

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #25

These Cantonese Phrases are Filled With Happiness!

CONTENTS

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

25

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. WENDY: 聖誕快樂!
2. JACKIE: 飲杯!
3. WENDY: 身體健康!
4. JACKIE: 同大家玩開心啲!

JYUTPING

1. WENDY: sing3 daan3 faai3 lok6!
2. JACKIE: jam2 bui1!
3. WENDY: san1 tai2 gin6 hong1!
4. JACKIE: tung4 daai6 gaa1 wan2 hoi1 sam1 di1!

ENGLISH

1. WENDY: Merry Christmas!
2. JACKIE: Cheers!
3. WENDY: To good health!
4. JACKIE: Have a great time with everyone!

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
聖誕	sing3 daan3	Christmas	noun
快樂	faai3 lok6	happy	adjective
身體	san1 tai2	body	noun
大家	daai6 gaa1	everyone, everybody	noun
飲杯	jam2 bui1	Cheers!	phrase
健康	gin6 hong1	healthy	adjective
玩	wan2, waan2	to play	verb
開心	hoi1 sam1	happy	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>我邀請父母去公司嘅聖誕PARTY。 ngo5 jiu1 cing2 fu6 mou5 heoi3 gung1 si1 ge3 sing3 daan3 PARTY.</p> <p>I invited my parents to my company Christmas party.</p>	<p>祝佢生日快樂。 Zuk1 keoi5 saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6.</p> <p>Happy birthday to him.</p>
<p>祝你身體健康。 Zuk1 nei5 san1 tai2 gin6 hong1.</p> <p>Wishing you good health.</p>	<p>水對身體好。 seoi2 deoi3 san1 tai2 hou2.</p> <p>Water is good for the body.</p>
<p>後生嗰陣大家都有啲理想主義。 hau6 saang1 go2 zan6 daai6 gaa1 dou1 jau5 di1 lei5 soeng2 zyu2 ji6.</p> <p>Everyone has a bit of idealism in their early years.</p>	<p>大家飲杯! daai6 gaa1 jam2 bui1!</p> <p>Cheers to everyone!</p>

<p>祝你身體健康。 <i>Zuk1 nei5 san1 tai2 gin6 hong1.</i></p> <p>Wishing you good health.</p>	<p>打疫苗可以守護孩子嘅健康。 <i>daa2 jik6 miu4 ho2 ji5 sau2 wu6 haai4 zi2 ge3 gin6 hong1.</i></p> <p>Vaccination can protect children's health.</p>
<p>玩夠未呀? <i>waan2 gaau3 mei6 aa3?</i></p> <p>Have you played long enough?</p>	<p>你做咩咁開心? <i>Nei5 zou6 me1 gam3 hoi1 sam1 ?</i></p> <p>Why are you so happy?</p>
<p>我而家好開心。 <i>Ngo5 ji4 gaa1 hou2 hoi1 sam1.</i></p> <p>I'm very happy now.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

飲杯

This term is a combination of 飲 (*jam2*) meaning "to drink" and 杯 (*bui1*) which is a classifier for a "glass." Together, they mean "Drink up!" or "Cheers!" as in offering a toast.

開心

This term is a combination of 開 (*hoi1*) for "to open" and 心 (*sam1*) for "heart," implying that an "open heart" is "happy."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Celebratory Phrases in Cantonese

聖誕快樂!

"Merry Christmas!"

For this lesson, we'll talk about celebratory phrases in Cantonese used for holidays and festivals. We hope you'll practice and use them, especially during the Chinese New Year. During this time, we usually say a four-character blessing upon meeting others. Also, kids receive red envelopes containing money for luck when they say these blessings to adults; therefore, it's common for kids to memorize several celebratory phrases.

Formation

event/noun + adjective (usually 2 characters)

Examples from this dialog:

1. 聖誕快樂!
sing3 daan3 faai3 lok6!
"Merry Christmas!"
2. 身體健康!
san1 tai2 gin6 hong1!
"To good health!"

Similar to celebratory phrases in English, such as "Happy Easter" and "Merry Christmas," Cantonese celebratory phrases also focus on happiness, and we use the adjective 快樂 (*fai3 lok6*) or "happy" most of the time.

For example:

1. 聖誕快樂!
sing3 daan3 faai3 lok6
"Merry Christmas!"
2. 生日快樂!
saang1 jat6 faai3 lok6
"Happy Birthday!"
3. 新年快樂!
san1 nin4 faai3 lok6
"Happy New Year!"
4. 復活節快樂!
fuk6 wut6 zit3 faai3 lok6
"Happy Easter!"
5. 母親節快樂!
mou5 can1 zit3 faai3 lok6
"Happy Mother's Day!"

For other blessings or greetings, we use a similar formula starting with the event or noun, followed by a two-character adjective. In the dialogue, we heard 身體健康 (*san1 tai2 gin6 hong1*) meaning "To good health!" Or, literally "body healthy." Below are some common greetings. Please try them during Chinese New Year, and you might receive some lucky money as well!

For example:

1. 出入平安!
ceot1 jap6 ping4 on1
"Safe trip wherever you go (Literally, "In-and-out safe!")!"
2. 笑口常開
siu3 hau2 soeng4 hoi1
"Wish you are always happy (Literally, "Laughing mouth always open!")!"
3. 萬事如意
maan6 si6 jyu4 ji3
"Hope everything goes your way (Literally, "All things go as you wish!")!"
4. 青春常駐
cing1 ceon1 soeng4 zyu3
"Wish you youth forever (Literally, "Youth always stays!")!"

Other than Chinese New Year, you can use Cantonese celebratory phrases many other times. For example:

1. When someone is going on a trip, we say: 一路順風 (*jat1 lou6 seon6 fung1*) meaning, "Wish you a happy voyage (Literally, "The whole way in favorable wind!")!"
2. When someone is getting married, we say 白頭到老 (*baak6 tau4 dou3 lou5*) meaning, "Wish you a long life together (Literally, "White heads till old!")!"
3. When someone is opening a new business, we say 生意興隆 (*saang1 ji3 hing1 lung4*) meaning, "Wish you a thriving and prosperous business (Literally, "Business prosperous!")!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese New Year in Hong Kong

The most important holiday in Hong Kong is the Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year. It's based on the lunar calendar, so it falls on a different date every year. For instance, in 2015, it's on February 19th; in 2016, it's on February 8th; and in 2017, it's on January 28th.

Chinese New Year is a family-oriented event. Most people celebrate with close and extended family members. On New Year's Eve, all of the family members gather together and have a festive dinner. Then, on New Year's Day, everyone visits their parents. From the second day on, friends gather together and play gambling games, in order to catch some "New Year luck." In Hong Kong, the public holiday starts from the first day of Chinese New Year and ends on the third day. But depending on the year's predicted lucky day to start business according to the Chinese divination guide and almanac called *Tung Shing*, some businesses might have a longer holiday, sometimes even stretching till the tenth day.