

## LESSON NOTES

# Intermediate S1 #14

## A Busy Childhood in Hong Kong

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 14

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 唔該，我想幫我個仔報名學法文。
2. B: 佢幾歲，有冇學過法文？
3. A: 佢兩歲半，冇學過。
4. B: 佢年紀太細，我哋通常唔收咁細。
5. A: 唔收？我有嘅係錢！
6. B: 噃... 咁我睇吓可唔可以安排吓...
7. A: 我要幫佢報最高級嘅班，要一對一，全法文教授嘅。
8. B: 佢星期六可唔可以上堂？
9. A: 星期六唔得，要補習。星期一要學琴，星期二要學芭蕾舞，星期三小提琴...淨係得星期四晚得。

## JYUTPING

1. A: m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 bong1 ngo5 go3 zai2 bou3 meng2 hok6  
faat3 man2.
2. B: keoi5 gei2 sei3, jau5 mou5 hok6 gwo3 faat3 man2 ?
3. A: keoi5 loeng5 sei3 bun3, mou5 hok6 gwo3.
4. B: keoi5 nin4 gei2 tai3 sai3, ngo5 dei6 tung1 soeng4 m4 ssau1  
gam3 sai3.

CONT'D OVER

5. A: m4 sau1 ? ngo5 jau5 ge3 hai6 cin2 !
6. B: ng6... gam2 ngo5 tai2 haa5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 on1 paai4 haa5...
7. A: ngo5 jiu3 bong1 keoi5 bou3 zeoi3 gou1 kap1 ge3 baan1, jiu3 jat1 deoi3 jat1, cyun4 faat3 man2 gaau3 sau6 ge3.
8. B: keoi5 sing1 kei4 luk6 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 soeng5 tong4 ?
9. A: sing1 kei4 luk6 m4 dak1, jiu3 bou2 zaap6. sing1 kei4 jat1 jiu3 hok6 kam4, sing1 kei4 ji6 jiu3 hok6 baa1 leoi4 mou5, sing1 kei4 saam1 siu2 tai4 kam4... zing6 hai6 dak1 sing1 kei4 sei3 maan5 dak1.

## ENGLISH

1. A: Excuse me, I'd like to enroll my son in French classes.
2. B: How old is he? Has he studied French before?
3. A: He's two and a half years old and hasn't studied French before.
4. B: He's too young. We usually don't accept students that young.
5. A: What? I've got money!
6. B: Hmm...let me see if I can arrange something....
7. A: I want to register him in the most advanced course, a private class conducted entirely in French.

CONT'D OVER

8. B: Can he take class on Saturday?
9. A: No, he has cram school on Saturday, piano on Monday, ballet on Tuesday and violin class on Wednesday...only Thursday night is open.

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
高級	gou1 kap1	advanced	adjective
通常	tung1 soeng4	usually	adverb
法文	faat3 man2	French	noun
一對一	jat1 deoi3 jat1	one on one	phrase
鋼琴	gong3 kam4	piano	noun
芭蕾舞	baa1 leoi4 mou5	ballet	noun
小提琴	siu2 tai4 kam4	violin	noun
唔收	m4 sau1	not to accept	verb
報名	bou3 meng2	to register	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>佢嘅法文程度已經去到高級嘅程度。</p> <p><i>keoi5 ge3 faat3 man2 cing4 dou6 ji5 ging1 heoi3 dou3 gou1 kap1 ge3 cing4 dou6.</i></p> <p>His French is already at the advanced level.</p>	<p>通常我哋學校唔會收咁細嘅學生。</p> <p><i>tung1 soeng4 ngo5 dei6 hok6 haau6 m4 wui5 sau1 gam3 sai3 ge3 hok6 sang1.</i></p> <p>Usually our school won't accept such young students.</p>
--	---

<p>佢嘅法文程度已經去到高級嘅程度。</p> <p><i>keoi5 ge3 faat3 man2 cing4 dou6 ji5 ging1 heoi3 dou3 gou1 kap1 ge3 cing4 dou6.</i></p> <p>His French is already at the advanced level.</p>	<p>如果要一對一教學嘅話，價錢可能會高少少。</p> <p><i>jyu4 gwo2 jiu3 jat1 deoi3 jat1 gaau3 hok6 ge3 waa2, gaa3 cin4 ho2 nang4 wui5 gou1 siu2 siu2.</i></p> <p>If you want one on one lessons, the tuition will be a bit higher.</p>
<p>佢除咗識得拉小提琴之外仲識得彈鋼琴。</p> <p><i>keoi5 ceoi4 zo2 sik1 dak1 laai1 siu2 tai4 kam4 zi1 ngoi6 zung6 sik1 dak1 taan4 gong3 kam4.</i></p> <p>In addition to playing the violin, he can also play the piano.</p>	<p>芭蕾舞演員嘅表演動作好優美。</p> <p><i>baa1 leoi4 mou5 jin2 jyun4 ge3 biu2 jin2 dung6 zok3 hou2 jau1 mei5.</i></p> <p>The ballet dancer's performance was excellent.</p>
<p>我哋呢度專賣小提琴。</p> <p><i>ngo5 dei6 ni1 dou6 zyun1 maai6 siu2 tai4 kam4.</i></p> <p>We specialize in selling violin here.</p>	<p>因為佢入學考試唔合格所以學校唔收佢。</p> <p><i>jan1 wai4 keoi5 jap6 hok6 haau2 si5 m4 hap6 gaak3 so2 ji5 hok6 haau6 m4 sau1 keoi5.</i></p> <p>Because his text scores are not up the par, the school will not accept him.</p>
<p>佢幫個仔報名學好多嘢，譬如游水，鋼琴，法文等等。</p> <p><i>keoi5 bong1 go3 zai2 bou3 meng2 hok6 hou2 do1 je5, pei3 jyu4 jau4 sei2, gong3 kam4, faat3 man2 dang2 dang2.</i></p> <p>She helped her child register for many classes, such as swimming, piano and French.</p>	

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Adding Emphasis with the Phrase

The focus of this lesson is on the phrase 有嘅係 (*jau5 ge3 hai6*), which can be used interchangeably with 有 (*jau5*) in order to add a particular emphasis to certain kinds of sentences. Since this is something that is best illustrated through example, consider the sentence 我有錢 (*ngo5 jau5 cin2*) "I have money". This is a straightforward statement that lets us know that the speaker has money, but does not make clear exactly how much. If the

same speaker said 我有嘅係錢 (*ngo5 jau5 ge3 hai6 cin2*) "I've got money", as in our dialogue, the speaker is implying that they have a lot of money.

This pattern is used in Cantonese largely in a boastful way, as if the speaker is saying "What I've got a lot of... is money." We don't need to talk only about money though, since the pattern is general and can be used with any noun you choose, such as 時間 (*si4 gaan3*) "time", 經驗 (*ging1 jim6*) "experience", or anything else. To get a better sense of how this pattern feels, consider the following boastful sentences:

1. 我有嘅係錢, 我要買呢度最貴嘅。  
*ngo5 jau5 ge3 hai6 cin2, ngo5 jiu3 maai5 ni1 dou6 zeoi3 gwai3 ge3.*  
"I've got tons of money, and I want the most expensive one."
2. 你慢慢嚟, 唔使急, 我有嘅係時間。  
*nei5 maan3 maan2 lei4, m4 sai3 gap1, ngo5 jau5 ge3 hai6 si4 gaan3.*  
"Don't rush, I've got all the time in the world."

So remember, 有 (*jau5*) and 有嘅係 (*jau5 ge3 hai6*) technically have the same meaning. 有嘅係 (*jau5 ge3 hai6*) is much more emotional however and emphasizes that the speaker has quite a bit of the material described. As a result, Cantonese speakers will use this pattern when they wish to show off.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Hong Kong's Educational System

---

While Hong Kong is renowned for having an excellent education system internationally, critics on the island still claim the system fails to produce well-rounded students. One reason for these claims is the greater tendency towards rote-learning in the Hong Kong system than elsewhere, something which critics claim lead to poorer educational outcomes in the humanities than the sciences. While these weaknesses are often offset in other countries because of traditions of having children participate in more casual extracurricular activities, in Hong Kong the high pressures on children to participate in extracurricular study programs often means less time for other forms of casual reading and socializing, as is clearly the case with the child in this dialogue.