

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #18

## Getting Around Hong Kong

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# 18

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. WENDY: 有冇巴士返酒店?
2. JACKIE: 不如搭的士。
3. WENDY: 點解呀?
4. JACKIE: 買咗啲芝士好重。

## JYUTPING

1. WENDY: jau5 mou5 baa1 si2 faan1 zau2 dim3?
2. JACKIE: bat1 jyu4 daap3 dik1 si2.
3. WENDY: dim1 gaai2 aa3?
4. JACKIE: maai5 zo2 di1 zi1 si2 hou2 cung5.

## ENGLISH

1. WENDY: Is there a bus that can take us back to the hotel?
2. JACKIE: Let's take a taxi.
3. WENDY: Why is that?
4. JACKIE: The cheese we bought is very heavy.

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
芝士	zi1 si2	cheese	noun
重	cung5	heavy	adjective
有冇	jau5 mou5	Do you have...?,is/ are there any	phrase
酒店	zau2 dim3	hotel	noun
巴士	baa1 si2	bus	noun
返	faan1	to return	verb
不如	bat1 jyu4	how about, why not	phrase
的士	dik1 si2	taxi	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>芝士有好多品種。 <i>zi1 si2 jau5 hou2 do1 ban2 zung2.</i></p> <p>There are many kinds of cheese.</p>	<p>你個箱好似好重喎，使唔使幫手？ <i>nei5 go3 soeng1 hou2 ci3 hou2 cung5 wo3, sai2 m4 sai2 bong1 sau2?</i></p> <p>Can I help you with your case, it looks really heavy?</p>
<p>你有冇時間？ <i>nei5 jau5 mou5 si4 gaan3 ?</i></p> <p>Do you have time?</p>	<p>郵輪旅遊嗰陣，郵輪就係你嘅酒店。 <i>jau4 leon4 lei5 jau4 go2 zan6, jau4 leon4 zau6 hai6 nei5 ge3 zau2 dim3.</i></p> <p>When you are on a cruise, the ship will be your hotel.</p>
<p>酒店嘅質量係用星嚟衡量嘅。 <i>zau2 dim3 ge3 zat1 loeng6 hai6 jung6 sing1 lei4 hang4 loeng6 ge3.</i></p> <p>The quality of a hotel is measured in stars.</p>	<p>呢度附近得呢一間酒店。 <i>ni1 dou6 fu6 gan3 dak1 ni1 jat1 gaan1 zau2 dim3.</i></p> <p>There is only this one hotel in this neighborhood.</p>

<p>我每日搭巴士返工。 <i>ngo5 mui5 jat6 daap3 baa1 si2 faan1 gung1.</i></p> <p>Every day I get the bus to work.</p>	<p>香港有啲巴士有無線上網，咁塞車都有咁悶。 <i>hoeng1 gong2 jau5 di1 baa1 si2 jau5 mou4 sin3 seong5 mong5, gam2 sak1 ce1 dou1 mou5 gam3 mun6.</i></p> <p>Some Hong Kong buses have Wi-Fi, so it's less boring when you're stuck in a traffic jam.</p>
<p>搭巴士過去都好方便。 <i>daap3 baa1 si2 gwo3 heoi3 dou1 hou2 fong1 bin6.</i></p> <p>Taking a bus there is very convenient too.</p>	<p>我想我個仔喺我瞓之前返屋企。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 ngo5 go3 zai2 hai2 ngo5 fan3 zi1 cin4 faan1 uk1 kei2.</i></p> <p>I'd like my son to return home before I go to bed.</p>
<p>呢個月底我老公返。 <i>ni1 go3 jyu6 dai2 ngo5 lou5 gung1 faan1.</i></p> <p>My husband will return home by the end of the month.</p>	<p>不如睇戲？ <i>bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?</i></p> <p>How about seeing a movie?</p>
<p>不如叫多籠點心吖？ <i>bat1 jyu4 giu3 do1 lung4 dim2 sam1 aa1?</i></p> <p>How about we order another dim sum?</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>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

有冇

When combined, the first character 有 (*jau5*) meaning "to have," and the second character 冇 (*mou5*) meaning "to not have" form a question: "Do you have...?" Or, "Is/are there any...?"

不如

In colloquial Cantonese, we use 不如 (*bat1 jyu4*) when we want to make a suggestion, implying "How about...?" Or, "Why don't we...?" However, in written form 不如 (*bat1 jyu4*) means "not as good as (someone)" or "rather."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is Loanwords in Cantonese**

不如搭的士。

"Let's take a taxi."

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The Cantonese language—especially in Hong Kong, due to its political history—has a lot of words borrowed from other languages. In this lesson, we'll go over some common loanwords used daily. When Cantonese borrows foreign words, it incorporates them with their original English pronunciation, using minor changes according to the Cantonese phonetic system.

For example:

1. 巴士  
*baa1 si2*  
"bus"
2. 踏士  
*mau1 si2*  
"(computer) mouse"
3. 士多  
*si6 do1*  
"store"

4. 波  
*bo1*  
"ball"
5. 布菲  
*bou6 fei1*  
"buffet"
6. 忌廉  
*gei6 lim1*  
"cream"
7. 柯打  
*o1 daa2*  
"order; to (place an) order"
8. 士多啤梨  
*si6 do1 be1 lei2*  
"strawberry"

In examples one to three, we can see that polysyllabic words (words with more than three syllables) and monosyllabic words (words with one syllable) tend to become disyllabic, or have two syllables, when they become Cantonese loanwords. The second syllable is usually in the second tone (an upper rising tone). Nevertheless, in some cases, polysyllabic words become monosyllabic when incorporated into Cantonese.

For example:

1. 芒  
*mon1*  
"(computer) monitor"
2. 叉  
*caa1*  
"to charge (with electricity)"

3. 激?  
*gik1*  
"gigabyte"
4. 蚊  
*man1*  
"money"

### Examples from this dialogue:

1. 巴士  
*baa1 si2*  
"bus"
2. 的士  
*dik1 si2*  
"taxi"
3. 芝士  
*zi1 si2*  
"cheese"

Let's see if you can spot the loanwords in the following sentences:

1. 我飲咖啡鍾意落忌廉。  
*ngo5 jam2 gaa3 fe1 zung1 ji3 lok6 gei6 lim1.*  
"I like to put cream in my coffee."
2. 記得幫你個踏士又電呀。  
*gei3 dak1 bong1 nei5 go3 mau1 si2 caa1 din6 aa3.*  
"Remember to charge your (computer) mouse."
3. 搭

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Cantonese Loanwords in Hong Kong

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Due to Hong Kong's long exposure to the English language during its British colonial period from the mid-1800s to 1997, a lot of English words were incorporated into the Hong Kong Cantonese language. This is one of the biggest differences between Cantonese spoken in mainland China and Hong Kong. For example, a "bus" in Hong Kong is called 巴士 (*baa1 si2*), while in mainland China it's called 公車, meaning "public car."

Many street names in Hong Kong are named after British persons, and these names are also transliterated into Cantonese based on their pronunciations. For example, Nathan Road, named after the 13th Governor of Hong Kong Sir Matthew Nathan, is called 彌敦道 (*nei4 deon1 dou6*) in Cantonese; and Robinson Road, named after the 5th Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, is 羅便臣道 (*lo4 bin6 san4 dou6*).