

LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #11 What is Your Nationality?

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VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
學生	hok6 sang1	student	noun
教師	gaau3 si1	teacher	noun
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
係	hai6	to be	verb
律師	leot6 si1	lawyer	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我係學生。 <i>ngo5 hai6 hok6 sang1。</i> I'm a student.	英文教師 English teacher
去咗邊度? <i>heoi3 zo2 bin1 dou6?</i> Where did (you) go?	我係學生。 <i>Ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1。</i> "I am a student."
你係唔係律師? <i>nei5 hai6 m4 hai6 leot6 si1 ?</i> Are you a lawyer?	

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is talking about your nationality in Cantonese

Topic 1: How to Ask and Talk about Nationalities

Sentence from the lesson:

你係邊度嚟咖?

nei5 hai6 bin1 dou6 lei4 gaa3?

"Where do you come from?"

1. 你 *nei5* "you"
係 *hai6* is "to be";
邊度 *bin1 dou6* means "where?"
嚟 *lei4* is "to come"
咖 *gaa3* is a question particle.
2. Answering this question is very easy! You just say 我係 *ngo5 hai6*, which means "I am," then your nationality.
For example:
3. Just replace 美國 *mei5 gwok3* with your own nationality.
"I am German" is 我係德國人 *ngo5 hai6 dak1 gwok3 jan*
4. To return the question you can simply say 你呢 *nei5 le1* which is "And you?."

Topic 2: How to say who you are

Other than nationality, you can also talk about your occupation by just replacing 美國人 *mei gwok3 jan4* "American," with the occupation.

For example:

我係律師 *ngo5 hai6 leot3 si1* "I am a lawyer"

我係學生 *ngo5 hai6 hok6 saang1* "I am a student"

我係教師 *ngo5 hai6 gaau3 si1* "I am a teacher"

Language Tip!

Pay attention that in Cantonese, we don't use 係 *hai6* in front of verbs, only nouns.

For example:

It would be wrong to say 我係讀緊書 *ngo5 hai6 duk6 gan2 syu1* when you want to express "I am studying." It should be just 我讀緊書 *ngo5 duk6 gan2 syu1*, literally "I studying."