

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #8 Forgotten Your Cantonese Password?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 救命呀，我登入唔到啊!
2. B: 個密碼係咩?
3. A: 我唔可以話俾你知。
4. B: 咁我幫唔到你喇。
5. A: 咁我應該點做呀?
6. B: 你試下重新開個瀏覽器?

JYUTPING

1. A: gau3 meng6 aa6, ngo5 dang1 jap6 ng4 dou3 aa3 !
2. B: go3 mat6 maa5 hai6 me1 ?
3. A: ngo5 ng4 ho2 ji5 waa6 bei2 nei5 zi1 .
4. B: gam2 ngo5 bong1 ng4 dou3 nei5 laa6 .
5. A: gam2 ngo5 jing1 goi1 dim2 zou6 aa3 ?
6. B: nei5 si3 haa5 cung4 san1 hoi1 go3 lau4 laam5 hei3 ?

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Help. I can't login.
2. B: What is your password?
3. A: I can't tell you my password.
4. B: Then I can't help you.
5. A: So what should I do?
6. B: Why don't you restart your browser?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
郵件	jau4 gin2	email	noun
救命	gau3 meng6	help	phrase
登入	dang1 jap6	to log in	verb
重設	cung4 cit3	to reset	verb
試	si3	to try	verb
電腦	din6 nou5	computer	noun
重新	cung4 san1	once again	verb
瀏覽器	lau4 laam5 hei3	browser	noun
密碼	mat6 maa5	password	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>我發咗封郵件俾你。 <i>ngo5 faat3 zo2 fung1 jau4 gin2 bei2 nei5.</i></p> <p>I sent you an email.</p>	<p>救命！我又唔記得咗我嘅密碼！ <i>gau3 meng6! ngo5 jau6 ng4 gei3 dak1 zo2 ngo5 ge3 mat6 maa5!</i></p> <p>Help! I forgot my password again!</p>
<p>你要有密碼先可以登入。 <i>nei5 jiu3 jau5 mat6 maa5 sin1 ho2 ji5 dang1 jap6.</i></p> <p>You need to have a password to log in.</p>	<p>佢重設咗佢嘅電腦系統。 <i>keoi5 cung4 cit3 zo2 keoi5 ge3 din6 nou5 hai6 tung2.</i></p> <p>He reinstalled his computer OS.</p>
<p>至少要試一次。 <i>zi3 siu2 jiu3 si3 jat1 ci3.</i></p> <p>At least try once.</p>	<p>我新買咗一部電腦。 <i>ngo5 san1 maa5 zo2 jat1 bou6 din6 nou5.</i></p> <p>I bought a new computer.</p>
<p>你要重新開過一次機。 <i>nei5 jiu3 cung4 san1 hoi1 gwo3 jat1 ci6 gei1.</i></p> <p>You have to restart the machine again.</p>	<p>佢力求喺演唱會上重新演繹呢首歌。 <i>keoi5 lik6 kau4 hai2 jin2 coeng3 wui5 soeng6 cung4 san1 jin2 jik6 ni1 sau2 go1.</i></p> <p>He is trying to give a new performance of the song in his concert.</p>
<p>我下載咗個瀏覽器。 <i>ngo5 haa6 zoi3 zo2 go3 lau4 laam5 hei3.</i></p> <p>I downloaded an Internet browser.</p>	<p>你一定要記住呢個密碼。 <i>nei5 jat1 ding6 jiu3 gei3 zyu6 ni1 go3 mat6 maa5.</i></p> <p>You've absolutely got to remember this password.</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is "The Mystery of the Missing Measure Words"

In our dialogue today, we see something interesting happen with measure words. Take a closer look at these two sentences in particular:

1. 個密碼係咩?
go3 mat6 maa5 hai6 me1
"What is your password?"
2. 你試下重新開個瀏覽器?
nei5 si3 haa5 cung4 san1 hoi1 go3 lau4 laam5 hei3
"Why don't you try restarting your browser?"

In previous lessons we've taught you that the normal pattern with measure words in Cantonese is to precede them with a number or a determiner specifying to how many or to which objects we are referring. This rule should lead us to create noun phrases like 一個音樂會 (*jat1 go3 jam1 ngok6 wui2*) "a concert" or 一部手提電腦 (*jat1 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2*) "a laptop computer", yet in our dialogue we see two instances in which the number is dropped, and yet there is no determiner like 這 (*ze2*) used to provide the necessary contextual information. What is happening?

The answer to this mystery is that we can omit both numbers and determiners in front of measure words when it is obvious from context which particular object we are talking about. This is a very casual pattern, but also a very common one. So remember, when it is clear from context to which object you are referring, you can omit the number or determiner which is expected to precede the measure word.

1. 個瀏覽器需要重新打開。
go3 lau4 laam5 hei3 sei1 jiu3 cung4 san1 daa2 hoi1
"This browser needs to be restarted."
2. 佢唔記得咗佢嘅密碼。
keoi5 m4 gei3 dak1 zo2 keoi5 ge3 mat6 maa5
"He doesn't remember his password."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Make Good Use of Your Knowledge in Jyutping

Looking for an easy way to generate a memorable password when accessing websites in

Hong Kong? Try to combine words in English with Cantonese words typed in Jyutping. Done properly, this will give you a password containing uppercase and lowercase letters along with numbers.