

LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #3 Greetings

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GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Greetings in Cantonese

Topic 1: Greetings - "Hello"

Sentence from the lesson:

'哈囉！'

haa1 lo6!

"Hello (Informal Greeting)"

1. *haa1 lo6!* is "hello" with a Cantonese pronunciation. It is used when meeting someone, just like in English. This is very casual, so it should not be used for business meetings! A more formal way to greet people is *nei5 ho2!* Literally, *nei5 ho2!* means "You are well"; however, it may also be interpreted as "Hello." *nei5 ho2!* is used when meeting someone for the first time, or higher-ranking persons, such as the elderly.

For Example:

你好！

nei5 ho2!

"Hello (Formal Greeting)"

Topic 2: Greetings- "Bye-Bye"

Sentence from the lesson:

'拜拜。'

baai1 baai3

"Bye bye (Informal)"

1. When it's time to leave, we say *baai1 baai3* for informal situations. It's just like the English "Bye-bye." with a Cantonese pronunciation. And in formal situations, use *zoi3 gin3*. *zoi3 gin3* means "Good-bye." Finally, in Cantonese we have an expression meaning "See you soon" that can be considered both formal and informal: *haa6 ci3 gin3!*

For Example:

再見

zoi3 gin3

"Good-bye (Formal)"

下次見

haa6 ci3 gin3

"See you soon"

Language Tip!

In formal situations, Cantonese speakers commonly greet each other by shaking hands. But if we meet someone we are very close with, we pat each other on the arm or on the back.