

LESSON NOTES

# Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #19

## Taking a Trip with Friends

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# 19

# GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Taking a Trip with Friends in Cantonese

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## Topic 1: How to use the verb "to come"

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Sentence from the lesson:

你嚟唔嚟?

*nei5 lei4 m4 lei4?*

"Are you coming?"

1. Imagine a friend of yours is organizing a party and he asks you: 你嚟唔嚟? *nei5 lei4 m4 lei4?* That means "Are you coming?"  
So let's break down this question: 你 *nei5* which is simply "you." Then 嚟唔嚟 *lei4 m4 lei4*, which is a combination of "come" and "not come," as you should know by now, it's a very common way to construct a question in Cantonese.
2. What if you want to add some details to the question? Remember, time and date go before the verb, while action and location go after.  
Let's look at some examples: 你聽日嚟唔嚟? *nei5 ting1 jat6 lei4 m4 lei4?*  
聽日 *ting1 jat6* means "tomorrow," so the question is "are you coming tomorrow?"  
你嚟唔嚟我公司? *nei5 lei4 m4 lei4 ngo5 gung1 si1?*  
我 *ngo5* is "me" or "my," 公司 *gung1 si1* is "office," so I'm asking "are you coming to my office?"  
你下星期嚟唔嚟踢波? *nei5 haa6 sing1 kei4 lei4 m4 lei4 tek3 bo1?*  
下星期 *haa6 sing1 kei4* is "next week," and 踢波 *tek3 bo1* means "play soccer." So altogether, "are you coming to play soccer next week?"

3. To answer this question, you can say 好呀 *hou2 a3* for "yes," or 唔嚟喇 *m4 lei4 laa6* for "no."

If you want to say "Yes, and I'll bring some friends along." Then say 好呀，我帶埋啲朋友一齊嚟。 *hou2 a3, ngo5 daai3 maai4 di1 pang4 jau5 jat1 cai4 lei4.*

Let's break this sentence down:

好呀 *hou2 a3* → "yes; sure!"

我 *ngo5* → "I"

帶埋 *daai3 maai4* → "bring along"

啲 *di1* → "some"

朋友 *pang4 jau5* → "friends"

一齊 *jat1 cai4* → "together"

嚟 *lei4* → the focus of this lesson, "to come"

### Language Tip!

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Another common usage for 嚟 *lei4*, is when you're trying to persuade someone, for example, to tell you a secret, or go somewhere with you, just say 嚟啦 *lei4 laa1* with a sweet voice. It's just like "come on!"