

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #14 A Special Birthday Treat in China

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我哋要魚定蝦好呢?
2. 不如要蟹咁?
3. 新鮮嘅蟹好貴喔。
4. 但係呢間係海鮮酒樓嚟咖... 同埋今日係我生日呀!
5. 咁...
6. 唔該你咁!
7. 好啦，見係你生日咋。

JYUTPING

1. Ngo5 dei6 jiu3 jyu2 ding6 haa1 hou2 ne1 ?
2. Bat1 jyu4 jiu3 haai5 aa1 ?
3. San1 sin1 ge3 haai5 hou2 gwai3 o6.
4. Daan6 hai6 ni1 gaan1 hai6 hoi2 sin1 zau2 lau4 lai4 gaa6... tung4 maai4 gam1 jat6 hai6 ngo5 saang1 jat6 aa6!
5. Gam2...
6. Ng4 goi1 nei5 aa1 !

CONT'D OVER

7. Hou2 laa1, gin3 hai6 nei5 saang1 jat6 zaa3.

ENGLISH

1. A: Should we get fish or shrimp?
2. B: How about crab?
3. A: Fresh crab is so expensive.
4. B: But this is a seafood restaurant...and it's my birthday.
5. A: Well...
6. B: Come on...
7. A: Ok honey, it's only because it's your birthday.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
青口	ceng1 hau2	mussels	noun
新鮮	san1 sin1	fresh	adjective
冰凍	bing1 dung3	frozen	adjective
見係	gin3 hai6	it's only because	other
魚	jyu2	fish	noun
蟹	haai5	crab	noun
海鮮	hoi2 sin1	seafood	noun

龍蝦	lung4 haa1	lobster	noun
蝦	haa1	shrimp	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>今日嘅青口太細隻，唔好味。 gam1 jat6 ge3 ceng1 hau2 taai3 saai3 zek6, m4 hou2 mei6.</p> <p>Today's mussels are too small, and don't taste good.</p>	<p>新鮮嘅海鮮唔係每日都有。 san1 sin1 ge3 hoi2 sin1 m4 hai6 mui5 jat6 dou1 jau5.</p> <p>There is not fresh seafood every day.</p>
<p>佢哋個雪櫃裝滿晒冰凍食品。 keoi5 dei6 go3 syut3 gwai6 zong1 mun2 sai3 bing1 dung3 sik6 bun2.</p> <p>They stocked the freezer with frozen food.</p>	<p>見係你鍾意，先帶你去旅遊咋。 gin3 hai6 nei5 zung1 ji3, sin1 daai3 nei5 heoi3 leoi5 jau4 zaa3.</p> <p>It's only because you like it, that I take you traveling.</p>
<p>鷹突然撲下來抓魚。 jing1 dat6 jin4 pok3 haa6 loi4 zaa1 jyu4</p> <p>The eagle is flying and swooping for fish.</p>	<p>兩隻螃蟹在岩石上走。 loeng5 zek3 pong4 haa5 zoi6 ngaam4 sek6 soeng6 zau2</p> <p>The two crabs are walking on a rock.</p>
<p>香港嘅海鮮好新鮮，好出名。 hoeng1 gong2 ge3 hoi2 sin1 hou2 san1 sin1, hou2 ceot1 meng2.</p> <p>Hong Kong seafood is fresh and famous.</p>	<p>龍蝦在石頭上。 lung4 haa1 zoi6 sek6 tau4 soeng6.</p> <p>The lobster is on the rock.</p>
<p>我要嘅係咖哩蝦，唔係咖哩牛肉！ ngo5 jiu3 ge3 hai6 gaa3 lei1 haa1, m4 hai6 gaa3 lei1 ngau4 juk6 !</p> <p>What I ordered was shrimp curry, not beef curry!</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Special Cases

見係你生日咋。

"It's only because it's your birthday."

Our grammar point in this lesson focuses on the structure 見係... 咋 (*gin3 hai6... zaa3*). When you start a sentence with 見係 and finish it with 咋, you are making a statement that is trying to explain the reasoning behind specific cases. In our dialogue, we hear this when the first speaker says 見係你生日咋 ("It's only because it's your birthday"). This is the best way to explain the reasoning behind special cases, as also in our following examples:

1. 見係我鍾意你咋。
gin3 hai6 ngo5 zung1 ji3 nei5 zaa3
"It's only because I love you."
2. 見係我今日出糧咋, 我哋食海鮮啦。
gin3 hai6 ngo5 gam1 jat6 ceot1 leong4 zaa3, ngo5 dei6 sik6 hoi2 sin1 laa1.
"It's only because I got paid today that we are eating seafood."
3. 見係啲龍蝦唔新鮮咋, 我哋買牛扒啦。
gin3 hai6 di1 lung4 haa1 m4 san1 sin1 zaa3, ngo5 dei6 maai5 ngau4 paa2 laa1.
"It's only because the lobster isn't fresh that we bought steak."

This is a fairly straightforward pattern. Just don't forget to add the particle 咋 (*zaa3*) at the end of your sentence. Adding this helps make the reason more emphatic and emphasizes the speaker's mood: this is a special case!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Fresh Seafood in Hong Kong

In the Hong Kong movie *The Chinese Feast* starring Leslie Cheung (張國榮), there is a funny scene that involves a live fish getting loose in a restaurant kitchen. The scene is of course exaggerated, but the humor reflects the fact that Hong Kong restaurants are great places to go if you're looking for fresh seafood.

If you're just passing through the city, let us recommend two general areas worth visiting. The first is Sai Kung Port (西貢碼頭), although this is more of a destination than a specific restaurant place. One of the best places to eat seafood in Hong Kong, Sai Kung has a whole street of seafood restaurants. To ensure that even the most fussy eaters can be satisfied by the freshness of the food, restaurant owners spend millions of HKD every year on aquariums and other equipment, making the restaurants in the area resemble nothing so much as aquatic zoos.

Another place we feel compelled to mention is Lei Yue Mun (鯉魚門), which has more of a grassroots Hong Kong feeling to it. The interesting thing about Lei Yue Mun is that you can't just step into a restaurant and order food. What you have to do is buy your own seafood at the fish market, and then take it to a restaurant with the request that a local chef (referred to as 魚王 "jyu4 wong4") will cook it for you. Local people think this method makes sure both restaurants and seafood sellers do the best job and ensures the freshest and best-tasting food.