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Lower Beginner S1 #5
Where in Hong Kong Should We Go for Lunch?

CONTENTS

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. KAREN: 不如去大家樂食嘢?

2. OLIVIA: 是但啦。

3. KAREN: 定係食雲吞麵?

4. OLIVIA: 你揀啦。

JYUTPING

1. KAREN: bat1 jyu4 heoi3 daai6 gaa1 lok6 sik5 je5?

2. OLIVIA: si6 daan6 laa1.

3. KAREN: ding6 hai6 sik6 wan4 tan1 min6?

4. OLIVIA: nei5 gaan2 laa1.

ENGLISH

1. KAREN: How about we go eat at Café de Coral?

2. OLIVIA: Anything is fine.

3. KAREN: Or should we eat wonton noodles?

4. OLIVIA: You choose.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
不如	bat1 jyu4	how about, let's…, why don't we…?	phrase
大家樂	daai6 gaa1 lok6	Café de Coral (popular fast food restaurant chain in Hong Kong)	proper noun
食嘢	sik6 je5	to eat something	verb
是但	si6 daan6	anything goes, as one pleases, whatever	phrase
大快活	daai6 faai3 wut6	Fairwood (popular fast food restaurant chain in Hong Kong)	conjunction
雲吞麵	wan4 tan1 min6	wonton noodles	noun
揀位	gaan2 wai2	to select seats	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

不如睇戲？
bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3?

How about we watch a movie?

我鍾意大家樂.
ngo5 zung1 ji3 daai6 gaa1 lok6.

"I like Café de Coral."

一陣去食嘢？
jat1 zan6 heoi3 sik6 je5?

Shall we eat later?

我哋想食嘢。
ngo5 dei6 soeng2 sik6 je5.

We want to eat something.

唔好成日講是但，要發表自己嘅意見。	呢間鋪頭嘅雲吞麵係全香港最出名嘅。
m4 hou2 sing4 jat6 gong2 si6 daan6, jiu3 faat3 biu2 zi6 gei2 ge3 ji3 gin3.	*ni1 gaan1 pou3 tau2 ge3 wan4 tan1 min6 hai6 cyun4 hoeng1 gong2 zeoi3 ceot1 meng2 ge3.*
Don't just say whatever, express your own opinions.	The wonton noodles at this store are the most well-known in Hong Kong.

叫咗你尋日買飛㗎啦，而家先買，冇得揀位喇。

giu3 zo2 nei5 cam4 jat6 maai5 fei1 gaa3 laa1, ji4 gaa1 sin1 maai5, mou5 dak1 gaan2 wai2 laa3.

I told you to get the tickets yesterday. We would have picked our seats if you had listened to me.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

是但

是 (*si6*) means "yes" and 但 (*daan6*) means "but." When you put them together, they actually mean "yes or no," implying "no preference" or "anything goes."

揀 can be translated as "to choose." This word is unique to Cantonese, as it is not used much in Mandarin nor other Chinese dialects.

For examples:

1. 揀食乜 (*gaan2 sik6 mat1*) "choose what to eat"

2. 揀邊個 (*gaan2 bin1 go3*) "choose which one"

3. 揀邊度 (*gaan2 bin1 dou6*) "choose which place"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Different Ways to Say "or."
定係食雲吞麵？
ding6 hai6 sik6 wan4 tan1 min6?
"Or (should we) eat wonton

This lesson's grammar point is different ways to say "or." In this lesson, we learned that 定係 (*ding6 hai6*) means "or," but do you remember the other terms that also mean "or" ifrom previous lessons? In our Absolute Beginner series Season 2 lessons 9 and 13, we talked about the word 定 (*ding6*) meaning "or" (Not to confuse it with this series's lesson 3: verb + 定 (*ding6*) meaning "(to do something) in advance").

In this lesson we will show you the common ways to say "or" in Cantonese, let's first recap what we have learned previously:

A 定 B？
A ding6 B?
"A or B?"

Note: When listing options, both "A" and "B" can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs.

For example:

1.   白色定紅色？
     baak6 sik1 ding6 hung4 sik1?
     "White or red?"

2.   電影定話劇？
     din6 jeng2 ding6 waa2 kek6?
     "Movie or play?"

3.   現金定碌咭呀？
     jin6 gam1 ding6 luk1 kaat1 aa3?
     "Cash or card?"

In this lesson's dialogue, we introduced another way to say "or": 定係 (*ding6 hai6*). It was:

1.   定係食雲吞麵？
     ding6 hai6 sik6 wan4 tan1 min6?
     "Or (should we) eat wonton noodles?"

Notice how this time, the "or" part is placed at the very beginning, instead of between the two options. We use this when the speakers were previously engaged in a conversation about choice(s), here 定係 (*ding6 hai6*) "or" acts as a follow up, or offers extra option.

Nevertheless, it can also be placed between two options, just like 定 (*ding6*).

A 定 B？= A 定係 B？
A *ding6* B？ = A *ding6 hai6* B？
"A or B?" = "A or B?"

For example:

1. 白色定係紅色？
   baak6 sik1 ding6 hai6 hung4 sik1?
   "White or red?"

2. 我哋搭船定係搭直升機去澳門？
   ngo5 dei6 daap3 syun4 ding6 hai6 daap3 zik6 sing1 gei1 heoi3 ou3 mun2?
   "Are we taking ferry or helicopter to Macau?"
   定係搭飛機？
   ding6 hai6 daap3 fei1 gei1?
   "Or (how about) taking the plane?"

3. 我哋去食麥當勞？
   ngo5 dei6 heoi3 sik6 maak6 dong1 lou4?
   "(Should) we go eat at McDonald's?"
   定係去KFC？
   ding6 hai6 heoi3 KFC?
   "Or (should) we go to KFC instead?"

Other than 定 (*ding6*) and 定係 (*ding6 hai6*), there are more ways to say "or" in Cantonese, including: 抑或 (*jik1 waak6*), 或者 (*waak6 ze2*), 又或者 (*jau6 waak6 ze2*). Don't be intimidated by the new terms, because the structure and word order are pretty much the same for all of them.

抑或 (*jik1 waak6*) "or"

For example:

1. 白色抑或紅色？
   baak6 sik1 jik1 waak6 hung4 sik1?
   "White or red?"

或者 (*waak6 ze2*) **"or; perhaps; maybe; otherwise,"** mostly used in statements instead of questions.

For example:

1. 白色或者紅色。
   baak6 sik1 waak6 ze2 hung4 sik1.
   "White or red."

又或者 (*jau6 waak6 ze2*) **"or; "perhaps"; "furthermore."** It's a combination of 又 (*jau6*) "again; in addition to" and 或者 (*waak6 ze2*) "or; perhaps." So it's commonly used for further suggestion of extra options. Like 或者 (*waak6 ze2*), 又或者 (*jau6 waak6 ze2*) is mostly used in statements instead of questions.

Sample Sentences

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1. 白色或者紅色，又或者藍色。
   baak6 sik1 waak6 ze2 hung4 sik1, jau6 waak6 ze2 laam4 sik1.
   "White or red, or blue."

2. 我哋可以搭船或者直升機去澳門。
   ngo5 dei6 ho2 ji5 daap3 syun4 waak6 ze2 zik6 sing1 gei1 heoi3 ou3 mun2.
   "We can go to Macau by ferry or helicopter."
   又或者搭飛機。
   jau6 waak6 ze2 daap3 fei1 gei1.
   "Or by the airplane."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hong Kong-style Fast Food Chain Restaurants

In Hong Kong, the working class and students usually have meals at fast food restaurants. Unlike the fast food restaurants you are familiar with, like McDonald's and KFC, in Hong Kong there are many Hong Kong-style fast food chain restaurants. Some are even listed on stock exchanges. The most popular ones are Café de Coral 大家樂, Fairwood 大快活, and Maxim's 美心. They offer Cantonese and western menus and breakfast, lunch, and dinner specials with reasonable prices. There is no service charge nor tips, and they offer water or tea for free. Many families in Hong Kong prefer to eat dinner at these restaurants as there is a lot of variety, and sometimes it's cheaper and less of a hassle than cooking at home.