

LESSON NOTES

Learn Cantonese in Three Minutes #8 How Much?

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VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
幾錢	gei2 cin2	How much...?	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

嗰個幾錢?

go2 go3 gei2 cin2?

How much is that?

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is how to ask prices in Cantonese

Topic 1: How to Ask Prices

Sentence from the lesson:

‘幾錢呀?’

gei2 cin2 aa6?

"How much is it?"

1. The first thing to say is 唔該 m4 goi1 "Excuse me!"
唔該, 幾錢呀? m4 goi1, gei2 cin2 aa6? "Excuse me, How much is it?"
2. If we want to be more specific and ask "how much is THIS?", first we need to know the correct measure word for the object, we'll learn about that in the next lesson. For now, let's use the most common one: 個 go3, so in the sentence we'd say 依個 ji1 go3 as "this," followed by "how much?"
唔該, 依個幾錢呀? m4 goi1, ji1 go3 gei2 cin2 aa6?
"Excuse me, how much is this?"

3. And to ask "Excuse me, how much is THAT?", again we'll use the most common measure word 個 *go3*, so to say "that," it'd be 嗰個 *go2 go3*.
唔該, 嗰個幾錢呀? *m4 goi1, go2 go3 gei2 cin2 aa6?*
4. At this point the shop clerk will answer directly with the price, followed by 蚊 *man1*, the slang term for Hong Kong dollar.
三十九蚊 *saam1 sap6 gau2 man1* "Thirty-nine HKD."

Language Tip!

It's quite common to bargain in markets. Other than saying the specific price you want, you can also just ask for a cheaper price by saying: 平啲啦! *peng4 di1 laa1!*

In small boutiques or shops, you can ask "are there any discounts" by saying: 有冇折呀? *jau5 mou5 zit3 aa6?*