

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #21

An Unexpected Chinese Opportunity

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 我好想睇容祖兒演唱會呀!
2. B: 我夠想囉，但係好難買飛啊!
3. A: 我朋友有飛讓出嚟。
4. B: 唔係已經賣晒喇咩!
5. A: 佢臨時有事唔去得。

JYUTPING

1. A: Ngo5 hou2 seong2 tai2 jung4 zou2 ji4 jin2 coeng3 wui2 aa3!
2. B: Ngo5 gau3 seong2 lo3, daan6 hai6 hou2 naan4 maai5 fei1 aa3!
3. A: Ngo5 pang4 jau5 jau5 fei1 jeong6 ceot1 lai4.
4. B: M4 hai6 ji5 ging1 maai6 saai3 laa3 me1?
5. A: Koi5 lam4 si4 jau5 si6 m4 heoi3 dak1.

ENGLISH

1. A: I really want to watch the concert by Joey Yung!
2. B: I also want to watch it, but it's really difficult to get tickets!

CONT'D OVER

3. A: My friend has tickets for sale.
4. B: I thought they were sold out!
5. A: She can't go because of an emergency.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
演出	jin2 ceot1	performance	noun
樂隊	ngok6 deoi2	band	noun
粉絲	fan2 si1	fans	noun
黃牛黨	wong4 ngau4 dong2	ticket scalper	noun
讓	jeong6	to yield	verb
臨時	lam4 si4	temporary	adj.
飛	fei1	ticket	noun
明星	ming4 sing1	star	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>佢尋日嘅演出值得高度讚揚。 <i>Koi5 cam4 jat6 ge3 jin2 ceot1 zit6 dak1 gou1 dou6 zaan3 jeong4.</i></p> <p>His performance yesterday was highly praised.</p>	<p>香港最出名嘅樂隊莫過於beyond。 <i>Heong1 gong2 zeoi3 ceot1 meng2 ge3 ngok6 deoi2 mok6 gwo3 jyu1 beyond.</i></p> <p>The most famous band in Hong Kong is Beyond.</p>
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<p>BEYOND係我最鍾意嘅樂隊。 <i>BEYOND hai6 ngo5 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 ge3 ngok6 deoi2.</i></p> <p>Beyond is my favorite band.</p>	<p>你永遠都想像唔到劉德華係香港有幾多粉絲。 <i>Nei5 wing5 jyun5 dou1 seong2 zeong6 m4 dou2 lau4 dak1 waa4 hai2 heong1 gong2 jau5 gei2 do1 fan2 si1.</i></p> <p>You can never imagine how many fans Andy Lau has in Hong Kong.</p>
<p>去黃牛黨度買飛通常都會好貴。 <i>Heoi3 wong4 ngau4 dong2 dou6 maai5 fei1 tong1 seong4 dou1 wui5 hou2 gwai3.</i></p> <p>It's always very expensive to buy a ticket from the ticket scalper.</p>	<p>難以想像佢讓咗個冠軍出嚟。 <i>naan4 ji5 seong2 zeong6 keoi5 jeong6 zo2 go3 gwun3 gwan1 ceot1 lai4.</i></p> <p>It's hard to imagine that he let other people take his championship.</p>
<p>我知道你好唔滿意，不過呢個只係臨時嘅安排。 <i>ngo5 zi1 dou3 nei5 hou2 m4 mun5 ji3, bat1 gwo3 nei1 go3 zi2 hai6 lam4 si4 ge3 ngon1 paai4.</i></p> <p>I know you are dissatisfied, but this arrangement is only temporary.</p>	<p>我諗聽日先去買飛嘅話一定買唔到。 <i>ngo5 lam2 ting1 jat6 sin1 heoi3 maai5 fei1 ge3 waa2 jat1 ding6 maai5 m4 dou2.</i></p> <p>I don't think you'll be able to buy a ticket tomorrow.</p>
<p>有冇飛？ <i>jau5 mou5 fei1 ?</i></p> <p>Do you have a ticket?</p>	<p>如果好彩嘅話你會係呢個商場見到明星。 <i>Jyu4 gwo2 hou2 coi2 ge3 waa2 nei5 wui5 hai6 nei1 go3 seong1 ceong4 gin3 dou2 ming4 sing1.</i></p> <p>If you are lucky, you will see a star in this shopping mall.</p>
<p>你想唔想做明星？ <i>nei5 soeng2 m4 soeng2 zou6 ming4 sing1 ?</i></p> <p>Do you want to be a super star?</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is The Negative Form of 得

佢臨時有事唔去得。

"She can't go because of an emergency."

In a previous lesson we learned how to use the character 得 as a verb complement in order to express the idea that something is possible. For instance, we learned that 去得 means "to be able to go" and 食得 means "to be able to eat." In this lesson, we want to expand on this and cover the negative counterpart to this structure. In order to put these expressions in the negative, we must negate the main verb rather than the verb complement. Start your sentence with 唔, and then add the rest of the phrase as it occurs in the affirmative version. This means that one is not able to carry out the verb in question. In our dialogue, we see this pattern when we hear about the friend who purchased the tickets, and then learn that "she can't go because of an emergency," or 佢臨時有事唔去得.

For more examples of this pattern, consider the following sentences:

1. 我身上無咁多錢，所以唔買得黃牛黨嘅飛。
"I don't have enough cash so can't buy a ticket from scalpers."
2. 佢五音不全，從細就唔唱得歌。
"He has been tone deaf since childhood and can't sing."
3. 佢唔做得好戲。
"He is not able to act well."

As in our third example above, note that we can add other verb complements to our expression to describe the degree of our negative expression.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Perfect Concert Venue

Since it opened its doors in 1983, the Hong Kong Coliseum has hosted thousands upon thousands of concerts by both native Hong Kong singers as well as entertainers from other

parts of Asia. And it's no exaggeration to say that in this time the Coliseum has become the epicenter of the pan-Asian music industry. For more than twenty years now, the career goal of practically every singer in greater Asia has been to lead a concert at the Hong Kong venue.

But there's another reason to love the Coliseum too: it is actually reasonably affordable as major venues go. Even if you live in a Cantonese-speaking part of mainland China, you will probably find that tickets to big-name shows are cheaper in Hong Kong than when the same shows pass through Southern China on tour. Partly this is because singers tend to do multiple dates in Hong Kong while they pass through other mainland cities much faster. And while you can't buy tickets in person without showing up in Hong Kong, if you are in mainland China you might want to check out websites like damai.cn and taobao.com which frequently resell Coliseum tickets.