

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #3

Make Sure You Buy Your Tickets Ahead of Time in Hong Kong!

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. KAREN: 我哋係咪搭船去?
2. OLIVIA: 係呀。
3. KAREN: 係咪要買定來回飛?
4. OLIVIA: 最好啦。

JYUTPING

1. KAREN: ngo5 dei6 hai6 mai6 daap3 syun4 heoi3?
2. OLIVIA: hai6 aa3.
3. KAREN: hai6 mai6 jiu3 maai5 ding6 loi4 wui4 fei1?
4. OLIVIA: zoi3 hou2 laa1.

ENGLISH

1. KAREN: Are we taking the ferry there?
2. OLIVIA: Yes.
3. KAREN: Should we buy return tickets in advance?
4. OLIVIA: That'd be better.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
最好	zeoi3 hou2	best	adjective
係咪	hai6 mai6	Is it true that...? Isn't it...?	phrase
搭	daap3	to take (a transport)	verb
船	syun4	ship, ferry, boat	noun
買	maai5	to buy	verb
來回	loi4 wui4	round trip	noun
單程	daan1 cing4	single trip	noun
飛	fei1	ticket	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>出外旅遊嘅時候最好搵一個當地人做導遊。</p> <p><i>ceot1 ngoi6 leoi5 jau4 ge3 si4 hau6 zeoi3 hou2 wan2 jat1 go3 dong1 dei6 jan4 zou6 dou6 jau4.</i></p> <p>When you go out to travel it's best to find a local to be your guide.</p>	<p>你係咪美國人?</p> <p><i>nei5 hai6 mai6 mei5 gwok3 jan4?</i></p> <p>Are you American?</p>
<p>搭車搭船都可以去。</p> <p><i>daap3 ce1 daap3 syun4 dou1 ho2 ji5 heoi3.</i></p> <p>We can go there by car or by boat.</p>	<p>搭車搭船都可以去。</p> <p><i>daap3 ce1 daap3 syun4 dou1 ho2 ji5 heoi3.</i></p> <p>We can go there by car or by boat.</p>
<p>佢會買一間喺河邊嘅屋。</p> <p><i>keoi5 wui5 maai5 jat1 gaan1 hai2 ho4 bin1 ge3 uk1.</i></p> <p>He will buy a house next to the river.</p>	<p>我想買架新車。</p> <p><i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 gaa3 san1 ce1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a new car.</p>

<p>要買三個先有優惠。 <i>jiu3 maai5 saam1 go3 sin1 jau5 jau1 wai6.</i></p> <p>You have to buy three if you want to get the discount.</p>	<p>你下次買多啲餸啦。 <i>nei5 haa6 ci3 maai5 do1 di1 sung3 laa1.</i></p> <p>Why don't you buy more groceries next time?</p>
<p>我肚餓嗰陣成日都會買好多餸。 <i>ngo5 tou5 ngo6 go2 zan6 sing4 jat6 dou1 wui5 maai5 hou2 do1 sung3.</i></p> <p>"I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry."</p>	<p>佢想買部好快嘅車。 <i>keoi5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 hou2 faai3 ge3 ce1.</i></p> <p>He wants to buy a fast car.</p>
<p>我買。 <i>ngo5 maai5.</i></p> <p>I'll buy it.</p>	<p>唔該，一張來回飛去羅湖。 <i>m4 goi1, jat1 zoeng1 loi4 wui4 fei1 heoi3 lo4 wu4.</i></p> <p>I'd like a round trip ticket to Luo Hu please.</p>
<p>唔該，一張單程飛去羅湖。 <i>m4 goi1, jat1 zoeng1 daan1 cing4 fei1 heoi3 lo4 wu4.</i></p> <p>I'd like a single trip ticket to Luo Hu please.</p>	<p>我諗聽日先去買飛嘅話一定買唔到。 <i>ngo5 lam2 ting1 jat6 sin1 heoi3 maai5 fei1 ge3 waa2 jat1 ding6 maai5 m4 dou2.</i></p> <p>I don't think you'll be able to buy a ticket tomorrow.</p>
<p>有冇飛？ <i>jau5 mou5 fei1 ?</i></p> <p>Do you have any tickets?</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

係咪

This is the shortened form of 係唔係 (*hai6 m4 hai6*) meaning "is it?" They are interchangeable.

For example: 你係咪中國人 (*nei5 hai6 mai6 zung1 gwok3 jan4*) = 你係唔係中國人

(*nei5 hai6 m4 hai6 zung1 gwok3 jan4*) "Are you Chinese?"

搭

We use this verb for most transportation, For example: 搭巴士 (*daap3 baa1 si2*) "to take a bus," 搭的士 (*daap3 dik1 si2*) "to take a taxi," 搭飛機 (*daap3 fei1 gei1*) "to ride an airplane," 搭船 (*daap3 syun4*) "to take a ferry," 搭地鐵 (*daap3 dei6 tit3*) "to take the subway."

來回

This is composed of 來 "to come" and 回 "to return" or "to rotate."

It's used in the phrase: 來來回回行咗幾次 (*loi4 loi4 wui4 wui4 haang4 zo2 gei2 ci3*) meaning "walking back and forth for few times."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using 定 (*ding6*).

係咪要買定來回飛?

hai6 mai6 jiu3 maa15 ding6 loi4 wui4 fei1?

"Should we buy return tickets in advance?"

This lesson's grammar point is 定 (*ding6*), which indicates that we do an action in preparation for the purpose of a future event, or do something in advance for future convenience. By itself, 定 (*ding6*) functions as a verb meaning "to settle" or "to set," but in this lesson, we'll talk about its usage when combined with a verb.

You might find the word 定 (*ding6*) familiar, because we have talked about this word in our Absolute Beginner series lessons. However, 定 (*ding6*) was referring to as "or" in those lessons, which is different than this lesson's use. We will discuss about their differences and how to distinguish between the two uses in the following Language Expansion section.

Formation:

verb + 定 (*ding6*)

Some examples:

買 "to buy"	買定	maai5 ding6	to buy (something) in advance
食 "to eat"	食定	sik6 ding6	to eat in advance
煮 "to cook"	煮定	zyu2 ding6	to cook in advance
寫 "to write"	寫定	se2 ding6	to write in advance

Example from this dialog:

- 買定來回飛
maai5 ding6 loi4 wui4 fei1
"Buy return tickets in advance."

In this sentence, the 定 (*ding6*) indicates an action that is performed for the purpose of the future event, which in this case is the trip to Macau.

For example:

- 買定下年用嘅書
maai5 ding6 haa6 nin2 jung6 ge3 syu1
"Buy the books we'll use next year in advance."
- 煮定飯等你
zyu2 ding6 faan6 dang2 nei5
"(I'll) cook a meal in advance and wait for you."
- 佢寫定遺囑
keoi5 se2 ding6 wai4 zuk1
"He signed his will in advance."

Language Expansion

In our Absolute Beginner series Season 2 lessons 9 and 13, we talked about the word 定 meaning "or." Please do not mix them up with this lesson's definition "(to do something) in advance."

For example:

1. 你飲咖啡定茶?
nei5 jam2 gaa3 fe1 ding6 naai5 caa4?
"Do you drink coffee or tea?"
2. 開夜車呀? 飲定咖啡啦。
hoi1 je6 ce1 aa4? jam2 ding6 gaa3 fe1 laa1.
"You're going to stay up all night studying? Drink some coffee in advance."

In sentence 1, 定 (*ding6*) is placed between two nouns, here it means "or."

In sentence 2, 定 (*ding6*) is placed after a verb, here it means "in advance."

In general, you can distinguish the above two definitions of 定 (*ding6*) by its location, if it is placed between two words of the same class (both nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc), it usually means "or."

On the other hand, if it is placed after a verb, but not followed by another verb, then it probably means "in advance."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Travel to Macau from Hong Kong

There are many ways to travel to Macau from Hong Kong, the most common one is taking the ferry. There are two ferry terminals from which the ferries depart Hong Kong, one in Tsim Sha Tsui on the Kowloon peninsula, and the other one is in Sheung Wan on Hong Kong Island. The ferry ride is a bit over one hour.

Aside from ferries, you can also travel to Macau by helicopter, which takes only fifteen minutes and departs from the ferry terminal in Sheung Wan. The cost is roughly thirty times more expensive than the ferry.

There are also airplanes flying between the airports in Hong Kong and Macau, but it would be the least popular choice due to the high cost and time-consuming nature.

In the near future, there will be another transportation option, when the Hong

Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is completed. The construction began in 2009 and it is expected to open in 2016.