

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #2

First Things First in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. KAREN: 去澳門使唔使擺簽證?
2. OLIVIA: 唔知㗎。
3. KAREN: 上網查下先。
4. OLIVIA: 食完飯先啦。

JYUTPING

1. KAREN: heoi3 ou3 mun2 sai2 m4 sai2 lo2 cim1 zing3?
2. OLIVIA: m4 zi1 wo3.
3. KAREN: soeng5 mong5 caa4 haa5 sin1.
4. OLIVIA: sik6 jyun4 faan6 sin1 laa1.

ENGLISH

1. KAREN: Do you need a visa for visiting Macau?
2. OLIVIA: I don't know.
3. KAREN: Let's check it online now.
4. OLIVIA: Let's eat first (and do that later).

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
先	sin1	before others in time or order	adverb
攤	lo2	to take, to get, to obtain	verb
簽證	cim1 zing3	visa	noun
唔知	m4 zi1	not to know	phrase
護照	wu6 ziu3	passport	noun
知	zi1	to know (something)	verb
上網	soeng5 mong5	to go online	verb
查	caa4	to find, to search, to check	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>我去沖個涼先。 <i>ngo5 heoi3 cung1 go3 loeng4 sin1.</i></p> <p>I'm going to take a shower first.</p>	<p>完成課程之後可以攤到核准工人證明書。 <i>jyun4 sing4 fo3 cing4 zi1 hau6 ho2 ji5 lo2 dou2 hat6 zeon2 gung1 jan4 zing3 ming4 syu1.</i></p> <p>After completion of the course, one can obtain the certificate of Certified Worker.</p>
<p>你好攤走你個袋囉嗰，如果唔係我就坐喺上面喇。 <i>nei5 hou2 lo2 zau2 nei5 go3 doi2 lo3 wo3, jyu4 gwo2 m4 hai6 ngo5 zau6 co5 hai2 soeng6 min6 laa3.</i></p> <p>You'd better take away your bag, otherwise I'll sit on top of it.</p>	<p>我想申請工作簽證。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 san1 cing2 gung1 zok3 cim1 zing3.</i></p> <p>I want to apply for a work visa.</p>

<p>我唔知你喺度。 <i>ngo5 m4 zi1 nei5 hai2 do6.</i></p> <p>I didn't know you were here.</p>	<p>申請新護照需要三張照片。 <i>san1 cing2 san1 wu6 ziu3 sei1 jiu3 saam1 zoeng1 ziu3 pin2.</i></p> <p>To apply for a new passport, you need three copies of your photo.</p>
<p>我哋可能永遠都唔會知呢個習慣嘅起源。 <i>ngo5 dei6 ho2 nang4 wing5 jyun5 dou1 m4 wui5 zi1 ni1 go3 zaap6 gwaan3 ge3 hei2 jyun4.</i></p> <p>We will probably never know the origins of this habit.</p>	<p>我知佢叫咩名。 <i>ngo5 zi1 keoi5 giu3 me1 meng2.</i></p> <p>I know her name</p>
<p>我知道你好唔滿意，不過呢個只係臨時嘅安排。 <i>ngo5 zi1 dou3 nei5 hou2 m4 mun5 ji3, bat1 gwo3 ni1 go3 zi2 hai6 lam4 si4 ge3 on1 paai4.</i></p> <p>I know you are dissatisfied, but this arrangement is only temporary.</p>	<p>我唔知。 <i>ngo5 m4 zi1.</i></p> <p>I don't know.</p>
<p>我屋企可以上網。 <i>ngo5 uk1 kei2 ho2 ji5 soeng5 mong5.</i></p> <p>You can get online at my place.</p>	<p>聽講海關而家查得好嚴。 <i>teng1 gong2 hoi2 gwaan1 ji4 gaa1 caa4 dak1 hou2 jim4.</i></p> <p>I hear customs is checking everything carefully now.</p>

幫我查啲資料。

Bong1 ngo5 caa4 di1 zi1 liu2.

Help me search for some info.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

攤

This word has many definitions: "to fetch; to take; to get; to ask for." It is a unique word for

Cantonese, because it is not commonly used in other Chinese dialects.

上網

The verb meaning "to go online" is composed by two characters: 上 "up; to go on" and 網 "net."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using 先 (*sin1*).

上網查下先。

soeng5 mong5 caa4 haa5 sin1.

"Let's check it online now."

This lesson's grammar point is 先 (*sin1*), which can be translated as "(to do something) now," or "first," indicating the ranking of time or order for an action or event. It might sound confusing, but often you can tell chronological order from where 先 (*sin1*) is located in the sentence.

Examples from this dialog:

1. 上網查下先。
soeng5 mong5 caa4 haa5 sin1.
"Let's check it online now."
2. 食完飯先啦。
sik6 jyun4 faan6 sin1 laa1.
"Let's eat first."

In sentence 1, 先 (*sin1*) is placed at the very end of the sentence, implying that the speaker is about to do something immediately, hence the translation is usually "now."

While in sentence 2, it is a very straight-forward usage of 先 (*sin1*) "first," or "(do something) before (another action)," indicating the sequence of action. In the dialogue's case, "Eat first, then check online afterwards."

Sample Sentences

1. 我去洗手先。
ngo5 heoi3 sai2 sau2 sin1.
"I'll go wash my hands now."
2. 飲杯咖啡先。
jam2 bui1 gaa3 fe1 sin1.
"I'll have some coffee now." / "Let's have some coffee first."
3. 睇完戲先食飯。
tai2 jyun4 hei3 sin1 sik6 faan6.
"Watch a movie before eating."
4. 畢咗業先結婚。
bat1 zo2 jip6 sin1 git3 fan1.
"Graduate before getting married."
5. 洗咗手先食飯。
sai2 zo2 sau2 sin1 sik6 faan6.
"Wash hands before eating."

Language Expansion

Interestingly, the word 先 (*sin1*) when added in front of certain nouns, mean "late-." For examples: 先父 (*sin1 fu6*) "late father; a father that is deceased," 先人 (*sin1 jan4*) "a deceased person." However, 先知 (*sin1 zi1*), which looks similar to the above two terms, actually means "prophet," as in "someone who knew beforehand."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Macau Visa Requirements

Macau is well-known as Asia's Las Vegas, and yet the entry procedures into Macau are very simple. Citizens of most countries are allocated a 7-, 30-, 90-, or up to 180-day visa-free stay in Macau upon arrival. However, Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Nigerian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, and Vietnamese citizens cannot obtain a visa on arrival in Macau, and must apply for one in

advance at a Chinese embassy or consulate. As with most countries, you will need six months' validity on your passport. For other entry purposes like a business visa or student visa, you will need to apply at the nearest Chinese consulate.