

LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #5 Making Apologies

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

5

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Making Apologies in Cantonese

Topic 1: How to say "Excuse me"

Sentence from the lesson:

·唔好意思·

m4 ho2 ji3 si1

"Excuse me"

1. We should use *m4 ho2 ji3 si1* in formal situations, such as when we are talking to, or asking a stranger for help.
2. *m4 ho2 ji3 si1, jap6 hou2 hai2 bin1?* – "Excuse me, where is the entrance?"
3. *m4 ho2 ji3 si1, nei5 caai2 zyu6 ngo5 go3 doi* – "Excuse me, you're stepping on my bag."
4. Sometimes we also hear people say *m4 goi1*. As mentioned in lesson 2, *m4 goi1* means "thank you," but it also means "excuse me" as used to draw somebody's attention.

Topic 2: How to say "I'm sorry."

Sentence from the lesson:

·對唔住·

deoi3 m4 zyu6

"I am sorry."

1. If you really want to apologize for something, it might be better to use a different phrase.

For example:

對唔住，我打爛咗你部電腦。 *deoi3 m4 zyu6, ngo5 daa2 laan6 zo2 nei5 bou6 din6 nou*
"Sorry, I broke your computer."

Language Tip!

If you accidentally bump into someone in Hong Kong, you can say *m4 ho2 ji3 si1*, "Excuse me" or *deoi3 m4 zyu6* "I'm sorry," but never *m4 goi1*.