

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #11

Reporting a Crime in Cantonese

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 受害人: 可唔可以幫我報警?
2. 陌生人: 乜事呀?
3. 受害人: 我俾人打劫呀。
4. 陌生人: 好, 我打999啦。

JYUTPING

1. SAU6 HOI6 JAN4: ho2 m4 ho2 ji3 bong1 ngo5 bou3 ging2?
2. MAK6 SANG1 mat1 si6 aa3?
JAN4:
3. SAU6 HOI6 JAN4: ngo5 bei2 jan4 daa2 gip3 aa3.
4. MAK6 SANG1 hou2, ngo5 daa2 gau2 gau2 gau2 laa1.
JAN4:

ENGLISH

1. VICTIM: Could you please call the police for me?
2. STRANGER: What happened?
3. VICTIM: I was robbed.

CONT'D OVER

4. STRANGER: Okay, I'll call 999.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
白車	baak6 ce1	ambulance (literally "white car")	noun
消防處	siu1 fong4 cyu3	fire department	noun
三條九	saam1 tiu4 gau2	triple nine	noun
可唔可以	ho2 m4 ho2 ji5	can (someone), Could you please...	phrase
幫	bong1	to help	verb
打劫	daa2 gip3	robbery, to rob	verb
報警	bou3 ging2	to call the police	phrase
乜事	mat1 si6	what happened	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

白車即係救護車。 <i>baak6 ce1 zik1 hai6 gau3 wu6 ce1.</i> "White car" means "ambulance."	消防處有人嚟檢查。 <i>siu1 fong4 cyu3 jau5 jan4 lei4 gim2 caa4.</i> Someone from the fire department is coming for inspection.
唔好隨便打三條九。 <i>m4 hou2 ceoi4 bin2 daa2 saam1 tiu4 gau2.</i> Don't dial triple nine randomly.	可唔可以借洗手間? <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 ze3 sai2 sau2 gaan1 ?</i> Can I use the washroom?

<p>可唔可以講多次? <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gong2 do1 ci3 ?</i></p> <p>Can you say it again?</p>	<p>告士打普話佢可以幫忙。 <i>gou3 si6 daa2 pou2 waa6 keoi5 ho2 ji3 bong1 mong4.</i></p> <p>Gustavo said he could help.</p>
<p>個店員幫咗我。 <i>go3 dim3 jyun4 bong1 zo2 ngo5.</i></p> <p>The shop assistant helped me.</p>	<p>佢嘅生存意義就係幫人。 <i>keoi5 ge3 sang1 cyun4 ji3 ji6 zau6 hai6 bong1 jan4.</i></p> <p>Her purpose in life was to help other people.</p>
<p>多謝你幫我。 <i>do1 ze6 nei5 bong1 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Thank you for helping me.</p>	<p>唔該幫下我。 <i>m4 goi1 bong1 haa5 ngo5</i></p> <p>Please help me.</p>
<p>打劫銀行係好大嘅罪，估計要判十年。 <i>daa2 gip3 ngan4 hong4 hai6 hou2 daai6 ge3 zeoi6, gu2 gai3 jiu3 pun3 sap6 nin4.</i></p> <p>Robbing a bank is a major felony, I estimate he'll serve ten years.</p>	<p>而家報警。 <i>ji4 gaa1 bou3 ging2.</i></p> <p>Call the police now.</p>
<p>頭先發生乜事呀? <i>tau4 sin1 faat3 sang1 mat1 si6 aa3?</i></p> <p>What happened just now?</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

可唔可以

It is the question phrase of the verb 可以 (*ho2 ji3*) "to be able to; may; can." 可唔可以 (*ho2 m4 ho2 ji3*) literally means "can or cannot" or "to be able or not able to," implying a request question. For example, 你可唔可以幫我? (*nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji3 bong1 ngo5?*) "Can you help me?" (literally "you can or cannot help me?")

三條九

The emergency number in Hong Kong is 999; while some people say 九九九 (*gau2 gau2 gau2*), it's more common to say "triple nine," which is 三條九 (*saam1 tiu4 gau2*) in Cantonese.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making a Passive Sentence Using 俾 (*bei2*)

我俾人打劫。

ngo5 bei2 jan4 daa2 gip3 aa3.

"I was robbed."

Passive voice refers to a sentence structure wherein the recipient of some action becomes the grammatical subject of the sentence. In Cantonese, passive voice is indicated by the word 俾 (*bei2*). By itself, 俾 (*bei2*) is the verb "to give," but in this lesson, we'll look at its special function of making a passive sentence.

We start with the subject (recipient of the action), then put 俾 (*bei2*) in front of the agent (the doer of the action), followed by the action.

Formation:

action recipient + 俾 (*bei2*) + action doer + action

For example:

1. 我俾人打劫
ngo5 bei2 jan4 daa2 gip3
"I was robbed (by someone)."

This kind of passive sentence is often used when the speaker is showing empathy for something that happens to the subject that is outside of his/her realm of control, although it is normally used to imply that the subject has received something undesirable from the action doer, it can also be used in cases where the action is something desirable. (Example sentence #5)

Sample Sentences

1. 我俾人打
ngo5 bei2 jan4 daa2
"I was bitten (by someone)."
2. 我俾狗追
ngo5 bei2 gau2 zeoi1
"I was chased by a dog."
3. 我俾車撞
ngo5 bei2 ce1 zong6
"I was hit by a car."
4. 我俾先生鬧
ngo5 bei2 sin1 saang1 naau6
"I was scolded by the teacher."
5. 我嘅才能俾佢發現咗
ngo5 ge3 coi4 nang4 bei2 keoi5 faat3 jin6 zo2
"My talent was discovered by him."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Emergency Numbers in Hong Kong

Although we hope you won't need the following numbers during your stay in Hong Kong, it won't hurt to save these numbers into your cellphone, or write them down in your travel diary, because you never know when they will become useful. [Hong Kong's Area code is +(852)].

Emergency Services (Police, Ambulance, Fire): 999

Emergency Services from a cell phone: 112 or 999

Police Hotline: 2527-7177

Hong Kong International Airport: 2181-8888

Hong Kong Tourism Board Hotline: 2508-1234

Hong Kong Travel Industry Council: 2807-0707

Hong Kong Hotels Association Hotel Reservation Hotline: 2383-8380

Hong Kong Post: 2921-2222

When you have the name of a business and want to know the phone number, you can try to reach **Telephone Directory Enquiries: 1081**

When you are shopping, if the trader fails to address your concern, you can try to reach the consumer council via **Consumer Complaint and Enquiry Hotline of Consumer Council Hong Kong: 2929-2222**

If you suspect the trader sells counterfeit items or is illegal photocopying books or software, you can try to complain via the **Hotline of Hong Kong Customs: 2545-6182**

If you suspect a pharmacy store of selling unregistered or counterfeit pharmaceutical products, you can report to the **Department of Health's Drug Complaint Hotline: 2572-2068**