



## Lower Intermediate S1 An Important Chinese Shipment

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## Traditional Chinese

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- A 你要訂五百件？  
B 係。  
A 仲要運去三藩市？  
B 係。  
A 十二月度可以運到。  
B 可唔可以快啲？  
A 可以，但係會貴啲。

## Jyutping

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- A nei5 jiu3 deng6 ng5 baak3 gin6 ?  
B hai6.  
A zung6 jiu3 wan6 heoi3 saam1 faan4 si5 ?  
B hai6.  
A sap6 ji6 jyu6 dou2 ho2 ji5 wan6 dou6.  
B ho2 ng4 ho2 ji5 faai3 di1 ?  
A ho2 ji5, daan6 hai6 wui5 gwai3 di1.

## English

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- A You want to order 500 units?  
B Yes.  
A And ship them to San Francisco?  
B Yes.  
A It can be done... around December.  
B Can't you do this faster?  
A Yes, but it will cost more.

## Vocabulary

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
訂	deng6	to order
運	wan6	to ship
度	dou2	about
件	gin6	unit
收	sau1	to receive
空運	hung1 wan6	air transport
海運	hoi2 wan6	ocean shipping
目的地	muk6 dik1 dei6	destination
地址	dei6 zi2	address

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我尋日已經訂好貨。	Ngo5 cam4 jat6 ji2 ging1 deng6 hou2 fo3.	I already ordered the goods yesterday.
呢批貨需要運到美國。	Ni1 pai1 fo3 sei1 jiu3 wan6 dou6 mei5 gwok3.	These goods need to be shipped to America.
呢批貨空運三日度就到。	Ni1 pai1 fo3 hung1 wan6 saam1 jat6 dou2 zau6 dou6.	The goods will ship by air transport, in about three days.
我需要二十件呢個型號嘅。	ngo5 sei1 jiu3 ji6 sap6 gin6 ni1 go3 jing4 hou6 ge3.	I need twenty units of this model.
你有冇收到呢批貨？	Nei5 jau5 mou5 sau1 dou2 ni1 pai1 fo3 ?	Have you received the goods?
空運比海運要快。	Hung1 wan6 bei2 hoi2 wan6 jiu3 faai3.	Air transport is faster than ocean shipping.
海運比較慢，不過比較平。	Hoi2 wan6 bei2 gaau3 maan6, bat1 gwo3 bei2 gaau3 peng4.	Ocean shipping is slow, but it's also fairly cheap.
確切嘅目的地喺邊？三藩市？	Kok3 cit3 ge3 muk6 dik1 dei6 hai2 bin1 ? saam1 faan4 si5?	What is the exact destination? San Francisco?
運貨需要一個運貨地址。	Wan6 fo3 sei1 jiu3 jat1 go3 wan6 fo3 dei6 zi2.	The shipping form needs to include a shipping address.

## Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Three Ways to Say "about" in Cantonese

十二月度可以運到。

"It can be done around December."

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In previous lessons we learned how the words 大概 daai6 koi3 and 大約 daai6 jeok3, both of which translate into "about," can be used in a manner similar to that word in English. 大概兩個月 thus translates as "about two months" for instance, while 大約有三個人 means "about 3 people".

In this lesson we introduce another Cantonese word which is used to approximate numbers. This is the word 度 dou2 ("about"). Note the difference in pronunciation here than with the 度 dou6 which appears in the word 邊度. When 度 is used for expressing approximation, it is pronounced in second tone and positioned after the relevant number or length of time. Our dialogue offers one example of this, to which we can add the following:

1. 呢件衫500蚊度。  
This shirt is about 500 dollars
2. 海運要一個月度。  
Ocean shipping takes about one month.
3. 空運要24小時度。  
Air freight takes about 24 hours.

In addition to 度, other ways of saying "about" are 左右 and 咁上下. For instance, if you want to say about seven o'clock, you can say either 七點左右 or 七點咁上下. Similarly, about four days can be translated as both 四日左右 and 四日咁上下.

## Cultural Insight

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### [A Fragrant History](#)

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Hong Kong's commercial success originally came from its stunning natural harbor, which faces the East China Sea just to the east of the Zhujiang River. There are several legends about how the small fishing village which started there became known as Hong Kong, which literally means "fragrant harbor". Some say the name comes from the city's role in the transportation of spices, while others claim it is related to a beautiful female pirate whose name was Xiang Gu, which means the Woman with a Scent.