

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #14

## Searching for That Lucky Taxi in Hong Kong

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# 14

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. JACKIE: 邊度有的士?
2. WENDY: 嗰度有架空車。
3. JACKIE: 你應該話「吉車」!
4. WENDY: 係? 點解呀?

## JYUTPING

1. JACKIE: bin1 dou6 jau5 dik1 si2?
2. WENDY: go2 dou6 jau5 gaa3 hung1 ce1.
3. JACKIE: nei5 jing1 goi1 waa6 "gat1 ce1"!
4. WENDY: hai6? dim2 gaai2 aa3?

## ENGLISH

1. JACKIE: Where can I find a taxi?
2. WENDY: There's an empty one over there.
3. JACKIE: You should say a "lucky" one!
4. WENDY: Really? Why is that?

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
的士	dik1 si2	taxi	noun
車	ce1	car	noun
嗰度	go2 dou6	there	pronoun, adverb
空	hung1	empty	adjective
應該	jing1 goi1	should	auxiliary verb
吉	gat1	lucky, auspicious	adjective
點解	dim2 gaai2	why	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>廁所喺邊度? <i>ci3 so2 hai2 bin1 dou6?</i></p> <p>Where is the toilet?</p>	<p>你屋企喺邊度? <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hai2 bin1 dou6 ?</i></p> <p>Where's your house?</p>
<p>邊度有廁所? <i>bin1 dou6 jau5 ci3 so2 ?</i></p> <p>Where is the washroom?</p>	<p>今日嘅內容係如何避免喺中國大陸搭的士俾人扼錢! <i>gam1 jat6 ge3 noi6 jung4 hai6 jyu4 ho4 bei6 min5 hai2 zung1 gwok3 daai6 luk6 daap3 dik1 si2 bei2 jan4 ak1 cin2!</i></p> <p>Today's content is how to avoid getting cheated in mainland taxis.</p>
<p>唔好叫人地的士佬。 <i>m4 hou2 giu3 jan4 dei6 dik1 si2 lou2.</i></p> <p>Don't call people "taxi guy."</p>	<p>佢揀咗部藍色車。 <i>keoi5 gaan2 zo2 bou6 laam4 sik1 ce1.</i></p> <p>He chose a blue car.</p>

<p>又要供車，又要供樓，好辛苦呀！  <i>jau6 jiu3 gung1 ce1, jau6 jiu3 gung1 lau2, hou2 san1 fu2 aa6!</i></p> <p>(I) have to pay the car loan as well as the mortgage, it's so hard!</p>	<p>停車熄火。  <i>ting4 ce1 sik1 fo2.</i></p> <p>Stop the car and turn off the engine.</p>
<p>我想買部二手車。  <i>ngo5 soeng2 maa5 bou6 jiu6 sau2 ce1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a second-hand car.</p>	<p>唔該將啲購物袋放喺個度。  <i>m4 goi1 zoeng1 di1 kau3 mat6 doi2 fong3 hai2 go2 dou6.</i></p> <p>Please, put the shopping bags there.</p>
<p>個度好靚。  <i>go2 dou6 hou2 leng3.</i></p> <p>It's beautiful over there.</p>	<p>唔該，個度俾唔俾食煙？  <i>m4 goi1, go2 dou6 bei2 m4 bei2 sik6 jin1?</i></p> <p>Excuse me, is smoking allowed there?</p>
<p>上午嘅瑜伽班仲有好多空位。  <i>soeng6 ng5 ge3 jyu4 gaa1 baan1 zung6 jau5 hou2 do1 hung1 wai2.</i></p> <p>There is space available in the morning yoga class.</p>	<p>如果你發燒，你應該食藥。  <i>jyu4 gwo2 nei5 faat3 siu1, nei5 jing1 goi1 sik6 joek6.</i></p> <p>If you have a fever, you should take medicine.</p>
<p>個度有架吉車。  <i>go2 dou6 jau5 gaa3 gat1 ce1.</i></p> <p>There is an empty car over there.</p>	<p>點解你唔嚟？  <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lei4?</i></p> <p>Why don't you come?</p>
<p>點解你件衫咁污糟嘅？  <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 gin6 saam1 gam3 wu1 zou1 ge2?</i></p> <p>Why are your clothes so dirty?</p>	<p>點解咁認真？  <i>dim2 gaai2 gam3 jing6 zan1?</i></p> <p>Why so serious?</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**邊** means "which," and **度** means "spot," "degree," or "exact point" when you measure something. Together, **邊度** means "which exact point," or "where."

## 嗰度

嗰 means "that" or "those." When combined with 度, it means "there," or "over there."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "should" or "ought to."**

你應該話「吉車」！

"You should say a "lucky" one!"

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One of the main uses of the term 應該 (*jing1 goi1*) is to indicate the action that one should take, or to make a strong suggestion, roughly equivalent to the English expression "should," "ought to," and in some cases, "(you) had better."

### Formation

Subject + 應該 (*jing1 goi1*) + verb

**Examples from this dialog:**

1. 你應該話「吉車」！  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 waa6 "gat1 ce1"!*  
You should say a "lucky" one!

When making a suggestion about what one should or should not do, it is common to put 應該 (*jing1 goi1*) behind the subject (pronoun or action doer) and before the verb.

For example:

1. 你應該話...  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 waa6...*  
"You should say..."
2. 你應該食  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 sik6*  
"You should eat."
3. 你應該講  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 gong2*  
"You should speak."

4. 你唔應該瞓  
*nei5 m4 jing1 goi1 fan6...*  
"You should not sleep."
5. 你唔應該食  
*nei5 m4 jing1 goi1 sik6*  
"You should not eat."
6. 你唔應該講  
*nei5 m4 jing1 goi1 gong2*  
"You should not speak." Or, "You should not say..."

Sentences one to three are positive, while sentences four to six are negative. You can easily tell the negative sentences by looking for the word 唔 (*m4*) in front of 應該 (*jing1 goi1*). We have covered the negative word 唔 (*m4*) in previous lessons. To recap, please check the Absolute Beginner series Season 1 and 2.

### Sample Sentences

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1. 你應該食藥。  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 sik6 joek3.*  
"You should take medicine."
2. 你應該瞓八個鐘。  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 fan6 baat3 go3 zung1.*  
"You should sleep for eight hours."
3. 你應該講英文。  
*nei5 jing1 goi1 gong2 jing1 man2.*  
"You should speak English."
4. 你唔應該食甜品。  
*nei5 m4 jing1 goi1 sik6 tim4 ban2.*  
"You should not eat dessert."

5. 你唔應該講對唔住!  
*nei5 m4 jing1 goi1 gong2 deoi3 m4 zyu6.*  
"You should not say 'Sorry!'"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Superstitions in Hong Kong

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As you can see in the dialogue, Jackie asked Wendy not to say "the empty taxi," or 空的士, and "the empty car," or 空車. This phrase is superstitious in the Cantonese dialect. 空 (*hung1*) "empty" is the homophone of 凶 (*hung1*), which means "evil," "haunted," or "unlucky." Therefore, when we say 空車, or "empty car," it sounds like a haunted or unlucky car that may cause an accident. In order to avoid saying things that are "bad luck" and to let people know that we mean "empty," we say the opposite of "unlucky," which is 吉 (*gat1*) "lucky."

For that reason, it's common to hear people describing empty seats, houses, or boxes as the lucky seats, houses, and boxes. For example, "empty seats" change from 空位 (*hung1 wai2*) to 吉位 (*gat1 wai2*). "Empty cars" 空車 (*hung1 ce1*) become 吉車 (*gat1 ce1*). "Empty houses" 空屋 (*hung1 uk1*) change to 吉屋 (*gat1 uk1*). "Empty rooms" 空房 (*hung1 fong2*) become 吉房 (*gat1 fong2*). Finally, "empty boxes" 空箱 (*hung1 soeng1*) change to 吉箱 (*gat1 soeng1*).

By saying "lucky," people will feel that such an object will bring good luck and will be comfortable using it or buying it. This is especially common in the real estate business. Real estate advertisements always say that a "lucky house" 吉屋 (*gat1 uk1*) is for rent or sale.