

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #16

## How to Get Rich Quick in Hong Kong, Part 2

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# **16**

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. JACKIE: 我揀四號。
2. WENDY: 唔好! 死死聲咁難聽!
3. JACKIE: 咁三號啦。
4. WENDY: 好呀, 十三同廿三都好。

## JYUTPING

1. JACKIE: ngo5 gaan2 sei3 hou6.
2. WENDY: m4 hou2! sei2 sei2 seng1 gam3 naan4 teng1!
3. JACKIE: gam2 saam1 hou6 laa1.
4. WENDY: hou2 aa3, sap6 saam1 tung4 jaa6 saam1 dou1 hou2.

## ENGLISH

1. JACKIE: I'll pick number four.
2. WENDY: Don't! It sounds like "death!"
3. JACKIE: Then, I'll pick number three.
4. WENDY: Okay, thirteen and twenty-three are also good.

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
揀	gaan2	to choose	verb
四	sei3	four (4)	number, numeral
聲	seng1	sound, voice, volume	noun
號碼	hou6 maa5	number	noun
死	sei2	to die	verb
難聽	naan4 teng1	to sound awful	phrase
廿	jaa6	twenty	noun
三	saam1	three (3)	number

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>我想揀啲未做過嘅嘢。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 gaan2 di1 mei6 zo6 gwo3 ge3 je5.</i></p> <p>I would like to choose something I have never tried.</p>	<p>副眼鏡咁靚，你點揀㗎？ <i>fu3 ngaan5 geng2 gam3 leng3, nei5 dim2 gaan2 gaa3?</i></p> <p>How did you choose those beautiful pair of glasses?</p>
<p>你點解揀嗰隻顏色？ <i>nei5 dim2 gaai2 gaan2 go2 zek3 ngaan4 sik1?</i></p> <p>Why did you choose that color?</p>	<p>我有四個細路。 <i>ngo5 jau5 sei3 go3 sai3 lou6.</i></p> <p>I have four children.</p>
<p>王菲把聲真係好好聽。 <i>wong4 fei1 baa2 seng1 zan1 hai6 hou2 hou2 teng1.</i></p> <p>Faye Wong has a really beautiful voice.</p>	<p>可唔可以俾你個電話號碼我？ <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji3 bei2 nei5 go3 din6 waa2 hou6 maa5 ngo5?</i></p> <p>Can you give me your phone number?</p>
<p>二號位。 <i>ji6 hou6 wai2.</i></p> <p>The position number two.</p>	<p>你屋企號碼幾多？ <i>nei5 uk1 kei2 hou6 maa5 gei2 do1?</i></p> <p>What's your room number?</p>

佢已經死咗。 <i>keoi5 ji5 ging1 sei2 zo2.</i> She is already dead.	佢唱得好難聽。 <i>keoi5 coeng3 dak1 hou2 naan4 teng1.</i> His singing is awful.
佢廿歲離開香港。 <i>Keoi5 jaa6 sei3 lei4 hoi1 hoeng1 gong2.</i> He left Hong Kong at twenty years old.	佢有三個細路。 <i>keoi5 jau5 saam1 go3 sai3 lou6.</i> He has three children.
三百人。 <i>saam1 baak3 jan4.</i> Three hundred people.	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

廿

廿 is the colloquial way to say 二十, or "twenty." When a classifier follows the number, we can use both. For example, 二十個 equals 廿個, or "twenty (units of something)." Also, we use this word for numbers starting with twenty. "Twenty-one" is 廿一, "twenty-two" is 廿二, "twenty-three" is 廿三, and so on.

「死死聲咁難聽」

To break down this phrase (死死聲, or "the sound of death") 咁 means "such," and 難聽 is "awful to listen to." It's usually used when someone says the word "death" or "four" because "four" sounds similar to "death."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is Different Ways to Say "and."**

十三同廿三都好。

"Thirteen and twenty-three are also good."

This lesson's grammar point is different ways to say "and." In this lesson, we learned that 同

(*tung4*) means "and," but there are actually many other ways to say "and" in Cantonese.

In this lesson we'll show you the common ways to say "and" in Cantonese. Let's first recap what we have learned from this lesson's dialogue:

**Example from the dialogue:**

1. 十三同廿三都好。  
"Thirteen and twenty-three are also good."

Here we see the word 同 (*tung4*) is placed between the two objects of the same class.

For example:

1. 我同你  
*ngo5 tung4 nei5*  
"me and you"
2. 貓同狗  
*maau1 tung4 gau2*  
"cats and dogs"

**同埋 (*tung4 maai4*)**

同埋 (*tung4 maai4*) is often interchangeable with 同 (*tung4*).

For example:

1. 我同埋你  
*ngo5 tung4 maai4 nei5*  
"me and you"
2. 貓同埋狗  
*maau1 tung4 maai4 gau2*  
"cats as well as dogs"

**又 (*jau6*)**

又 (*jau6*) is usually used for listing adjectives to describe characteristics, but it is not limited to

this use. It is also used in a mixed fraction (see sentence 3).

For example:

1. 又高又瘦  
*jau6 gou1 jau6 sau3*  
"tall and thin"
2. 又平又正  
*jau6 peng4 jau6 zeng3*  
"cheap and nice"
3. 二又四分三  
*ji6 jau6 sei3 fan6 saam1*  
"two and three-fourths ( $2\frac{3}{4}$ )"

## 而 (*ji4*)

而 (*ji4*) is similar to 又 (*jau6*), but it has a hint of an "and yet" element.

For example:

1. 高而瘦  
*gou1 ji4 sau3*  
"tall and (yet) thin"
2. 簡單而隆重  
*gaan2 daan1 ji4 lung4 zung6*  
"casual and (yet) grand"

## Language Expansion

---

There are even more words that mean "and" in the written form of Cantonese. For your reference, 和 (*wo4*), 及 (*kap6*), 與 (*jyu5*), 而且 (*ji4 ce2*), 並 (*bing6*), 並且 (*bing6 ce2*), 以及 (*ji4 kap6*), and 跟 (*gan1*) all mean "and!"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Superstitions in Cantonese Numbers

---

From our last lesson, we know that eight is a very lucky number because it sounds like 發 (*faat3*), which means "to be rich." In this lesson we'll talk about the superstitions related to the numbers three and four.

The pronunciation of number three (*saam1*) is similar to 生 (*saang1*), which means "to live" or "to give birth." This is a lucky number to use for weddings as it means good wishes for the couple to have a baby soon. Then together with number eight, the favorable 3388 (*saam1 saam1 baat3 baat3*) 生生發發 is auspicious for the Chinese New Year, weddings, new businesses, and grand openings.

On the other hand, the pronunciation of number four (*sei3*) is similar to 死 (*sei2*), which means "to die" or "death." Therefore, if they have a choice, Cantonese don't like to pick this number for anything. If they cannot avoid it, then they may add the number five in front of four, because five (*ng5*) sounds like "not" 唔 (*m4*); the combination of both means "do not die."

However, please note that the sounds of the numbers may not be the same in other dialects of different provinces in China. At least, it's not the case for "four" in Shanghai. Therefore, please remember that we are talking about Cantonese, and it's more common in Hong Kong and Cantonese-speaking cities to have these superstitious numbers.