

LESSON NOTES

# Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #17 Do You Like ...?

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2 Grammar

# 17

# GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is to say "Do You Like..?" in Cantonese

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## Topic 1: How to how to use the verb "to like" 鍾意

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Sentence from the lesson: 你鍾唔鍾意食牛肉?

*nei5 zung1 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 ngau4 juk6?*

"Do you like to eat beef?"

1. Imagine you are in a restaurant with your friend and he or she asks you: 你鍾唔鍾意食牛肉? *nei5 zung1 m4 zung1 ji3 sik6 ngau4 juk6?* This means "Do you like to eat beef?"
2. Let's break it down: 你 *nei5* - "you;"  
鍾唔鍾意 *zung1 m4 zung1 ji3* - "like" or "not like;"  
食 *sik6* - "to eat;"  
牛肉 *ngau4 juk6* - "beef."
3. To answer, just say 鍾意 *zung1 ji3* if you like to eat beef. If not, just say 唔鍾意 *m4 zung1 ji3*.
4. Like the above example, feel free to add a verb after 鍾意 *zung1 ji3* in order to tell people what you like to do.  
我鍾意睇戲 *ngo5 zung1 ji3 tai2 hei3*, in which 睇 *tai2* is the verb for "to watch," and 戲 *hei3* is movie. So here you have "I like to watch movies."
5. To say that you like something or someone, just put the noun or name after 鍾意 *zung1 ji3*. For example:  
我鍾意貓 *ngo5 zung1 ji3 maau1* "I like cats"  
我鍾意超人 *ngo5 zung1 ji3 ciu1 jan4* - "I like Superman."

6. In fact, the verb 鍾意 *zung1 ji3* has different levels of understanding, and this often depends a lot on the word that comes before it. For example, if you say 我幾鍾意貓 *ngo5 gei2 zung1 ji3 maau1* it will mean that you like cats, but only moderately. To show a bigger affection towards something or someone, you can add the word 好 *hou2* in front of 鍾意 *zung1 ji3*, as in 我好鍾意貓 *ngo5 hou2 zung1 ji3 maau1*, which means "I really like cats," or even "I love cats."

### Language Tip!

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Although there's another verb which means "to love," 愛 *oi3*, we're usually too shy to use it when referring to someone we love; instead, we just use 鍾意 *zung1 ji3*, isn't that cute?