquial shortening of the phrase 一下 (jat1 haa5), which means one time. In its full form the verb complement literally meant that you would be doing

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something one time, as in the phrases 打一下 daa2 jat1 haa5 ("to hit once"), or 踢一下 tek3 jat1 haa5 ("to kick once"). Gradually it became common to drop the number one and this shortened phrase picked up the more vague sense of "doing something for a little bit of time," as in the following examples:

1. 笑下啦!  
siu3 haa5 laa1  
"Smile a bit!"
2. 睇下啦!  
tai2 haa5 laa1!  
"Look a bit!"
3. 俾我睇下啦!  
bei2 ngo5 tai2 haa5 laa1!  
"Let me have a look."
4. 試下  
si3 haa5  
"Have a try."
5. 試下, 好味咖!  
si3 haa5, hou2 mei6 gaa3  
"Try it. It tastes good."

## Bonus Point

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Our lesson today focuses on single-character verbs. But what happens when you want to use multiple-character verbs? In cases where those verbs consist of a verb and then its object, we simply split them apart and stick our verb complement right in the middle. 行街 haang4 gaai1 ("to go shopping") thus becomes 行下街, while 食飯 sik6 faan6 (to have dinner) becomes 食下飯.

## Cultural Insight

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### Put a Smile on Somebody's Face

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"Cheese" is what English speakers say when taking photographs, while 茄子 ("eggplant") is what most Mandarin speakers use. But what about Cantonese? When you're in Hong Kong, try saying 笑下啦 (siu3 haa5 laa1). This is the most simple and common way to get people smiling.