

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #9

How Popular is Fast Food in Hong Kong?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 客人: 唔該, 一個魚柳包。
2. 職員: 係。
3. 客人: 要多個大薯條。
4. 職員: 喺度食定拎走?

JYUTPING

1. HAAK3 JAN4: m4 goi1, jat1 go3 jyu4 lau5 baau1.
2. ZIK1 JYUN4: hai6.
3. HAAK3 JAN4: jiu3 do1 go3 daai6 syu4 tiu2.
4. ZIK1 JYUN4: hai2 dou6 sik6 ding6 ling1 zau2?

ENGLISH

1. CUSTOMER: A fish fillet burger, please.
2. STAFF: Certainly.
3. CUSTOMER: And one more large fries.
4. STAFF: For here or to go?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
魚柳包	jyu4 lau5 baau1	fish fillet burger	noun
薯條	syu4 tiu2	French fries	noun
職員	zik1 jyun4	staff	noun
喺度	hai2 dou6	here	adverb
拎走	ling1 zau2	take-away	adjective
客人	haak3 jan4	customer, client	noun
唔該	m4 goi1	excuse me, please, thank you	phrase
要	jiu3	to want, to need	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>今日魚柳包減價。 <i>gam1 jat6 jyu4 lau5 gaau1 gaam2 gaa3.</i></p> <p>Fish fillet burgers are on sale today.</p>	<p>薯條喺幾乎世界上每一個國家都好受歡迎。 <i>syu4 tiu5 hai2 gei1 fu4 sai3 gaai3 soeng6 mui5 jat1 go3 gwok3 gaa1 dou1 hou2 sau6 fun1 jing4.</i></p> <p>"French fries are popular in almost every country of the world."</p>
<p>我最鍾意食薯條。 <i>ngo5 zi3 zung1 ji3 sik6 syu4 tiu5.</i></p> <p>French fries are my favorite.</p>	<p>公司邀請專人為職員進行專業培訓。 <i>gung1 si1 jiu1 cing2 zyun1 jan4 wai6 zik1 jyun4 zeon3 hang4 zyun1 jip6 pui4 fan3.</i></p> <p>The company invited a special invited expert to give the staff industry training.</p>

<p>我唔知你喺度。 <i>ngo5 m4 zi1 nei5 hai2 do6.</i></p> <p>I didn't know you were here.</p>	<p>冇時間喺度食喇，拎走啦。 <i>mou5 si4 gaan3 hai2 dou6 sik6 laa3, ling1 zau2 laa1.</i></p> <p>We don't have time to eat here, just get it to go.</p>
<p>嗰個客人成日嚟投訴。 <i>go2 go3 haak3 jan4 sing4 jat6 lei4 tau4 sou3.</i></p> <p>That customer always comes to complain.</p>	<p>唔該，我諗你坐緊呢個位係我嘅。 <i>m4 goi1, ngo5 lam2 nei5 co5 gan2 ni1 go3 wai2 hai6 ngo5 ge3.</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, I think this is my seat you are sitting on."</p>
<p>唔該細聲啲。 <i>m4 goi1 sai3 seng1 di1.</i></p> <p>Please lower your volume.</p>	<p>我要兩個pizza。 <i>ngo5 jiu3 loeng5 go3 pizza.</i></p> <p>I want two pizzas.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

魚柳包 (*jyu4 lau5 baau1*)

魚 (*jyu4*) is "fish," 柳 (*lau5*) in this case is "meat in strips," and 包 (*baau1*) "bun." So altogether, 魚柳包 (*jyu4 lau5 baau1*) implies "fish fillet burger."

拎走 (*ling1 zau2*)

拎 (*ling1*) means "to take" or "to grab," and 走 (*zau2*) means "to walk," implying "away." So together, 拎走 (*ling1 zau2*) means "take away" or "(to order food) to go."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How "a" or "one" is Hidden in a Phrase in Cantonese

要多個大薯條。

jiu3 do1 go3 daai6 syu4 tiu2.

"And one more big fries."

Have you ever noticed how 一 (*jat1*) "a" or "one" is often omitted in Cantonese?

Let's start the explanation with a simple phrase 食包 (*sik6 baau1*) literally, "to eat bun." If we were to say "to eat a bun," it is 食一個包 (*sik6 jat1 go3 baau1*); it's a very straight-forward statement with the common formation: verb + number + classifier + noun.

With the same formation, "to eat three buns" would be 食三個包 (*sik6 saam1 go3 baau1*).

However, in this lesson we'd like to point out that that in colloquial speech, the number "one" is often omitted. For instance, 食一個包 (*sik6 jat1 go3 baau1*) will become 食個包 (*sik6 go3 baau1*), but the meaning remains unchanged, "to eat a bun."

For example:

1. 要多個大薯條。
jiu3 do1 go3 daai6 syu4 tiu2.
"And one more large fries."

In this sentence that we picked from the dialogue, it's originally 要多一個大薯條 (*jiu3 do1 jat1 go3 daai6 syu4 tiu2*), let's break it down: 要 "to want" / 多 "extra" / 一個 "one (+ classifier)" / 大 "large" / 薯條 "French fries." But now you've learned to remove 一 "one" for the sentence to sound natural and colloquial, hence 要多個大薯條 (*jiu3 do1 jat1 go3 daai6 syu4 tiu2*).

Therefore, we can see that 多 "extra" when followed by a classifier, means "one more" or "another." When we say 多個 (*do1 go3*), it actually implies 多一個. Remember that 個 (*go3*) is the classifier, and 一個 (*jat1 go3*) means "one piece." Hence 多一個 (*do1 jat1 go3*) means "one more piece."

For example:

1. 多個 (*do1 go3*) "another," "an extra," "one more"

In the last lesson, we mentioned some classifier (measure words) in Cantonese. They will be extra handy for this lesson. Simply change 個 to other classifiers according to the noun that follows. For example, when referring to "clothing" 衫 (*saam1*), we have to use the corresponding classifier 件 (*gin3*), hence here "another one" will become 多件 (*do1 gin3*), and 多件衫 (*do1 gin3 saam1*) means "another piece of clothing."

Sample Sentences

1. 食個包
sik6 go3 baau1
"to eat a bun"
2. 食多個包
sik6 do1 go3 baau1
"to eat another bun"; "to eat one more bun"
3. 買件衫
maai5 gin3 saam1
"to buy a piece of clothing"
4. 買多件衫
maai5 do1 gin3 saam1
"to buy another piece of clothing"; "to buy one more piece of clothing"
5. 買多個魚柳包
maai5 do1 go3 jyu4 lau5 baau1
"to buy another fish fillet burger"; "to buy one more fish fillet burger"

Language Expansion

If we're talking about two or more items, then we cannot skip the number word in between; remember that only "one" can be skipped. For instance, "two more" is 多兩個, "three more" is 多三個, "four more" is 多四個, and so on.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The "Hot" Nature of Fast Food Products

Most of the older generation think that deep-fried food in most fast food restaurant is not healthy. This is because such food is considered to have a "hot" nature 熱氣 (*jit6 hei3*); the "hot" here is not referring to the temperature nor spiciness, but the nature of the food that affects our body internally. According to Chinese medicine, consumption of "hot"-natured food is one of the main causes of swollen gums, mouth ulcers, sore throats, pimples, and even constipation.

There is a strong belief that deep-fried or crispy foods have a "hot" nature, and are irritating to the throat and the whole digestive system. Therefore, some people drink herbal tea to balance out the "hot" nature after eating these kinds of food.