

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #7

Ride the Chinese Train at Your Own Risk

CONTENTS

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

7

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 呢個五日遊嘅套餐行程係點?
2. B: 由香港坐火車到上海，運氣好嘅話，你會到達第一個目的地。
3. A: 運氣好?
4. B: 喺上海停留三日，然後坐高速火車去杭州，一等軟座。
5. A: 由上海去杭州，普通嘅火車唔係一個鐘嘅咩?
6. B: 係，如果你有命去到杭州，喺嗰度遊覽兩日，我哋會再安排你坐高速火車去溫州。
7. A: 我唔想去溫州嘞。
8. B: 唔洗擔心，你可能永遠去唔到嗰度。

JYUTPING

1. A: ni1 go3 ng5 jat6 jau4 ge3 tou3 caan1 hang4 cing4 hai6 dim2 ?
2. B: jau4 hoeng1 gong2 co5 fo2 ce1 dou3 soeng6 hoi2, wan6 hei3 hou2 ge3 waa2, nei5 wui5 dou3 daat6 dai6 jat1 go3 muk6 dik1 dei6.
3. A: wan6 hei3 hou2 ?
4. B: hai2 soeng6 hoi2 ting4 lau4 saam1 jat6, jin4 hau6 co5 gou1 cuk1 fo2 ce1 heoi3 hong4 zau1, jat1 dang2 jyun5 zo6.

CONT'D OVER

5. A: jau4 soeng6 hoi2 heoi3 hong4 zau1, pou2 tung1 ge3 fo2 ce1 m4 hai6 jat1 go3 zung1 ge3 me1 ?
6. B: hai6, jyu4 gwo2 nei5 jau5 meng6 heoi3 dou3 hong4 zau1, hai2 go2 dou6 jau4 laam5 loeng5 jat6, ngo5 dei6 wui5 zoi3 on1 paai4 nei5 co5 gou1 cuk1 fo2 ce1 heoi3 wan1 zau1.
7. A: ngo5 m4 soeng2 heoi3 wan1 zau1 wo3.
8. B: m4 sai2 daam1 sam1, nei5 ho2 nang4 wing5 jyun5 heoi3 m4 dou2 go2 dou6.

ENGLISH

1. A: What does this five day package include?
2. B: You take the train from Hong Kong to Shanghai. If you're lucky, you'll reach your first destination.
3. A: Lucky?
4. B: You stay in Shanghai for three days, then take the high speed train to Hangzhou, first class.
5. A: Doesn't it only take an hour to go from Shanghai to Hangzhou by regular train?
6. B: Yes, and if you're still alive, you'll stay in Hangzhou for two days. Then we'll arrange a high speed train to Wenzhou.
7. A: I don't want to go to Wenzhou.

CONT'D OVER

8. B: Don't worry, you might never get there.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
安排	on1 paai4	to arrange	verb
遊覽	jau4 laam5	to visit	verb
有命	jau5 meng6	to be alive	adjective
停留	ting4 lau4	to stay	verb
高速火車	gou1 cuk1 fo2 ce1	high-speed train	noun
目的地	muk6 dik1 dei6	destination	noun
運氣	wan6 hei3	to be lucky	adjective
套餐	tou3 caan1	package	noun
到達	dou3 daat6	to arrive	verb
旅行	leoi5 hang4	to travel	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我知道你好唔滿意，不過呢個只係臨時嘅安排。
ngo5 zi1 dou3 nei5 hou2 m4 mun5 ji3, bat1 gwo3 ni1 go3 zi2 hai6 lam4 si4 ge3 on1 paai4.

I know you are dissatisfied, but this arrangement is only temporary.

今次嘅相睇係我媽咪安排嘅。
gam1 ci3 ge3 soeng1 tai2 hai6 ngo5 maa1 mi4 on1 paai4 ge2.

This blind date was arranged by my mother.

<p>我主要想遊覽名勝古跡。 ngo5 zyu2 jiu3 soeng2 jau4 laam5 ming4 sing3 gu2 zik1.</p> <p>I want to visit famous tourist and historic sights.</p>	<p>唔駛擔心，我會有命返嚟嘅。 m4 sai2 daam1 sam1, ngo5 wui5 jau5 meng6 faan1 lei4 ge3.</p> <p>Don't worry, I'll come back alive.</p>
<p>導遊安排我哋喺呢度停留兩日。 dou6 jau4 on1 paai4 ngo5 dei6 hai2 ni1 dou6 tin4 lau4 loeng5 jat6.</p> <p>The tour guide has arranged for us to stay here for two days.</p>	<p>我寧願坐飛機，都唔想坐高速火車。 ngo5 ning4 jyun2 co5 fei1 gei1, dou1 m4 soeng2 co5 gou1 cuk1 fo2 ce1.</p> <p>I prefer to take a plane rather than a high-speed train.</p>
<p>確切嘅目的地喺邊？三藩市？ kok3 cit3 ge3 muk6 dik1 dei6 hai2 bin1 ? saam1 faan4 si5?</p> <p>What is the exact destination? San Francisco?</p>	<p>如果你有運氣嘅話，就可以抽中一份禮物。 jyu4 gwo2 nei5 jau5 wan6 hei3 ge3 waa2, zau6 ho2 ji5 cau1 zung3 jat1 fan6 lai5 mat6.</p> <p>If you are lucky, you can draw a price.</p>
<p>點解呢個五日遊套餐咁平？ dim2 gaai2 ni1 go3 ng5 jat6 jau4 tou3 caan1 gam3 peng4 ?</p> <p>How is this five-day travel package so inexpensive?</p>	<p>我哋幾時先可以到達目的地啊？ ngo5 dei6 gei2 si4 sin1 ho2 ji5 dou3 daat6 muk6 dik1 dei6 aa3 ?</p> <p>When will we arrive at the destination?</p>
<p>我最煩啲人旅行返嚟擺工藝品當手信。 ngo5 zeoi3 fan4 di1 jan4 lei5 hang4 faan1 lai4 lo5 gung1 ngai6 ban2 dong3 sau2 seon3.</p> <p>I hate it when people buy craft-ware as souvenir gifts when they travel.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Pattern 唔係.....嘅咩

普通嘅火車唔係一個鐘嘅咩？

"Doesn't it only take an hour by regular train?"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the grammar pattern 唔係 ... 嘅咩 (*m4 hai6... ge3 me1*). Although this pattern looks like it is a simple question, there is something subtle happening here. Particularly, Cantonese speakers use this structure, not when they want to know the answer to a question, but when they already suspect that they know the answer and are looking to confirm it. In our dialogue, we hear this in the question 普通嘅火車唔係一個鐘嘅咩? (*pou2 tung1 ge3 fo2 ce1 m4 hai6 jat1 go3 zung1 ge3 me1?*) "Doesn't it only take an hour by regular train?". A more subtle translation might be, "I think it only takes an hour, isn't that right?" The speaker is not asking an open question so much as making a statement and challenging the listener to correct him.

For more examples of this sort of loaded question, consider the following sentences.

1. 佢唔係坐火車去深圳嘅咩?
keoi5 m4 hai6 co5 fo2 ce1 heoi3 sam1 zan3 ge3 me1?
"Didn't he take the train to Shenzhen?"
2. 呢個旅行套餐唔係五日嘅咩?
ni1 go3 lei5 hang4 tou3 caan1 m4 hai6 ng5 jat6 ge3 me1?
"Is this the five day travel package?"

So remember: when Cantonese speakers use the pattern 唔係 ... 嘅咩 they are not just asking a question so much as confirming their existing beliefs and challenging the listener to correct them if they are wrong.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Railways

There are a few options if you're interested in traveling to mainland China by rail. One of the most comfortable is taking the 24 hour train to Beijing from the downtown Hong Kong train station (right beside the Hong Kong Colliseum). Trains leave every second day during the week. For most other destinations, travelers are best to transit into Shenzhen via the Lo Wu Port. The journey from East Tsim Sha Tsui metro station to the Lo Wu transit point takes 42

minutes and costs around 5 USD. Once you cross the border you will be right at the gates to the Shenzhen train station. Service is available to destinations in southern China (Guangxi, Yunnan), although slightly less convenient to central and northern destinations.

If you are considering transiting into Shenzhen to save money on airfare, we suggest you reconsider. Flying out of Hong Kong may be slightly more expensive, but the difference will be eaten up in the transit expenses commuting from downtown Shenzhen to Lo Wu.