

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #6

What's the Most Famous Dish at this Cantonese Restaurant?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 客人: 呢度至好食係乜?
2. 侍應: 我哋啲叉燒至出名。
3. 客人: 啥我要一碟叉燒啦。
4. 侍應: 多謝晒。

JYUTPING

1. HAAK3 JAN4: ni1 dou6 zi3 hou2 sik6 hai6 mat1?
2. SI6 JING3: ngo5 dei6 di1 caa1 siu1 zi3 ceot1 meng2.
3. HAAK3 JAN4: gam2 ngo5 jiu3 jat1 dip6 caa1 siu1 laa1.
4. SI6 JING3: do1 ze6 saai3.

ENGLISH

1. CUSTOMER: What is the best food here?
2. WAITER: Our barbecued pork is the most famous here.
3. CUSTOMER: Then I'll have one plate of barbecued pork.
4. WAITER: Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
呢度	ni1 dou6	here	pronoun
出名	ceot1 meng2	famous	adjective
碟	dip6	plate, plate of	noun; classifier
叉燒	caa1 siu1	barbecued pork	noun
咁	gam2	so, then	conjunction
侍應	si6 jing3	waiter, waitress	noun
客人	haak3 jan4	customer, client	noun
多謝晒	do1 ze6 saai3	Thank you very much. (formal)	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

呢度啲嘢好好食。 <i>ni1 dou6 di1 je5 hou2 hou2 sik6.</i> Food here is delicious.	人怕出名豬怕壯。 <i>jan4 paa3 ceot1 meng2 zyu1 paa3 zong3.</i> People fear getting famous, pigs fear getting fat. (Don't fly too close to the sun.)
兩碟菜就夠喇。 <i>loeng5 dip6 coi3 zu6 gau3 laa3.</i> Two dishes are enough.	咁... <i>gam2...</i> So...
我想像唔到呢度嘅侍應可以咁有禮貌！ <i>ngo5 soeng2 zoeng6 m4 dou2 ni1 dou6 ge3 si6 jing3 ho2 ji3 gam3 mou5 lai5 maau6!</i> I can't believe how rude the waiter is at this place!	呢個侍應服務好好。 <i>ni1 go3 si6 jing3 fuk6 mou6 hou2 hou2.</i> This waiter serves really well.

嗰個客人成日嚟投诉。

go2 go3 haak3 jan4 sing4 jat6 lei4 tau4 sou3.

That customer always comes to complain.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

出名 "famous"

This term is a combination of 出 (*ceot1*) "out; to give out" and 名 (*meng2*) "name."

碟 (*dip6 vs dip2*)

碟 when pronounced as *dip2*, this refers to the noun "plate; dish." But when pronounced as *dip6*, it becomes the classifier of plates, for example, 一碟菜 (*jat1 dip6 coi3*) "a plate of vegetables."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 至 (*zi3*) Meaning "the most."

我哋啲叉燒至出名。

ngo5 dei6 di1 caa1 siu1 zi3 ceot1 meng2.

"Our barbecued pork is the most famous here."

This lesson's grammar point is 至 (*zi3*), which, when followed by an adjective, is translated as "the most." When 至 (*zi3*) modifies an adjective, it acts as a superlative marker indicating that the modified adjective is in its superlative state, i.e. "most," "-est," etc.

Formation:

至 (*zi3*) + adjective

For example:

1. 至可愛

zi3 ho2 oi3

"the cutest"

2. 至大
zi3 daai6
"the biggest"

3. 至賺錢
zi3 zaan6 cin2
"the most profitable"

Examples from this dialog:

1. 呢度至好食係乜?
ni1 dou6 zi3 hou2 sik6 hai6 mat1?
"What is the best food here?"
2. 我哋啲叉燒至出名。
ngo5 dei6 di1 caa1 siu1 zi3 ceot1 meng2.
"Our barbecued pork is the most famous here."

至 (*zi3*) + adjective

Sample Sentences

至可愛	<i>zi3 ho2 oi3</i>	the cutest
至細	<i>zi3 sai3</i>	the smallest
至鍾意	<i>zi3 zung1 ji3</i>	the favorite
我至鍾意食春卷。	<i>ngo5 zi3 zung1 ji3 sik6</i> <i>ceon1 gyun2.</i>	Spring rolls are my favorite.
你至多可以俾幾錢？	<i>nei5 zi3 do1 ho2 ji3 bei2</i> <i>gei2 cin2?</i>	What's the most amount of money you can pay?

Language Tip

Do you remember learning something similar before? In our Absolute Beginner series Season 2 lesson 14, we talked about the word 最 (zeoi3), which acts like 至 (zi3). When used in expressing extremes in adjectives, 最 (zeoi3) and 至 (zi3) are interchangeable. Attitude-wise, 至 (zi3) sounds more colloquial than 最 (zeoi3).

To recap, the formation for 最 is:

最 (zeoi3) + adjective = "the most" + adjective

For example:

1. 最靚係你。
zeoi3 leng3 hai6 nei5.
"The most beautiful one is you."
2. 至靚係你。
zi3 leng3 hai6 nei5.
"The most beautiful one is you."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Roasted Meats in Cantonese Cuisine

燒味 (siu1 mei2), literally "roast flavor," refers to the general roast meats in Cantonese cuisine. Different kinds and parts of meat are prepared differently, and each has a specific name and goes with different sauces. It's safe to say that roasted meats to Hong Kong people are similar to sausages to Germans.

The most famous roast meat is 叉燒 (caa1 siu1) "barbecued pork." It's even developed into two of the most famous dim sum: barbecued pork buns (叉燒包 caa1 siu1 baau1) and barbecued pork puffs (叉燒酥 caa1 siu1 sou1).

During celebrations we eat 燒肉 (siu1 juk6) "roasted pig with crispy skin," so don't be surprised if you see a whole roasted suckling pig served on weddings or birthday parties.

Other yummy roasted meats include 豉油雞 (si6 jau4 gai1) "chicken cooked with soy sauce," 白切雞 (baak6 cit3 gai1) "marinated steamed chicken," 燒鵝 (siu1 ngo2) "roasted goose,"

and 燒鴨 (*siu1 aap3*) "roasted duck." Give them a try if you have a chance!