

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #16 Have You Ever Gone on a Blind Date in Hong Kong?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 我阿媽又嗌我去相睇。
2. B: 今次去見邊個?
3. A: 一個地產商個仔。
4. B: 咁咪好有米?
5. A: 我都唔志在，我想搵個人代我去。

JYUTPING

1. A: ngo5 aa3 maa1 jau6 ngaai3 ngo5 heoi3 seong1 tai2.
2. B: gam1 ci3 jau6 gin3 bin1 go3?
3. A: jat1 go3 dei6 caan2 seong1 go3 zai2.
4. B: gam2 mai6 hou2 jau5 mai5?
5. A: ngo5 dou1 m4 zi3 zoi6 ,ngo5 seong2 wan2 go3 jan4 doi6 ngo5 heoi3.

ENGLISH

1. A: My mom has asked me to go on blind date again.
2. B: Who are you seeing this time?

CONT'D OVER

3. A: The son of a real estate developer.
4. B: Then he's rich, right?
5. A: I don't care. I'm thinking about getting someone to go for me.

VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization | English | Class |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 地產 | dei6 caan2 | real estate | noun |
| 相睇 | soeng1 tai2 | blind date | verb |
| 有米 | jau5 mai5 | rich | adj |
| 志在 | zi3 zoi6 | to aim at | verb |
| 代 | doi6 | for; on behalf of | verb |
| 在乎 | zoi6 fu4 | to care about | verb |
| 開發商 | hoi1 faat3 soeng1 | developer | noun |
| 啖 | aai3 | to ask | verb |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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| <p>最近十年做地產可以賺好多錢。 <i>zeoi3 gan6 sap6 nin4 zou6 dei6 caan2 ho2 ji5 zaan6 hou2 do1 cin2.</i></p> <p>In the last ten years, real estate has made a lot of money .</p> | <p>今次嘅相睇係我媽咪安排嘅。 <i>gam1 ci3 ge3 soeng1 tai2 hai6 ngo5 maa1 mi4 on1 paai4 ge2.</i></p> <p>This blind date was arranged by my mother.</p> |
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| <p>真正有米嘅人係好低調㗎。 zan1 zing3 jau5 mai5 ge3 jan4 hai6 hou2 dai1 diu6 gaa3.</p> <p>Really rich people are very low-key.</p> | <p>佢好勤力訓練，志在攞冠軍。 Keoi5 hou2 kan4 lik6 fan3 lin6, zi3 zoi6 lo2 gwun3 gwan1.</p> <p>He trains hard, and aims at the champion.</p> |
| <p>聽日個考試你可唔可以代我去呀？ ting1 jat6 go3 haau2 si3 nei5 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 doi6 ngo5 heoi3 aa3?</p> <p>Could you go to the examination for me tomorrow ?</p> | <p>佢好在乎人地講佢壞話。 keoi5 hou2 zoi6 fu4 jan4 dei6 gong2 keoi5 waa6 waa2.</p> <p>He cares when other people say bad things about him.</p> |
| <p>三年前嘅項目已經為開發商帶嚟巨大嘅利潤。 saam1 nin4 cin4 ge3 hong6 muk6 ji2 ging1 wai6 hoi1 faat3 seong1 daai3 lai4 geoi6 daai6 ge3 lei6 jeon6.</p> <p>The project already had huge profits for the developers three years ago.</p> | <p>點解佢哋唔啱我去尋晚個party啊？ Dim2 gaai2 keoi5 dei6 m4 aai3 ngo5 heoi3 cam4 maan5 go3 party aa3?</p> <p>Why didn't they ask me to the party last night ?</p> |

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Ask a Rhetorical Question

咁咪好有米？

"Then he's rich, right?"

Our grammar point in this lesson is on how to use the word 咁咪 (*gam2 mai6*) "isn't it" to make a rhetorical question. These can be translated into English as both positive and negative questions, but they are really just asking for affirmation that the situation is as expected, as with the questions 咁咪好好 (*gam2 mai6 hou2 hou2*) "it must be good, right" and 咁咪好多 (*gam2 mai6 hou2 do1*) "it must be a lot, no"? The rules here are simple. Simply start your sentence with 咁咪, and follow it with a statement. In our dialogue we heard this in the sentence 咁咪好有米 (*gam2 mai6 hou2 jau5 mai5?*) "then he has money, right". For more examples, consider the following sentences:

1. 咁佢咪係地產商？
gam2 keoi5 mai6 hai6 dei6 caan2 seong1?
"Then he must be a real estate developer, right?"
2. 咁佢咪識得講廣東話？
gam2 keoi5 mai6 sik1 dak1 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2?
"Then he must speak Cantonese, right?"
3. 咁你咪係30歲？
gam2 nei5 mai6 hai6 saam1 sap6 sei3?
"You must be thirty years old, right?"

Although the subject in our dialogue was implied, did you noticed where we added it to our example sentences? Just insert the subject between 咁 and 咪. If you wanted to say 咁佢地咪相睇嗰陣識嘅？ (*gam2 keoi5 dei6 mai6 soeng1 tai2 go2 zan6 sik1 ge2*) "they met on a blind date, didn't they?", you would need to insert the subject 佢地 ("they") between 咁 and 咪.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Date with an Audience of One Billion

In 2010, a television station in Jiangsu province (mainland China) produced a reality television show called 非誠勿擾. This show popularized the concept of blind dating throughout mainland China and eventually in Hong Kong as well. Encouraged by the success of this show, Hong Kong TV stations including TVB (香港無線電視台) and ATV (亞洲電視) have put their own local versions into production. If you're looking for love, maybe you can try being a contestant?