

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #22 Chinese Construction Keeping You Awake?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 樓下因乜事咁嘈?
2. B: 施緊工啊。
3. A: 夜媽媽施乜工?
4. B: 爆水渠，宜家搶修緊。
5. A: 今晚實冇覺好瞓。

JYUTPING

1. A: lau4 haa6 jan1 mat1 si6 gam3 cou4?
2. B: si1 gan2 gong1 aa3.
3. A: je6 ma1 ma1 si1 mat3 gong1?
4. B: baau3 seoi2 koi4,ji4 gaa1 ceong2 sau1 gan2?
5. A: gam1 maan5 sat6 mou5 gaau3 hou2 fan3.

ENGLISH

1. A: Why is it so noisy down there?
2. B: There's construction work.

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3. A: Why is there construction work at such a late hour?
4. B: The water pipe burst and is under emergency repair.
5. A: It will surely be a sleepless night tonight.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
因乜事	jan1 mat1 si6	for what/why	phrase
嘈	cou4	noisy	adjective
施工	si1 gung1	construction	noun
夜媽媽	je6 ma1 ma1	night hours	noun
爆	baau3	to burst	verb
水渠	seoi2 keoi4	big pipe	noun
搶修	ceong2 saau1	emergency repair	verb
實	sat6	surely	adverb
冇覺好瞓	mou5 gaau3 hou2 fan3	sleepless	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你知唔知因乜事搞到佢咁唔開心啊?
*nei5 zi1 m4 zi1 jan1 mat1 si6 gaau2 dou3 keoi5
gam3 m4 hoi1 sam1 aa3?*

Do you know why he is so unhappy?

佢覺得要睇住班嘈喧巴閉嘅細路好煩。

*keoi5 gok3 dak1 jiu3 tai2 zyu6 baan1 cou4
hyun1 baa1 bai3 ge3 sai3 lou6 hou2 faan4.*

She had some trouble looking after the noisy children.

<p>呢間公司缺乏施工同埋管理項目嘅經驗。</p> <p><i>ni1 gaan1 gung1 si1 kyut3 fat6 si1 gung1 tung4 maai4 gwun2 lei5 hong6 muk6 ge3 ging1 jim6.</i></p> <p>This company lacks of proof experience in construction project management.</p>	<p>夜媽媽好心你就唔好嘈住人哋瞓覺啦。</p> <p><i>je6 ma1 ma1 hou2 sam1 nei5 zau6 m4 hou2 cou4 zyu6 jan4 dei6 fan3 gaau3 laa1.</i></p> <p>Please do not disturb others when they are sleeping at night hour.</p>
<p>佢演講完之後，全場爆發出一陣掌聲。</p> <p><i>keoi5 jin2 gong2 jyun4 zi1 hau6, cyun4 ceong4 baau3 faat3 ceot1 jat1 zan6 zeong2 sing1.</i></p> <p>The entire hall burst into applause after his speech.</p>	<p>你千祈唔好將啲電線接係水渠上面。</p> <p><i>nei5 cin1 kei4 m4 hou2 zeong1 di1 din6 sin3 zip3 hai2 sei2 keoi4 seong6 min6.</i></p> <p>You should never connect an electric wire to a water pipe.</p>
<p>我哋需要而家就搶修，如果唔係後果好嚴重。</p> <p><i>ngo5 dei6 sei1 jiu3 ji4 gaa1 zau6 ceong2 saau1, jyu4 gwo2 m4 hai6 haau6 gwo2 hou2 jim4 zung6.</i></p> <p>We need emergency repair now, if not, the consequences will be grievous.</p>	<p>咁辛苦先考完試，我地實要慶祝下。</p> <p><i>gam3 san1 fu2 sin1 haau2 jyun4 si5, ngo5 dei6 sat6 jiu3 hing3 zuk1 haa5.</i></p> <p>We've had such a hard time finishing the test, so we really must celebrate.</p>
<p>仲有咁多作業未做，睇嚟今晚又冇覺好瞓。</p> <p><i>zung6 jau5 gam3 do1 zok3 jip6 mei6 zou6, tai2 lai4 gam1 maan5 jau6 mou5 gaau3 hou2 fan3.</i></p> <p>With so much homework, we'll surely have a sleepless night tonight.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is an Advanced Way to Negate a Reversed Verb

今晚實冇覺好瞓。

"It will surely be a sleepless night tonight."

In previous lessons we've run into verbs that get reversed when they are put into the negative.

For instance, when we put 做嘢 (*zou6 je5*) "to work" into a negative sentence, we end up with the phrase 冇嘢做 (*mou5 je5 zou6*) "to have no work to do". In this lesson, we want to cover another way to negate a reversed verb, as we see in this sentence in our dialogue: 今晚實有覺好瞓 (*gam1 maan5 sat6 mou5 gaau3 hou2 fan3*) "It will surely be a sleepless night tonight".

The technique being used here is to reverse our verbs as we have previously learned and then add a 好 (*hou2*) to the end of the phrase. This carries the same meaning as the original negation, but comes across as a much more casual way of speaking. It also has another advantage in many cases: keeping the phrase to four characters, which helps maintain syllable balance and makes the sentence sound better to native speakers.

For more examples of this type of negation in practice, consider the following examples:

1. 尋晚外面施工太嘈，搞到我有覺好瞓。
cam4 maan5 ngoi6 min6 si1 gung1 taai3 cou4, gaau2 dou3 ngo5 mou5 gaau3 hou2 fan3
"It was too noisy last night because of the construction and I didn't sleep."
2. 如果唔係你擺走我個衣櫃，我就唔會有衫好著。
jyu4 gwo2 m4 hai6 nei5 lo2 zau2 ngo5 go3 ji1 gwai6, ngo5 zau6 m4 wui5 mou5 saam1 hou2 zoek3
"If you did not take away my wardrobe, I would have something to wear."
3. 最衰今日咁大雨啦，搞到我有街好行。
zeoi3 seoi1 gam1 jat6 gam3 daai6 jyu5 laa1, gaau2 dou3 ngo5 mou5 gaai1 hou2 haang4
"It's too bad that today it's raining so hard and I can't go shopping."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Housing in Hong Kong

Construction can be a huge problem for people living in Hong Kong and the reason is that the city is so crowded. Recently, the per-capita living space in Hong Kong has fallen to 7.1 square meters and the average prices of housing have risen to 60,000 to 100,000 HKD per square meter. This has created a strange phenomenon in which more than 36% of the population lives in cheap public rental housing developed by the government in Hong Kong. According

to government regulations, the price of these rentals should not be more than 10% of the tenant's family income.