

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #23 Still Haven't Found What You're Looking For in Hong Kong?

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23

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. WENDY: 搵埋廁所都唔見...
2. JACKIE: 梗係俾人偷咗。
3. WENDY: 有冇CHECK埋褸袋呀?
4. JACKIE: 吖! 搵到啦。

JYUTPING

1. WENDY: wan2 maai4 ci3 sou2 dou1 m4 gin3...
2. JACKIE: gang2 hai6 bei2 jan4 tau1 zo2.
3. WENDY: jau5 mou5 CHECK maai4 lau1 doi2 aa3?
4. JACKIE: aa1! wan2 dou2 laa3.

ENGLISH

1. WENDY: I can't find it even in the bathroom...
2. JACKIE: Someone must have stolen it.
3. WENDY: Did you also check your jacket pockets?
4. JACKIE: Oh! I found it.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
衫	saam1	clothes, clothing	noun
裙	kwan4	dress, skirt	noun
梗係	gan2 hai6	of course, must be, definitely	adverb
偷嘢	tau1 je5	to steal	verb phrase
袋	doi2	bag, pocket	noun
有冇	jau5 mou5	Do you have...?,is/ are there any	phrase
褸	lau1	jacket	noun
褲	fu3	trousers, pants	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>我好鍾意行街買衫。 <i>ngo5 hou2 zung1 ji3 hang4 gaai1 maai5 saam1.</i></p> <p>I love shopping for clothes.</p>	<p>件衫有冇折? <i>gin6 saam1 jau5 mou5 zit3?</i></p> <p>Does the piece of clothing have a discount?</p>
<p>呢件衫好好睇。 <i>ni1 gin6 saam1 hou2 hou2 tai2.</i></p> <p>This clothing looks really good.</p>	<p>佢今日著咗條新裙。 <i>keoi5 gam1 jat6 zoek3 zo2 tiu4 san1 kwan4.</i></p> <p>She is wearing a new dress today.</p>
<p>呢條裙四百七十蚊。 <i>ni1 tiu4 kwan4 sei3 baak3 cat1 sap6 man1.</i></p> <p>This skirt is 470 HKD.</p>	<p>我想搵一條優雅嘅紅色長裙。 <i>ni1 tiu4 kwan4 sei3 baak3 cat1 sap6 man1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy an elegant red dress.</p>

<p>你每晚都咁夜瞓，梗係眼腫啦。 <i>nei5 mui5 maan5 dou1 gam3 je6 fan3, gang2 hai6 ngaan5 zung2 laa1.</i></p> <p>You are sleeping so late each night, no wonder your eyes are swollen.</p>	<p>有人偷嘢。 <i>jau5 jan4 tau1 je5.</i></p> <p>Someone's stealing.</p>
<p>去超市買嘢記得帶環保袋，用膠袋要俾錢㗎。 <i>heoi3 ciu1 si5 maai5 je5 gei3 dak1 daai3 waan4 bou2 doi2, jung6 gaau1 doi2 jiu3 bei2 cin2 gaa3.</i></p> <p>Remember to bring your own bag when going grocery shopping. It costs money to use the plastic bags.</p>	<p>用個袋嚟霸位真係好唔啱。 <i>jung6 go3 doi2 baa3 wai2 zan1 hai6 hou2 m4 aam1.</i></p> <p>It's not right to use a bag to hold the seat.</p>
<p>你有冇時間？ <i>nei5 jau5 mou5 si4 gaan3 ?</i></p> <p>Do you have time?</p>	<p>我想買一件黑色皮褸。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 jat1 gin6 hak1 sik1 pei2 lau1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a black leather jacket.</p>
<p>我想買條紫色褲。 <i>ngo5 soeng5 maai5 tiu4 zi2 sik1 fu3.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a pair of purple trousers.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

梗係

We use 梗係 (*gang2 hai6*) when expressing something that's certain in your opinion, or something you assumed. Nowadays, 梗係 is used similarly to the way "I think" is used in English, e.g. "I think he's late," or 佢梗係遲到.

褸

褸 (*lau1*) can be used as a noun or a verb. As a noun, it means a "jacket; coat; or outer garment;" as a verb it means "to wear (casually); to lay a clothing item on your shoulders."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "also do another action."

有冇CHECK埋褸袋呀？

"Did you also check your jacket pockets?"

This lesson's grammar point is using the word 埋 (*maai4*) to express "to also do something."

By itself, 埋 (*maai4*) is a verb meaning "to bury" or "to conceal." But when 埋 (*maai4*) is placed after a verb, it generally means "to also do," in order to complete a full chain of action. For example, 食 (*sik6*) "to eat" + 埋 (*maai4*) means "to also eat" or "to finish eating."

Formation

Verb + 埋 (*maai4*)

For example:

1. 食埋啲嘢
sik6 maai4 di1 je5
"to finish eating the food"
2. 去埋廁所
heoi3 maai4 ci3 so2
"to also go to the bathroom"

Examples from this dialog:

1. 有冇CHECK埋褸袋呀？
jau5 mou5 CHECK maai4 lau1 doi2 aa3?
"Did you also check your jacket pockets?"

Sample Sentences

1. 食埋啲嘢先走。
sik6 maai4 di1 je5 sin1 zau2.
"Finish all the food before leaving."
2. 去埋廁所出門口。
heoi3 maai4 ci3 so2 ceot1 mun4 hau2.
"Go to the bathroom before leaving home."
3. CALL埋呢個客收工。
CALL maai4 ni1 go3 haak3 sau1 gung1.
"Get off work after calling this client."
4. 搵埋佢一齊去啦。
wan2 maai4 keoi5 jat1 cai4 heoi3 laa1.
"Let's also get him to go together with us."
5. 做埋啲功課先打機。
zou6 maai4 di1 gung1 fo3 sin1 daa2 gei1.
"Finish doing all of [your] homework before playing video games."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

English Words Commonly Used in Cantonese speech

Have you noticed that Hong Kong people often use English words in their Cantonese conversations? For example, in the lesson dialogue, Wendy says, "有冇CHECK埋禮袋." We see that the word "check" is spoken, instead of its Cantonese translation, which is 檢查 (*gim2 caa4*). This practice is common. Here's another example, 唔該你幫我CHECK下 meaning, "Please check it for me."

Like "check," Hong Kong people often prefer to speak other words in English rather than their Cantonese translations, including "call," "friend," "party," "weekend," "cancel," "full," "book (as in to reserve a table at the restaurant, or a room at the hotel)," "menu," "check-in," "check-out," "hi," "bye," and "okay."

Here's a fun fact! In 2013, there was a widespread distribution of "goofs" video clips from two Hong Kong TV dramas set in ancient China. In the shows, the actors were saying "check" and "call" in English, which would not make any sense due to the setting in ancient times. These words came out so naturally that neither the actors nor the production crew realized it. The clips from the show instantly became a joke among netizens and were circulated widely.