LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #16
Cantonese Adjectives

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Cantonese Adjectives

Topic 1: How to Connect Adjectives to Nouns

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1. Before we start, you must first know the word 嘅 *ge3*. It is a very common possessive particle when placed after pronouns, but in this lesson, we'll look at another usage of this word, as a linking word to connect adjectives to nouns.

2. To describe an object, first use the adjective that we learned last lesson, followed by 嘅 *ge3*, then the noun. For example:
    好開心嘅一日 *hou2 hoi1 sum1 ge3 jat1 jat6*
    好靚嘅女仔 *hou2 leng3 ge3 neoi5 zai2*
    好平嘅衫 *hou2 pen4 ge3 saam1*

3. Let's break down the phrases:
    好開心嘅一日 *ho2 hoi1 sum1 ge3 jat1 jat6*:
    if you remember the phrase 我好開心 *ngo5 hou2 hoi1 sum1* "I'm very happy" from last lesson, 好開心 *hou2 hoi1 sum1* means "happy" or "very happy."
    After that, add the linking word 嘅 *ge3*, then the noun 一日 *jat1 jat6* "a day."
    So altogether, 好開心嘅一日 *hou2 hoi1 sum1 ge3 jat1 jat6* means "a very happy day"

4. 好靚嘅女仔 *hou2 leng3 ge3 neoi5 zai2*:

    好靚 *hou2 leng3* "beautiful" or "very beautiful," plus the linking word 嘅 *ge3*, plus 女仔 *neoi5 zai2*, the Cantonese word for "girl."

    Altogether, 好靚嘅女仔 *hou2 leng3 ge3 neoi5 zai2* "a very beautiful girl"

5. 好平嘅衫 *hou2 pen4 ge3 saam1*:

    好平 *hou2 pen4* is "cheap" or "very cheap" and 衫 *saam1* is "shirt" or "a top," so 好平嘅衫 *hou2 pen4 ge3 saam1* is "very cheap shirt."

When you're shopping at the markets or boutiques in Hong Kong, it's very common to hear the sellers trying to attract customers by saying: 好新鮮嘅蝦 *hou2 san1 sin1 ge3 haa1* "very fresh shrimp," 好甜嘅橙 *hou2 tim4 ge3 caang2* "very sweet oranges," 好抵嘅波鞋 *hou2 dai2 ge3 bo1 haai4* "very low-priced sneakers."