

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #4 Don't Get Lost in the Crowd in Hong Kong!

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. OLIVIA: 小心呀，好多人。
2. KAREN: 我跟住你行啦。
3. OLIVIA: 拖住我啦。
4. KAREN: 哦。

JYUTPING

1. OLIVIA: siu2 sam1 aa3, hou2 do1 jan4.
2. KAREN: ngo5 gan1 zyu6 nei5 haang4 laa1.
3. OLIVIA: to1 zyu6 ngo5 laa1.
4. KAREN: o4.

ENGLISH

1. OLIVIA: Be careful, it's very crowded!
2. KAREN: I'll be following you.
3. OLIVIA: Hold my hand.
4. KAREN: Okay.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
哦	o4	okay (expressing realization or understanding)	phrase
啦	laa1	(common final particle used in requests and imperatives.)	final particle
小心	siu2 sam1	be careful	phrase
好多	hou2 do1	many; much	adjective
人	jan4	person, people	noun
跟	gan1	to follow	verb
行	hang4, haang4	to walk	verb
拖	to1	to mop; to drag; to hold (hands)	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>哦，咁我照做啦。 <i>o4, gam2 ngo5 ziu3 zou6 laa1.</i></p> <p>Okay, then I'll do it accordingly.</p>	<p>一齊走啦。 <i>jat1 cai4 zau2 laa1.</i></p> <p>Let's go together.</p>
<p>平啲啦。 <i>peng4 di1 laa1.</i></p> <p>Please lower the price.</p>	<p>過馬路要小心。 <i>gwo3 maa5 lou6 jiu3 siu2 sam1.</i></p> <p>Be careful when you cross the street.</p>
<p>我要睇好多資料。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 tai2 hou2 do1 zi1 liu2.</i></p> <p>I have to read a lot of materials.</p>	<p>我有好多朋友。 <i>ngo5 jau5 hou2 do1 peng4 jau5</i></p> <p>I have many friends.</p>

<p>佢個人好好。 <i>keoi5 go3 jan4 hou2 hou2.</i></p> <p>His personality is very nice.</p>	<p>無論你行到天涯海角，我都會跟住你。 <i>mou4 leon6 nei5 haang4 dou3 tin1 ngaai4 hoi2 gok3, ngo5 dou1 wui5 gan1 zyu6 nei5.</i></p> <p>I'll follow you, even if you go to the ends of the earth.</p>
<p>你要跟住個順序先安裝得倒。 <i>nei5 jiu3 gan1 zyu6 go3 seon6 zeoi6 sin1 on1 zong1 dak1 dou2.</i></p> <p>You have to install it by following a specific order.</p>	<p>佢行咗十公里。 <i>keoi5 haang4 zo2 sap6 gung1 lei5.</i></p> <p>He walked ten kilometers.</p>
<p>我行咗四個鐘。 <i>ngo5 haang4 zo2 sei3 go3 zung1.</i></p> <p>I have walked for four hours.</p>	<p>向前直行大概一百米。 <i>hoeng3 cin4 zik6 haang4 daai6 koi3 jat1 baak3 mai5.</i></p> <p>Walk straight for about one hundred meters.</p>
<p>佢哋開始拖手。 <i>keoi5 dei6 hoi1 ci2 to1 sau2.</i></p> <p>They began to hold hands.</p>	<p>拖拉式行李箱 <i>to1 laai1 sik1 hang4 lei5 soeng1</i></p> <p>suitcase with wheels</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

小心

This term has two characters: 小 "small" or "little," and 心 "heart." Together they make "small heart," implying the concept "to pay attention to something," hence the definitions "be careful" or "pay attention."

拖

When talking about an inanimate object, 拖 implies the action of "dragging" or "pulling." For example: 拖車 (*to1 ce1*) "a tow truck" or "to tow a vehicle." But when this verb is associated

with someone, it implies the action of "holding hands," for example: 拖住我 (*to1 zyu6 ngo5*)
"hold my hand."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Verb Complement 住

我跟住你行。

ngo5 gan1 zyu6 nei5 haang4 laa1.

"I'll be following you."

The verb complement 住 (*zyu6*) marks a static extensional state. For instance, 跟住 (*gan1 zyu6*) "to be following" implies the action of following in the continuous sense, and the action occurs for a relatively long duration. (Some linguists would say that it's a durative marker as well.)

In the conversation, we hear 拖住 (*to1 zyu6*), which means "to be holding someone's hand." 過馬路時拖住我 (*gwo3 maa5 lou6 si4 to1 zyu6 ngo5*) meaning "Hold my hand when we're crossing the road." Here we have the action of holding hands, but note that it's NOT a dynamic action, but a static condition that lasts for the whole time they're crossing the road.

Formation:

verb + 住 (*zyu6*)

For example:

1. 跟住
gan1 zyu6
"to follow; to be following"
2. 拖住
to1 zyu6
"to hold"; "to be holding"; "to drag"; "to be dragging"; "to tow"; "to be towing"
3. 睇住
tai2 zyu6
"to watch"; "to be watching"; "to look after"; "to be looking after"

Examples from dialogue:

1. 我跟住你行
ngo5 gan1 zyu6 nei5 hang4
"I'll follow you."; "I'll be following you."
2. 拖住我
to1 zyu6 ngo5
"Hold on to me."; "Hold my hand."

Sample Sentences

1. 過馬路時拖住我
gwo3 maa5 lou6 si4 to1 zyu6 ngo5
"Hold my hand when we're crossing the road."
2. 我睇住佢跌落地
ngo5 tai2 zyu6 keoi5 dit3 lok6 dei6
"I was watching when he fell."
3. 佢指住我
keoi5 zi2 zyu6 ngo5
"He is pointing his finger at me."
4. 佢指住我嚟鬧
keoi5 zi2 zyu6 ngo5 lei4 naau6
"He was pointing his finger at me while scolding me."
5. 記住買飛
gei3 zyu6 maa5 fei1
"Remember to buy the tickets."

Language Expansion

By itself, 住 (*zyu6*) is the verb "to live." Note that it is irrelevant to the verb complement

introduced above.

For example:

1. 我住嚟香港
ngo5 zyu6 hai2 hoeng1 gong2.
"I live in Hong Kong."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Holding Hands in Hong Kong

When you see a male and female holding hands on the street, it is safe to assume that they are lovers. However, it's quite common in Hong Kong or other Asian cities to see a parent (usually the mother) holding hands with their teenage or even adult son or daughter. Sisters, good friends and school mates are also commonly seen walking hand in hand. Boys or men, however, are more likely to hold on to each other's shoulders while walking. In general, the feeling of support and friendliness is very well received and appreciated.