

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #19

## Has Your Boss Gone MIA in Hong Kong?

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# 19

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. TOBY: 波士未嚟嘅?
2. LESLIE: 打電話俾佢啦。
3. TOBY: 幾多號冧巴?
4. LESLIE: 唔知㗎。

## JYUTPING

1. TOBY: bo1 si2 mei6 lei4 ge2?
2. LESLIE: daa2 din6 waa2 bei2 keoi5 laa1
3. TOBY: gei2 do1 hou6 lam1 baa2?
4. LESLIE: m4 zi1 wo3.

## ENGLISH

1. TOBY: Is the boss still not here yet?
2. LESLIE: Call him.
3. TOBY: What's his number?
4. LESLIE: I don't know.

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
幾多號	gei2 do1 hou6	which number, what number	phrase
冧巴	lam1 baa2	number	noun
波士	bo1 si2	boss	noun
未	mei6	yet, never	adverb
嚟	lei4 / lai4	to come	verb
打電話	daa2 din6 waa2	to make a phone call	verb
俾	bei2	to give	verb
佢	keoi5	he, she, it	pronoun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>你坐幾多號巴士? <i>nei5 co5 gei2 do1 hou6 baa1 si2?</i></p> <p>Which bus are you taking (Literally, "What number is the bus you're taking?")?</p>	<p>你是但揀個冧巴啦。 <i>nei5 si6 daan6 gaan2 go3 lam1 baa2 laa1.</i></p> <p>Just pick a number randomly.</p>
<p>我哋波士要我哋OT, 又唔補錢。 <i>ngo5 dei6 bo1 si2 jiu3 ngo5 dei6 OT, jau6 m4 bou2 cin2.</i></p> <p>Our boss lets us work unpaid overtime.</p>	<p>我個波士好好人。 <i>ngo5 go3 bo1 si2 hou2 hou2 jan4.</i></p> <p>My boss is very nice.</p>
<p>做完未? <i>Zou6 jyun4 mei6.</i></p> <p>Have you finished yet?</p>	<p>你開始放假未呀? <i>Nei5 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3 mei6 aa3?</i></p> <p>Has your holiday started yet?</p>
<p>我知你唔想我嚟個PARTY。 <i>ngo5 zi1 nei5 m4 soeng2 ngo5 lei4 go3 PARTY.</i></p> <p>I know you don't want me to come to the party.</p>	<p>點解你唔嚟? <i>dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lei4?</i></p> <p>Why don't you come?</p>

<p>我嚟幫你。 <i>ngo5 lai4 bong1 nei5.</i></p> <p>Let me (come) help you.</p>	<p>唔知佢點解，佢閒日唔會打電話 嚟。</p> <p><i>m4 zi1 keoi5 dim2 gaai2, keoi5 haan4 jat2 m4 wui5 daa2 din6 waa2 lei4.</i></p> <p>I wonder why he never calls on weekdays.</p>
<p>打俾我。 <i>daa2 bei2 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Call me.</p>	<p>俾呢本書我。 <i>Bei2 ni1 bun2 syu1 ngo5.</i></p> <p>Give me this book.</p>
<p>佢今朝餵咗啲雞。 <i>keoi5 gam1 ziu1 wai3 zo2 di1 gai1.</i></p> <p>He fed the chickens this morning.</p>	<p>佢係我朋友。 <i>keoi5 hai6 ngo5 pang4 jau5.</i></p> <p>He is my friend.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### 波士

波士 (*bo1 si2*) is a loanword from the English word "boss." The first character 波 is also a loanword which means "ball," and the second character 士 is commonly used for loanwords with the "s" sound (eg. 的士 (*dik1 si2*) for "taxi," and 貼士 (*tip1 si2*) for "tips").

### 冧巴

冧巴 (*lam1 baa2*) is a loanword from the English word "number." We combine it with other nouns to form phrases like 電話冧巴 or "telephone number," and ID冧巴 or "ID number."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is the Word 打 (*daa2*)**

打電話俾佢。

"Call him."

In this lesson's grammar point, we're going to focus on the verb 打 (*daa2*). By itself, 打 (*daa2*) means "to hit; to beat; to strike; to smash," or "to fight; to attack." For example, 佢打我

(*keoi5 daa2 ngo5*) means, "He hit me." However, 打 (*daa2*) is actually associated with many more actions and meanings, and in this lesson we're going to talk about some of the common ones.

For example:

1. 佢打我  
*keoi5 daa2 ngo5*  
"He hit me."
2. 我俾人打  
*ngo5 bei2 jan4 daa2*  
"I was hit by someone."

From the lesson dialogue, we heard 打電話 (*daa2 din6 waa2*). Although the literal meaning is "to hit the telephone," it actually means "to make a phone call."

**Examples from this dialog:**

1. 打電話俾佢  
*daa2 din6 waa2 bei2 keoi5*  
"Call him."

And often this phrase is shortened to 打俾佢 (*daa2 bei2 keoi5*) meaning, "Call him," so don't mix it up with 打佢 (*daa2 keoi5*), meaning, "Hit him."

When 打 (*daa2*) is connected to a sport, it means "to play." Please note that sports using legs or that involve kicking most of the time do not use 打 (*daa2*), but instead use 踢 (*tek3*), or "to kick;" you can find out more about this verb in lesson 13.

For example:

1. 打籃球  
*daa2 laam4 kau4*  
"to play basketball"

2. 打棒球  
*daa2 paang5 kau4*  
"to play baseball"
3. 打保齡  
*daa2 bou2 ling4*  
"to play bowling"
4. 打桌球  
*daa2 coek3 kau4*  
"to play snooker"
5. 打排球  
*daa2 paai4 kau4*  
"to play volleyball"
6. 打乒乓球  
*daa2 bing1 bam1 bo1*  
"to play table tennis"

The next example is similar to sports; 打 (*daa2*) also means "to play" when associated with recreational activities.

For example:

1. 打機  
*daa2 gei1*  
"to play a video game"
2. 打麻雀  
*daa2 maa4 zoek2*  
"to play mahjong"

However, when combined with 工 or "job," the meaning of 打 (*daa2*) becomes "to work," which is the opposite of "to play" in previous examples.

For example:

1. 打工  
*daa2 gung1*  
"to work (for others); be employed"
2. 打工仔  
*daa2 gung1 zai2*  
"working-class people; junior employee"

Other than the above examples, 打 (*daa2*) has more specific meanings when associated with different nouns.

For example:

1. 打字  
*daa2 zi6*  
"to type"
2. 打呔  
*daa2 taai1*  
"to wear a necktie"
3. 打喊路  
*daa1 haam3 lou6*  
"to yawn"
4. 打邊爐  
*daa1 bin1 lou4*  
"to have a hot pot meal"

### Pronunciation Tip

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In case you're confused, the verb 打 (*daa2*) in this lesson uses the same character as the classifier 打 (*daa1*) meaning "a dozen of." Please don't confuse these two words. Although they use the same character, by pronouncing it in different tones, the words have a different meaning.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Hong Kong Phone Numbers

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Back in the 1980s when mobile phones were scarce, Hong Kong phone numbers only had six or seven digits. The first digits of phone numbers were assigned according to a certain area. By the mid-1990s, the number "2" was prefixed to all landline phone numbers and the number "7" to pager service numbers, making all Hong Kong phone numbers eight digits. As mobile phones became more popular, an eight-digit phone number starting with the number "9" was assigned to all mobile phones.

Around 2000, phone numbers starting with the number "2" started running out, and new landline phone numbers were assigned to start with a "3." Now, the same goes for mobile phones; new numbers start with "6" instead of "9," which is running out of options.

Currently, all Hong Kong phone numbers have eight digits-landlines starting with "2" or "3," and mobile numbers starting with "9," "6," or "5." By looking at the first number in the eight-digit number, you can tell whether someone has given you a landline or a mobile phone number.