

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #8

Was That Cantonese Meal Worth the Price Tag?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. OLIVIA: 唔該，埋單!
2. KAREN: 呢一餐咁貴嘅?
3. OLIVIA: 算啦，都幾好味㗎。
4. KAREN: 麻麻喇啫。
5. OLIVIA: 咁下次去第二間。

JYUTPING

1. OLIVIA: m4 goi1, maai4 daan1!
2. KAREN: ni1 jat1 caan1 gam3 gwai3 ge2?
3. OLIVIA: syun3 laa1, dou1 gei2 hou2 mei6 aa1.
4. KAREN: maa4 maa2 dei2 zek1.
5. OLIVIA: gam2 haa6 ci3 heoi3 dai6 ji6 gaan1.

ENGLISH

1. OLIVIA: Excuse me, check please.
2. KAREN: How come this meal is so expensive?

CONT'D OVER

3. OLIVIA: Nevermind, it's quite tasty.
4. KAREN: I think it's so-so.
5. OLIVIA: Then next time we'll go to another one.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
埋單	maai4 daan1	to pay the bill	verb
好食	hou2 sik6	delicious, tasty	adjective
算啦	syun3 laa1	forget it, nevermind, leave it	adjective
貴	gwai3	expensive	adjective
麻麻嘞	maa4 maa2 dei2	a little/sort of, so-so	adverb
好辣	hou2 laat6	very spicy	adjective
好鹹	hou2 haam4	very salty	adjective
平	peng4	cheap	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>等我埋單。 <i>dang2 ngo5 maai4 daan1。</i></p> <p>Let me pay the bill.</p>	<p>呢度啲嘢好好食。 <i>ni1 dou6 di1 je5 hou2 hou2 sik6。</i></p> <p>The food here is delicious.</p>
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<p>算啦, 用完唔使俾返我喇。 <i>syun3 laa1, jung6 jyun4 m4 sai2 bei2 faan1 ngo5 laa3.</i></p> <p>Nevermind, keep it after you finished using it.</p>	<p>太貴喇。 <i>taai3 gwai3 laa6.</i></p> <p>Too expensive.</p>
<p>佢啲廣東話麻麻咗。 <i>keoi5 di1 gwong2 dung1 waa2 maa4 maa2 dei2.</i></p> <p>His Cantonese skill is so-so</p>	<p>佢麻麻咗有錢。 <i>Keoi5 maa4 maa2 dei2 jau5 cin2.</i></p> <p>He's sort of rich.</p>
<p>呢碟咖喱好辣。 <i>ni1 dip6 gaa3 lei1 hou2 laat6.</i></p> <p>This curry dish is very spicy.</p>	<p>啲菜好鹹, 你梗係落得太多鹽。 <i>di1 coi3 hou2 haam4, nei5 gang2 hai6 lok6 dak1 taai3 do1 jim4.</i></p> <p>The vegetables are very salty, you must have put in too much salt.</p>

平啲啦。
peng4 di1 laa1.

Cheaper, please.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

埋單

埋 means "to cover" or "to bury," and 單 means "bill." Together they mean "to settle the bill."

好

This is an adjective meaning "very." 好 literally means "good." When it's used before an adjective, it becomes "very good" or "very much."

For example, 好好食 (*hou2 hou2 sik6*) "very tasty" (literally, "very very good taste")

好鹹 (*hou2 haam4*) - "very salty"

好辣 (*hou2 laat6*) - "very spicy (hot)"

好貴 (*hou2 gwai3*) - "very expensive"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "another"

下次去第二間。

haa6 ci3 heoi3 dai6 ji6 gaan1.

"Next time we'll go to another one."

This lesson's grammar point is 第二 (*dai6 ji6*). When it's placed in front of a classifier, it is translated as "the other" or "another." By itself, 第二 (*dai6 ji6*) refers to the ordinal number "second," as in 第一 (*dai6 jat1*) "first," 第二 (*dai6 ji6*) "second," 第三 (*dai6 saam1*) "third," 第四 (*dai6 sei3*) "fourth," and so on. But in this lesson, we'll focus on how 第二 (*dai6 ji6*) is used to imply "another" or "the other."

Formation:

第二 (*dai6 ji6*) + classifier + object

For example (from the dialogue):

1. 下次去第二間
haa6 ci3 heoi3 dai6 ji6 gaan1
"Next time we'll go to another (restaurant)."

In this sentence, we're talking about "another restaurant," so we add the classifier for restaurant after 第二 (*dai6 ji6*), which is 間 (*gaan1*). For your reference, "a restaurant" in Cantonese is 一間餐廳 (*jat1 gaan1 caan1 teng1*).

Note: You might or might have not already studied classifiers (also known as "measure words"), so we've provided a cheat sheet in the Language Expansion section.

In some cases, when the object is mutually known or mentioned in the conversation, the object can be omitted, leaving only 第二 (*dai6 ji6*) + classifier. This is how it was expressed in the dialogue. Instead of saying 下次去第二間餐廳 (*haa6 ci3 heoi3 dai6 ji6 gaan1 caan1 teng1*), we saw 下次去第二間 (*haa6 ci3 heoi3 dai6 ji6 gaan1*), which does not have the word 餐廳 (*caan1 teng1*) "restaurant" in the sentence, but it is enough to be understood as "Next time we'll go to another restaurant."

Let's see some examples with other objects and their respective classifiers:

1. 第二個人
dai6 ji6 go3 jan4
"another person"
2. 第二件衫
dai6 ji6 gin3 saam1
"another piece of clothing"
3. 第二對鞋
dai6 ji6 deoi3 haai4
"another pair of shoes"
4. 第二堂
4 dai6 ji6 tong4
"another lesson"

From sentence 1, you should be able to spot the classifier and object, which are 個 (*go3*) and 人 (*jan4*) respectively. Sentences 2 and 3 are very straightforward, with the same [第二 (*dai6 ji6*) + classifier + object] pattern.

Sentence 4, however, has omitted the object 課 (*fo3*) "lesson," but since 堂 (*tong4*) is commonly known as the only classifier for "lesson," we can figure out that it's referring to "lesson" instead of other nouns, even though the actual word for "lesson" is not shown.

Language Expansion

Here's a cheat sheet for some of the most common classifier (measure words) in Cantonese:

Classifier/Measure Word	<i>jyutping</i>	Specified for Objects
個	<i>go3</i>	general units (eg. person, ball, bag, etc.)
件	<i>gin3</i>	upper part of clothing (eg. shirt, sweater, etc.)

條	<i>tiu4</i>	- lower part of clothing (eg. pants, skirt, dress, etc.) - long thin/narrow objects (eg. road, snake, rope, etc.)
對	<i>deoi3</i>	pairs (eg. shoes, eyes, hands, etc.)
支	<i>zi1</i>	slender inflexible objects (eg. pen, pistol, etc.)
張	<i>zoeng1</i>	flat objects (eg. paper, ticket, certificate, etc.)
架	<i>gaa3</i>	vehicles and big machines (eg. car, plane, forklift, etc.)
粒	<i>lap1</i>	small round objects (eg. pearl, chocolate, pimple, etc.)

For more details on measure words, please check out our video lesson on this topic at www.cantonese101.com/2012/10/26/learn-cantonese-in-three-minutes-9-measure-words/

CULTURAL INSIGHT

[Openrice, a Popular HK Restaurant Review Site/App](#)

Hong Kong is famous for its wide variety of cuisines from different countries and even from different provinces of China. There are endless choices, and the price range is very wide. Sometimes, people go out every weekend to try out new restaurants. Therefore, it's a big deal to pick the right restaurants.

"Openrice" is a popular site offering information, reviews, and photos of almost all the restaurants in Hong Kong. You can easily find a restaurant or café by filtering the particular

kind of food, in a particular area, within a specific price range. And without any doubt, the site has become a handy directory for diners in Hong Kong. Due to its popularity, it has also developed an English interface alongside its original Chinese interface, and of course, into an app for smartphone users.

The name "Openrice" is actually a direct translation from Cantonese 開飯 (*hoi1 faan6*). 開 (*hoi1*) is "open," and 飯 (*faan6*) is "cooked rice." But together, 開飯 (*hoi1 faan6*) means "the rice is cooked and dinner is ready." Because the name of this site is such a common term for dinner time, most Cantonese find it very easy to remember.