

LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #18 Taking a Holiday

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

18

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Taking a Holiday in Cantonese

Topic 1: How to use the verb "to go"

Sentence from the lesson:

我去意大利

ngo5 heoi3 ji3 daai6 lei6

"I am going to Italy"

1. Imagine someone asks you 放假去邊呀? *fong3 gaa3 heoi3 bin1 aa6?* This means "Where are you going for your holidays?"
If you are going on a trip for example, you will say 我去旅行 *ngo5 heoi3 lei5 hang4*.
Then he'll probably ask 去邊度旅行呀? *heoi3 bin1 dou6 lei5 hang4 aa6?*
"Where are you traveling to?"
And you can say 我去意大利 *ngo5 heoi3 ji3 daai6 lei6* "I am going to Italy."
2. Let's break down the answers: 我去 *ngo5 heoi3* means "I am going to...", it is followed by 旅行 *lei5 hang4* meaning "trip," or "travel" in Cantonese.
Then in the second reply we have: 我去 *ngo5 heoi3*, "I am going to...", followed by 意大利 *ji3 daai6 lei6*, which is the Cantonese word for "Italy."
3. Now, let's try adding some action, for instance, if you want to say "I'm going to find a job in Italy" 我去意大利搵工 *ngo5 heoi3 ji3 daai6 lei6 wan2 gung1*. It starts with the same phrase as "I am going to Italy" 我去意大利 *ngo5 heoi3 ji3 daai6 lei6*, then add the action 搵工 *wan2 gung1*, which means "to find a job" or "job hunting."
4. Want to know more examples? Here they are:
我去餐廳食飯 *ngo5 heoi3 caan1 teng1 sik6 fan6* → "I'm going to eat at the restaurant."
我去圖書館睇書 *ngo5 heoi3 tou4 syu1 gun2 tai2 syu1* → "I'm going to read books at the library."
我去太空總署實習 *ngo5 heoi3 taai3 hung1 zung2 cyu5 sat6 zap6* → "I'm going to do an internship at NASA."

Language Tip!

Imagine someone asks you "Where are you going?" and you want to invite him or her to go with you. You can add 你去唔去? *nei5 heoi3 m4 heoi3?* after your answer. Literally it means "are you going?" but it also implies "would you like to go together?"