

LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #20 Asking "How" in Cantonese

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GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Asking "How" in Cantonese

Topic 1: How to use "how"

Sentence from the lesson:

'點買飛?'

dim2 maai5 fei1?

"How to buy tickets?"

1. So imagine you are trying to buy a ticket at the subway station, you can ask people 點買飛? *dim2 maai5 fei1?* That means "How to buy tickets?"

So let's break down this question:

點 *dim2* which is "How" then, 買 *maai5* is the verb "to buy." Finally we had 飛 *fei1* which is a noun and means "ticket."

2. Just put the verb after "How." Here are some more examples:

點去? *dim2 heoi3?* → "How to go?" or "How to get there?"

點報名? *dim2 bou6 meng2?* → "How to register?"

依個點食? *ji1 go3 dim2 sik6?* → literally, "this how to eat?" which means "how to eat this?"

Topic 2: How to ask "How do you say (something) in Cantonese?"

Sentence from the lesson:

Airport 廣東話點講? *Airport' gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2?*

"How do you say 'airport' in Cantonese?"

1. You can use "how" to ask people "How do you say ...(something)... in Cantonese?" "to speak" is 講 *gong2* in Cantonese, and "Cantonese language" is 廣東話 *gwong2 dung1 waa2*.

2. To form the question, it's ...廣東話點講? ...*gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2?*
Literally "(something) in Cantonese how to speak?"

Let's have a look at some examples:

Airport 廣東話點講? "Airport" *gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2?* → "How do you say 'airport' in Cantonese?"

How are you 廣東話點講? "How are you" *gwong2 dung1 waa2 dim2 gong2?* → "How do you say 'How are you' in Cantonese?"

Language Tip

Other than 點 *dim2*, you might also hear 點樣 *dim2 joeng2* - these two are interchangeable. For example, if you are trying to get to the airport, but have no idea how to get there, you can ask 點去機場? *dim2 heoi3 gei1 coeng4?* or 點樣去機場? *dim2 joeng2 heoi3 gei1 coeng4?*