

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #17

## Choosing a Souvenir from Hong Kong

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# 17

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. JACKIE: 我想買牛肉乾做手信。
2. WENDY: 但係好貴㗎。
3. JACKIE: 咁買蛋卷啦。
4. WENDY: 但係好易碎㗎。

## JYUTPING

1. JACKIE: ngo5 soeng2 maai5 ngau4 yuk6 gon1 zou6 sau2 seon3.
2. WENDY: daan6 hai6 hou2 gwai3 wo3.
3. JACKIE: gam2 maai5 daan6 gyun2 laa1.
4. WENDY: daan6 hai6 hou2 ji6 seoi3 wo3.

## ENGLISH

1. JACKIE: I want to buy beef jerky for souvenirs.
2. WENDY: But that's expensive.
3. JACKIE: Then I'll buy some egg rolls.
4. WENDY: But they break easily.

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
易	ji6	easy	adjective
碎	seoi3	to break, to shatter	verb
買	maai5	to buy	verb
牛肉乾	ngau4 juk6 gon1	beef jerky	noun
貴	gwai3	expensive	adjective
手信	sau2 seon3	souvenirs,souvenir	noun
但係	daan6 hai6	but	conjunction
蛋卷	daan6 gyun2	egg roll	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>寫網頁其實好易。 <i>se2 mong5 jip6 kei4 sat6 hou2 ji6.</i></p> <p>It's actually easy to create a website.</p>	<p>個玻璃樽碎晒。 <i>go3 bo1 lei1 zeon1 seoi3 saai3.</i></p> <p>The glass bottle is shattered.</p>
<p>佢會買一間喺河邊嘅屋。 <i>keoi5 wui5 maai5 jat1 gaan1 hai2 ho4 bin1 ge3 uk1.</i></p> <p>He will buy a house next to the river.</p>	<p>我想買架新車。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 gaa3 san1 ce1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a new car.</p>
<p>要買三個先有優惠。 <i>jiu3 maai5 saam1 go3 sin1 jau5 jau1 wai6.</i></p> <p>You have to buy three if you want to get the discount.</p>	<p>你下次買多啲餸啦。 <i>nei5 haa6 ci3 maai5 do1 di1 sung3 laa1.</i></p> <p>Why don't you buy more groceries next time?</p>
<p>我肚餓嗰陣成日都會買好多餸。 <i>ngo5 tou5 ngo6 go2 zan6 sing4 jat6 dou1 wui5 maai5 hou2 do1 sung3.</i></p> <p>I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry.</p>	<p>佢想買部好快嘅車。 <i>keoi5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 hou2 faai3 ge3 ce1.</i></p> <p>He wants to buy a fast car.</p>

<p>我買。 <i>ngo5 maai5.</i></p> <p>I'll buy it.</p>	<p>好多遊客嚟買牛肉乾。 <i>hou2 do1 jau4 haak3 lei4 maai5 ngau4 juk6 gon1.</i></p> <p>Many tourists come to buy beef jerky.</p>
<p>佢買咗成間鋪最貴嘅酒。 <i>keoi5 maai5 zo2 seng4 gaan1 pou3 zeoi3 gwai3 ge3 zau2.</i></p> <p>He got the most expensive wine in the liquor shop.</p>	<p>架車太貴，我唔會買。 <i>gaa3 ce1 taai3 gwai3, ngo5 m4 wui5 maai5.</i></p> <p>That car is too expensive; I won't buy it.</p>
<p>而家飛機票唔貴。 <i>Ji4 gaa1 fei1 gei1 piu3 m4 gwai3.</i></p> <p>Plane tickets now are not expensive.</p>	<p>住嚟東京好貴。 <i>zyu6 hai2 dung1 ging1 hou2 gwai3.</i></p> <p>It is expensive to live in Tokyo.</p>
<p>買手信真係麻煩。 <i>maai5 sau2 seon3 zan1 hai6 maa4 faan4.</i></p> <p>Buying souvenirs is such a hassle.</p>	<p>唔買手信俾朋友嘅話，佢哋會嬲㗎。 <i>m4 maai5 sau2 seon3 bei2 pang4 jau5 ge3 waa2, keoi5 dei6 wui5 lau1 gaa3.</i></p> <p>My friends will get angry if I don't send them some souvenirs.</p>
<p>每次我旅行嘅時候我都會買手信。 <i>mui5 ci3 ngo5 lei5 hang4 ge3 si4 hau6 ngo5 dou1 wui5 maai5 sau2 seon3.</i></p> <p>Whenever I go on vacation, I always buy souvenirs.</p>	<p>我想去，但係我有錢。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 heoi3, daan6 hai6 ngo5 mou5 cin2.</i></p> <p>I want to go, but I have no money.</p>
<p>每次食蛋卷都搞到一身都係。 <i>mui5 ci3 sik6 daan6 gyun2 dou1 gaau2 dou3 jat1 san1 dou1 hai6.</i></p> <p>Everytime I eat an egg roll, the flakes fall everywhere.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### 牛肉乾

牛 is "cow." 肉 is "meat," and 乾 is "dry" or "the dried form of something." Altogether, 牛肉乾 means "dried cow meat," hence "beef jerky."

To change the meat source, simply change the first character to the animal's name. For example, 豬 is "pig," so 豬肉乾 is "pork jerky."

## 手信

手, means "hand," and 信 means "letter" or "something to send the message with." Altogether 手信 means a message sent by hand, that is, a "souvenir."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of this Lesson is Different Ways to Say "but."

但係好貴嘞。

"But that's expensive."

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This lesson's grammar point is different ways to say "but." In this lesson, we learned that 但係 (*daan6 hai6*) is the conjunction "but." It corresponds to the English terms "but," "nevertheless," and "however."

Like "but," 但係 (*daan6 hai6*) is used to object the previous sentence with a reason or an excuse. It can add a condition, restriction, or exception to the preceding sentence.

#### Examples from this dialog:

1. 但係好貴嘞。  
*daan6 hai6 hou2 gwai3 wo3.*  
"But that's expensive."
2. 但係好易碎嘞。  
*daan6 hai6 hou2 ji6 sei3 wo3.*  
"But they're easy to break."

## 不過 (*bat1 gwo3*)

不過 (*bat1 gwo3*) is generally interchangeable with 但係 (*daan6 hai6*). These two words are the most common terms for "but" in colloquial Cantonese.

For example:

1. 不過好貴㗎。  
*bat1 gwo3 hou2 gwai3 wo3.*  
"But that's expensive."
2. 不過好易碎㗎。  
*bat1 gwo3 hou2 ji6 sei3 wo3.*  
"But they're easy to break."

### 之不過 (*zi1 bat1 gwo3*)

Although 之不過 (*zi1 bat1 gwo3*) looks similar to 不過 (*bat1 gwo3*), it means more than "but." It also conveys the concept of "however," "regardless," and "nonetheless"—emphasizing the statement that follows.

For example:

1. 已經冇晒風球喇，之不過天文台話會落雨。  
*ji5 ging1 mou5 saai3 fung1 kau4 laa3, zi1 bat1 gwo3.*  
"All the typhoons have gone; however, the observatory says it will rain."
2. 個手術好成功，之不過病人未醒。  
*go3 sau2 seot6 hou2 sing4 gung1, zi1 bat1 gwo3 beng6 jan4 mei6 seng2..*  
"The surgery was successful; however, the patient is still unconscious."

### Language Expansion

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Note that in written Cantonese, we use other terms for "but," such as 但, 但是, 可是, 然而, etc.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Hong Kong Souvenirs

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Tourism has been a major industry in Hong Kong for many years. The government as well as local manufacturers are serious about the quality of their products. Other than locally-made souvenirs, a lot of imported goods are becoming more popular among tourists. Tourists like to buy cameras, electronic equipment, watches, and cosmetics in Hong Kong. Hong Kong also offers the most trendy information technology (IT) products and fashion from all over the world. For cheaper souvenirs, tourists can buy sets of embroidered coin purses and t-shirts. Souvenir shops are everywhere in T.S.T., Causeway Bay, Stanley, and Mongkok.

Tourists may appreciate the varieties of choices and perhaps the lower prices due to the government's duty-free policy. Since Hong Kong is a duty-free port for many products, the city has earned the title "Shopper's Paradise."