



Beginner S1

Lost in Hong Kong

9

Traditional	2
Jyutping	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3
Cultural Insight	4

Traditional Chinese

請問課室喺幾樓？
喺三樓。
唔該！
唔使客氣。

Jyutping

Ceng2 man6 fo3 sat1 hai2 gei2 lau2?
Hai2 saam1 lau2
Ng4 goi1!
Ng4 sai2 haak3 hei3

English

A Excuse me, on which floor is the classroom?
B On the third floor.
A Thank you!
B You're welcome.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
請問	ceng2 man6	excuse me
喺	hai2	to be
課室	fo3 sat1	classroom
樓	lau2	floor
唔該	m4 goi1	thank you
唔使	m4 sai2	no need to
客氣	haak3 hei3	polite
幾	gei2	how many

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

請問你叫咩名？ Ceng2 man6 nei5 giu3 me1 Excuse me, what's your

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你喺邊？ 學生正在課室。	meng2? Nei5 hai2 bin1 ? hok6 sang1 zing3 zoi6 fo3 sat1。	name? Where are you? The kids are in the classroom.
戲院喺七樓。	Hei3 jyun2 hai2 cat1 lau2。	The cinema is on the seventh floor.
唔該晒你！ 失戀啫，唔駛咁鬱結嚟。	ng4 goi1 saai3 nei5 ! sat1 lyun2 ze1, ng4 sai2 gam2 wat1 git3 bo3.	Thank you very much! You don't need to be depressed just because you broke up with your girlfriend.
唔駛咁緊張。 你真客氣！ 聽日係星期幾？	ng4 sai2 gam3 gan2 zoeng1. Nei5 zan1 haak3 hei3. Ting1 jat6 hai6 sing1 kei4 gei2?	No need to be so anxious. You are so polite. What day will it be tomorrow?

Grammar Points

How to Talk about Building Floors in Cantonese

喺幾樓

"Which floor?"

Our grammar focus today is on asking for locations in buildings using the phrase 喺幾樓 (hai2 gei2 lau2). This literally translates as "to be at how many floors." We start with the verb 喺 (hai2), which is used to introduce locations as with 喺學校 hai2 hok6 hau6 ("to be at school"), or 喺醫院 hai2 ji1 jyun2 ("to be in the hospital"). 幾 (gei2) is our question word asking "how much/many," while 樓 (lau2) refers to both buildings as well as the stories within buildings. Consider the following examples:

1. 喺幾樓？
hai2 gei2 lau2
"On which floor?"
2. 喺三樓。
hai2 saam1 lau2
"On the 3rd floor."
3. 喺四樓。
hai2 sei3 lau2
"On the 4th floor."
4. 喺五樓

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hai2 ng5 lau2

"On the 5th floor."

5. 喺十七樓。

hai2 sap6 cat1 lau2

"On the 17th floor."

6. 喺地下。

hai2 dei6 haa2

"On the ground floor."

Language Tip

If you need to specify the exact room in an address, provide the room information after the floor. In English we might say "Room 3 on Floor 2." This order is reversed in Cantonese, where the same address is spoken as 二樓三號房 *ji6 lau2 saam1 hou6 fong2* ("second floor, room three"). Note that you can use 室 (*sat1*) interchangeably with 房 (*fong2*) when referring to rooms in buildings.

Cultural Insight

What Floor is That?

Hong Kong tends to follow British conventions when it comes to naming floors, with the first floor in Hong Kong referring to what in the United States would be considered the second floor. In Cantonese, the first floor in any building is known as the "G/F" (ground floor) or 底層 (*dai2 cang4*). The first floor is also often referred to as "P/F" (platform floor) or 平台 (*ping4 toi4*). Subterranean floors start at 地下一層 (*dei6 haa6 jat1 cang4*) and keep counting down as with 地下二層 (*dei6 haa6 ji6 cang4*).