

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #3

A Chinese Boss with a Hidden Agenda

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 今晚老細請食飯。
2. B: 吓，佢轉死性啊？
3. C: 我都覺得奇怪。
4. A: 聽講佢有嘢同全公司宣佈。
5. C: 有冇收到咩料？
6. B: 會唔會係要炒人？
7. A: 係呀，公司要裁員！

JYUTPING

1. A: gam1 maan5 lou5 sai3 ceng2 sik6 faan6.
2. B: haa5, keoi5 zyun3 sei2 sing3 aa4 ?
3. C: ngo5 dou1 gok3 dak1 kei4 gwaai3.
4. A: teng1 gong2 keoi3 jau5 je2 tung4 cyun4 gung1 si1 syun1 bou3.
5. C: jau5 mou5 sau1 dou3 me1 liu2 ?
6. B: wui5 m4 wui5 hai6 jiu3 caau2 jan4 ?
7. A: hai6 aa3, gung1 si1 jiu3 coi4 jyun4 !

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: The boss is going to buy us dinner tonight.
2. B: What? Has he changed?
3. C: I think it's strange too.
4. A: I was told he has some news to announce.
5. C: Anyone know what it is?
6. B: Is he going to fire someone?
7. A: Yes, there will be layoffs.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
老細	lou5 sai3	boss	noun
轉死性	zyun3 sei2 sing3	to break a bad habit	verb
死性不改	sei1 sing3 bat1 goi2	to be set in one's ways	phrase
聽講	teng1 gong2	to have heard	verb
有嘢	jau5 je2	to have something	verb
宣佈	syun1 bou3	to announce	verb
收到料	sau1 dou2 liu2	to know	verb
炒人	caau2 jan4	to fire someone	verb
裁員	coi4 jyun4	layoffs	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>去公司面試嘅第一印象都好重要，因為通常第一印象都會直接影響老細請唔請你。</p> <p><i>heoi3 gung1 si1 min6 si2 gei3 dai6 jat1 jan3 zoeng6 dou1 hou2 zung5 jiu3, jan1 wai6 tung1 soeng4 dai6 jat1 jan3 zoeng6 dou1 wui5 zik6 zip3 jing2 hoeng2 lou5 sai3 ceng2 m4 ceng2 nei5.</i></p> <p>When you interview at a company the first impression is really important because it will directly affect whether the boss hires you.</p>	<p>佢今日轉死性，竟然唔使我哋加班。</p> <p><i>keoi5 gam1 jat6 zyun3 sei2 sing3, ging2 jin4 m4 sai2 ngo5 dei6 gaa1 baan1.</i></p> <p>He totally changed, and didn't ask us to work over time today.</p>
<p>你死性不改，所以老細先至會炒你。</p> <p><i>nei5 sei1 sing3 bat1 goi2, so2 ji5 lou5 sai3 sin1 wui5 caau2 nei5.</i></p> <p>You never change your bad habits, which is why the boss fired you.</p>	<p>聽講今日老細主動話請客。</p> <p><i>teng1 gong2 gam1 jat6 lou5 sai3 zyu2 dung6 waa6 ceng2 haak3.</i></p> <p>I heard the boss is treating us today.</p>
<p>經理突然話開會，一定係有嘢要通知。</p> <p><i>ging1 lei5 dat6 jin4 waa6 hoi1 wui5, jat1 ding6 hai6 jau5 je2 jiu3 tung1 zi1.</i></p> <p>The manager suddenly called a meeting, so he definitely has an announcement.</p>	<p>公司已經宣佈咗會裁員。</p> <p><i>gung1 si1 ji5 ging1 syun1 bou3 zo2 wui5 coi4 jyun4.</i></p> <p>The company has already announced they would lay off staff.</p>
<p>你如果有偷聽，又點可以咁快就收到料？</p> <p><i>nei5 jyu4 gwo2 mou5 tau1 teng1, jau6 dim2 ho2 ji5 gam3 faai3 zau6 sau1 dou2 liu2 ?</i></p> <p>If you weren't listening in, then how do you know so quickly?</p>	<p>老細嫌公司人太多，所以要炒人提高效率。</p> <p><i>lou5 sai3 jim4 gung1 si1 jan4 taai3 do1, so2 ji5 jiu3 caau2 jan4 tai4 gou1 haau6 leot2.</i></p> <p>The boss thinks there are too many people in the company, so wants to fire people to raise efficiency.</p>

裁員通知已經落咗喇，今次唔知係邊個黑仔。

coi4 jyun4 tung1 zi1 ji5 ging1 lok6 zo2 laa3, gam1 ci3 m4 zi1 hai6 bin1 go3 haak1 zai2.

The layoff notice has already been sent, but we don't know who the unlucky ones are.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Verb 轉 *zyun3* "to change"

佢轉死性啊？

"Has he changed?"

In our grammar section in this lesson, we want to focus on the verb 轉 (*zyun3*), which literally means "to turn" or "to change." In our dialogue the character was used in a way that carries the connotation of change, coming up in the sentence 吓，佢轉死性啊 ("What? Did he change into another person")? 死性 (*sei2 sing3*) is a colloquial and shorthand way of referring to personality in the sense of a set of ingrained and negative habits. If it helps to remember this phrase, think of the English expression "old habits die hard" and then remember that 轉死性 (*zyun3 sei2 sing3*) refers to a change in one's temper or in one's negative habits. 轉 (*zyun3*) is the character which signals the change, or the turning over of a new leaf.

Lets take a look at some other examples of this verb in action:

1. 我平時衣著比較保守，突然間轉形象。
ngo5 ping4 si4 ji1 zeok3 bei2 gaau3 bou2 sau2, tak6 jin4 gaan1 zyun3 jing4 zeong3.
"I usually dress in a traditional manner, but now suddenly I changed my style."
2. 幫我轉個台，呢台音樂好難聽。
bong1 ngo5 zyun3 go3 toi4, ni1 toi4 jam1 ngok6 hou2 naan4 teng1.
"Please change the channel. The music is horrible."
3. 你轉過身俾我睇一下？
nei5 zyun3 gwo3 san1 bei2 ngo5 tai2 jat1 haa5?
"Will you turn around for me to take a look?"

4. 前面轉左。
cin4 min6 zyun3 zo2.
"Turn left at the next crossing."

Bonus Point

One thing to be careful of when speaking is that 轉 (*zyun3*) has more than one pronunciation. While the character is typically and most commonly pronounced in the third tone, you will also hear it pronounced *zyun2* as well. Words involving this character pronounced in the second tone include 轉達 *zyun2 dat6* ("to pass a message") and 好轉 *hou2 zyun2* ("to become better").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Laid Off in Hong Kong

Employment law in Hong Kong states that all employees who work more than 18 hours per week for at least a month must be notified of termination in advance. The length of this advance notice can be as little as seven days if specified in a labor contract. If the contract does not specify a period of notice for termination, a month of advance notice must be given. Employers who do not provide this notice must pay the equivalent amount of wages (including normal overtime) within seven days of termination, while employees who are dismissed because of redundancy are also eligible for special severance. Statutory holidays such as Chinese New Year do not count towards the notice period, which is one reason major employers on the island like HSBC will often postpone layoffs until after the holidays.