

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #8

Telling Tall Cantonese Tales

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 小姐，你話你俾個男人搏懵？
2. B: 係呀！
3. A: 喺邊度？
4. B: 喺森林嘅城堡裡面。
5. A: 你記唔記得個男人有咩特徵？
6. B: 佢個頭戴住個皇冠，佢話佢係王子。
7. A: 佢係唔係本地人？
8. B: 應該唔係。
9. A: 咁...佢點搏你懵？有冇人見到事發經過？
10. B: 我本來瞓緊覺，我一瞓醒佢就錫緊我，七個小矮人可以
做證。

JYUTPING

1. A: siu2 ze2, nei5 waa6 nei5 bei2 go3 naam4 jan2 bok3 mung5 ?
2. B: hai6 aa3 !
3. A: hai2 bin1 dou6 ?
4. B: hai2 sam1 lam4 ge3 sing4 bou2 leoi5 min6.

CONT'D OVER

5. A: nei5 gei3 m4 gei3 dak1 go3 naam4 jan2 jau5 me1 dak6 zing1 ?
6. B: keoi5 go3 tau4 daai3 zyu6 go3 wong4 gun1 , keoi5 waa6 keoi5 hai6 wong4 zi2.
7. A: keoi5 hai6 m4 hai6 bun2 dei6 jan4 ?
8. B: jing1 goi1 m4 hai6.
9. A: gam2... keoi5 dim2 bok3 nei5 mung5 ? jau5 mou5 jan4 gin3 dou2 si6 faat3 ging1 gwo3 ?
10. B: ngo5 bun2 loi4 fan3 gan2 gaau3, ngo5 jat1 fan3 seng2 keoi5 zau6 sek3 gan2 ngo5, cat1 go3 siu2 aai2 jan4 ho2 ji5 zou6 zing3.

ENGLISH

1. A: Miss, did you say you were harassed by a man?
2. B: Yes!
3. A: Where did it happen?
4. B: At a castle in the forest.
5. A: Do you remember if the man has any special features?
6. B: He was wearing a crown and he said he's a prince.
7. A: Is he a local?

CONT'D OVER

8. B: I don't think so.
9. A: How did he harass you? Did anyone witness the incident?
10. B: I was sleeping, and he was kissing me when I woke up. Seven dwarfs can testify that.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
皇冠	wong4 gun1	crown	noun
城堡	sing4 bou2	castle	noun
森林	sam1 lam4	forest	noun
本地人	bun2 dei6 jan4	local people	noun
錫	sek3	to kiss	verb
做證	zou6 zing3	to testify	verb
特徵	dak6 zing1	distinguishing feature	noun
搏懵	bok3 mung5	to take advantage of someone; to (sexually) harass	verb
攬	laam5	to hug	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>因為佢戴住個皇冠，所以我諗佢係王子。</p> <p><i>jan1 wai4 keoi5 daai3 zyu6 go3 wong4 gun1, so2 ji5 ngo5 lam2 keoi5 hai6 wong4 zi2.</i></p> <p>I thought he was a prince because he wore a crown.</p>	<p>你話你見到森林入便有座城堡？</p> <p><i>nei5 waa6 nei5 gin3 dou2 sam1 lam4 jap6 bin6 jau5 zo6 sing4 bou2 ?</i></p> <p>You said you saw a castle in the forest?</p>
<p>雷雨閃電照亮了晚上的森林。</p> <p><i>leoi4 jyu5 sim2 din6 ziu3 loeng6 liu5 maan5 soeng6 dik1 sam1 lam4</i></p> <p>The thunderstorm is lighting up the dark forest.</p>	<p>聽佢嘅口音，唔似係本地人。</p> <p><i>teng1 keoi5 ge3 hau2 jam1, m4 ci5 hai6 bun2 dei6 jan4.</i></p> <p>He doesn't seem like a local judging from his accent.</p>
<p>媽媽錫咗我一下。</p> <p><i>maa4 maa1 sek3 zo2 ngo5 jat1 haa5.</i></p> <p>Mom kissed me.</p>	<p>如果你見到事發經過，麻煩你幫我做證吓。</p> <p><i>jyu4 gwo2 nei5 gin3 dou3 si6 faat3 ging1 gwo3, maa4 faan4 nei5 bong1 ngo5 zou6 zing3 aa1.</i></p> <p>If you saw the course of this happening, please testify for me.</p>
<p>犯人嘅面貌特徵係鼻大。</p> <p><i>faan6 jan4 ge3 min6 mau6 dak6 zing1 hai6 bei6 daai6.</i></p> <p>The criminal's distinguishing feature is his big nose.</p>	<p>喺disco入面好多女仔都會俾人搏懵。</p> <p><i>hai2 disco jap6 min6 hou2 do1 nei5 zai2 dou1 wui5 bei2 jan4 bok3 mung5.</i></p> <p>Many women will be harassed by others inside clubs.</p>
<p>攞住我。</p> <p><i>laam5 zyu6 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Hug me.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Continuous Particle

In this lesson's grammar point, we want to talk about the particle 緊 (*gan2*), which tells us how a verb is happening—it happens contiguously. In our dialogue, the woman says 我本來瞓緊覺 (*ngo5 bun2 loi4 fan3 gan2 gaau3*) "I was sleeping". Now note that there is nothing in the verb to put it into the past tense, it is 本來 (*bun2 loi4*) which tells us that it already happened. Unlike in English which has more tenses, in Cantonese, we can use the same verb in the past, the present, and even in the future. If you want to tell people when has, does, or will an action happens, you have to put an extra time phrase like 宜家 (*ji4 gaa1*) "right now" or 今晚 (*gam1 maan5*) "tonight" in your sentence. For more examples, consider the following sentences.

For Example:

1. 宜家, 我媽媽瞓緊覺。
ji4 gaa1, ngo5 maa4 maa1 fan3 gan2 gaau3.
"Right now, my mother is sleeping."
2. 我食緊飯, 有事等陣先講。
ngo5 sik6 gan2 faan6, jau5 si6 dang2 zan6 sin1 gong2.
"I'm eating, if there is a problem, wait and we'll talk."
3. 琴日, 你行街嗰陣我食緊飯。
kam4 jat6, nei6 hang4 gaai1 go2 zan6 ngo5 sik6 gan2 faan6.
"Yesterday, when you were shopping, I was eating."
4. 聽日11點, 佢食緊飯, 唔好打俾佢。
ting1 jat6 sap6 jat1 dim2, keoi5 sik6 gan2 faan6, m4 hou2 daa2 bei2 keoi5.
"Tomorrow at 12 he will be eating, don't call him."

So remember in Cantonese we use particles, like 緊 (*gan2*) which communicate the meaning "contiguously" to tell how an action is happening. However, these verbs and particles can't tell people when the actions happen, so you need to add extra words into your sentences to indicate time.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Disneyland in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's Disneyland opened on September 12, 2005, and although there were initial problems with not meeting the number of expected guests in the first few years, it has been a relatively successful theme park. It has mixed Disney culture and Chinese culture. Apparently the park was built in adherence with the rules of *fang shui* to give it that additional Chinese feel. Park workers and guides conveniently speak Mandarin, Cantonese, and English. Some special Chinese events held at the park have been "Mickey Celebrates the Year of the Ox" and subsequent Chinese New Year's celebrations. Other than that it is a very typical Disney experience.