

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #3 Nothing's Perfect in China

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 部手提電腦好靚喔!
2. B: 多謝，我尋日買嘅。
3. A: 又薄又輕。
4. B: 係呀...係最新嘅型號。
5. A: 但係個螢幕細咗啲。
6. B: 冇嘢係完美咖嘛。

JYUTPING

1. A: bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 hou2 leng3 wo3!
2. B: do1 ze6, ngo5 cam4 jat6 maai5 ge3.
3. A: jau6 bok6 jau6 heng1.
4. B: hai6 aa1...hai6 zeoi3 san1 ge3 jing4 hou6.
5. A: daan6 hai6 go3 jing4 mok6 sai3 zo2 di1.
6. B: mou5 je5 hai6 jyun4 mei5 gaa1 maa3.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: What a beautiful laptop!
2. B: Thanks, I just bought it yesterday.
3. A: It's so thin, and so light.
4. B: Yeah...it's the latest model.
5. A: But the screen is a bit small.
6. B: Well...nothing is perfect.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
型號	jing4 hou6	model	phrase
螢幕	jing4 mok6	screen	phrase
完美	jyun4 mei5	perfect	phrase
薄	bok6	thin	phrase
手提電腦	sau2 tai4 din6 nau5	laptop computer	phrase
大	daai6	big	adjective
細	sai3	small	adjective
輕	heng1	light	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>新嘅型號下個星期有得賣。 <i>san1 ge3 jing4 hou6 haa6 go3 sing1 kei4 jau5 dak1 maai6.</i></p> <p>The new model will be sold next week.</p>	<p>呢個螢幕好清晰。 <i>ni1 go3 jing4 mok6 hou2 cing1 sik1.</i></p> <p>This screen is very clear.</p>
<p>如果部電腦再細少少就完美喇。 <i>jyu4 gwo2 bou6 din6 nou5 zoi3 sai3 siu2 siu2 zau6 jyun4 mei5 laa3.</i></p> <p>It would be perfect if the computer could be a bit smaller.</p>	<p>薄身嘅電腦好受歡迎。 <i>bok6 san1 ge3 din6 nou5 hou2 sau3 fun1 jing4.</i></p> <p>Thin computers are really popular.</p>
<p>我想買部手提電腦。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a laptop (hand-held) computer.</p>	<p>呢間屋好大。 <i>ni1 gaan1 uk1 hou2 daai6.</i></p> <p>This apartment is really big.</p>
<p>單人房太細。 <i>daan1 jan4 fong2 taai3 sai3.</i></p> <p>The single room is too small.</p>	<p>我鍾意輕啲嘅手提電腦。 <i>ngo5 zung1 ji3 heng1 di1 ge3 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5.</i></p> <p>I love light laptops.</p>

GRAMMAR

Two Useful Sentence

Our grammar focus today is less about grammar per se than simply an effort to highlight two useful sentence patterns that you should be starting to hear and use. The first is a mild way to complain using adjectives. In our dialogue, we heard this in the line 但係個螢幕細咗啲 (*daan6 hai6 go3 jing4 mok6 sai3 zo2 di1*) "but the screen is a bit small". Simply put, by adding 咗啲 (*zo2 di1*) after an adjective, we stress that the adjective applies "excessively" to its object in a critical way. For other examples, consider:

1. 呢部手提電腦大咗啲。
ni1 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 daai6 zo2 di1
 "This laptop is a bit too large."

2. 呢部手提電腦輕啲
ni1 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 heng1 zo2 di1
"This laptop is a bit too light."

The second sentence pattern we want to highlight offers an easy way to chain together ideas using the adverb 又 (*jau6*) "also". You can use this to make lists, as in the following sample sentences:

1. 我部手提電腦又薄又輕。
ngo5 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 jau6 heng1 jau6 bok6
"My laptop is thin and light."
2. 呢部手提電腦又厚又重。
ni1 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 jau6 hau2 jau6 cung5
"This laptop is thick and heavy."

There is no limit to the number of adjectives you can chain together using this pattern. So if you're shopping for a laptop or cellphone or other piece of expensive electronics, be sure to let the salesperson know the exact qualities you want using the 又... 又... (*jau6... jau6...*) pattern.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Get Your Electronics!

Low import tariffs in Hong Kong make the city a great place to purchase imported electronics. And while Hong Kong isn't well known for producing many of the more well-known electronics brands, there is a small domestic electronics industry on the island. Some of the larger companies in this space include VTech and Techtronic. While these might not be household names, they're important producers of consumer electronics ranging from electric rice cookers to LCD screens and are major employers in Hong Kong, as well as anchors linking the Hong Kong tech scene to the more production oriented areas in Shenzhen, Guangdong and other parts of southern China.