

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S1 #6 Avoiding Complexity in China

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# 6

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 你知唔知附近有冇郵局?
2. B: 有，隔兩條街就有。
3. A: 咁即係點行?
4. B: 直行，然後轉左，再轉右就到。
5. A: 咁複雜嘅! 你講多次?
6. B: 我都係帶你去喇!

## JYUTPING

1. A: nei5 zi1 m4 zi1 fu6 gan6 jau5 mou5 jau4 guk6?
2. B: jau5, gaak3 loeng5 tiu4 gaai1 zau6 jau5.
3. A: gam2 zik1 hai6 dim2 haang4?
4. B: zik6 haang4, jin4 hau6 zyun3 zo2, zoi3 zyun3 jau6 zau6 dou3.
5. A: gam3 fuk1 zaap6 ge2! nei5 gong2 do1 ci3?
6. B: ngo5 dou1 hai6 daai3 nei5 heoi3 laa6!

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Is there a post office around?
2. B: Yes, there's one just two street away from here.
3. A: How to get there?
4. B: Go straight, then turn left, and then turn right.
5. A: It's complicated! Can you repeat it?
6. B: I better take you there!

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
複雜	fuk1 zaap6	complicated	adjective
帶	daai3	to bring	verb
多次	do1 ci3	again; once more	adverb
附近	fu6 gan6	nearby	noun
郵局	jau4 guk2	post office	noun
轉右	zyun2 jau6	turn right	phrase
直行	zik6 haang4	to go straight	verb
轉左	zyun3 zo2	turn left	phrase
隔	gaak3	away from	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>依兩個國家之間嘅關係好複雜。  <i>ji1 loeng5 go3 gwok3 gaa1 zi1 gaan1 ge3 gwaan1 hai6 hou2 fuk1 zaap6.</i></p> <p>These two countries have a very complicated relationship.</p>	<p>每個月我阿嫲都帶我去寺廟燒香。  <i>mui5 go3 jyut6 ngo5 aa3 maa4 dou1 daai3 ngo5 heoi2 zi6 miu2 siu1 hoeng1.</i></p> <p>Every month, my grandmother will bring me to the temple to burn incense.</p>
<p>可唔可以講多次？  <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gong2 do1 ci3 ?</i></p> <p>Can you say it again?</p>	<p>附近邊度有餐廳？  <i>fu6 gan6 bin1 dou6 jau5 caan1 teng1?</i></p> <p>Where's the restaurant nearby?</p>
<p>郵局喺銀行附近。  <i>jau4 guk2 hai2 ngan4 hong4 fu6 gan6.</i></p> <p>The post office is near the bank.</p>	<p>呢度有冇郵局？  <i>ni1 dou6 jau5 mou5 jau4 guk2?</i></p> <p>Is there a post office near here?</p>
<p>前面轉右。  <i>cin4 min6 zyun3 jau6.</i></p> <p>Turn right at the front.</p>	<p>向前直行大概一百米。  <i>hoeng3 cin4 zik6 haang4 daai6 koi3 jat1 baak3 mai5.</i></p> <p>Walk straight for about one hundred meters.</p>
<p>一陣轉左。  <i>jat1 zan6 zyun3 zo2.</i></p> <p>Turn left in a bit.</p>	<p>佢隔兩日就返。  <i>keoi5 gaak3 loeng5 jat6 zau6 fan1.</i></p> <p>He'll be back two days later.</p>

## GRAMMAR

### Communicating Resignation or Reluctance

我都係帶你去喇！

"I'd better take you there myself."

In much earlier lessons, we taught you how to say "all" using the adverb 都 (*dou1*), and learned to combine this with the verb 係 (*hai6*) to form one of the most common sentence patterns in Cantonese. This gives us sentences like 我地都係學生 (*ngo5 dei6 dou1 hai6*

*hok6 saang1*) "We all are students" or 我地都係老師 (*ngo5 dei6 dou1 hai6 lou5 si1*) "We are all teachers". In this lesson we want to focus on another more advanced use of the phrase 都係 (*dou1 hai6*). This is a somewhat complex usage, so let's start by looking at a few example sentences:

1. 我都係帶你去喇。  
*ngo5 dou1 hai6 daai3 nei5 heoi3 laa6*  
"I'll take you there."
2. 我都係唔去喇。  
*ngo5 dou1 hai6 m4 heoi3 laa6*  
"I won't go after all."

What's important in these sentences isn't what is said so much as what is implied. What the speaker really means is that they are doing the action because they don't feel that there is any other option. They're communicating a reluctance to take some action. In the first example above the speaker agrees to take someone somewhere because there's no better choice, but still lets us know they aren't terribly happy doing this. Adding 都係 (*dou1 hai6*) before the verb is therefore one way of communicating a specific type of emotion, and a sense that you are compelled or reluctant to do something. For another example, consider the sentence:

1. 佢都係唔買呢個喇。  
*keoi5 dou1 hai6 m4 maai5 ni1 go3 laa6*  
"He won't buy this after all."

In this example the person clearly has a choice. They desire (or desired) to purchase something, but for whatever reason changed their mind.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Getting to the Post Office in Hong Kong

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Most post offices in Hong Kong open to the public at 9:30 A.M. and close at 5:00 P.M. The exception to this is the General Post Office at 2 Connaught Place (Central), which opens at 8:00 A.M. and remains open until 6:00 P.M. Most post offices are also open on Saturday morning until roughly noon, and are all closed as a rule on Sunday.