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Lower Intermediate S1

A White Christmas in China

18

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Traditional Chinese

- A 聖誕節去邊度玩呀？
B 我想去有雪落嘅地方。
A 去做咩啊？
B 落雪好浪漫，仲可以去滑雪。
A 你識滑雪咩？
B 唔識呀！可以學吓嘛！

Jyutping

- A Sing3 daan3 zit3 heoi3 bin1 dou6 waan2 aa3?
B Ngo5 seong2 heoi3 jau5 syut6 lok6 ge3 dei6 fong1.
A Heoi3 zo6 me1 aa3?
B Lok6 syut3 hou2 long6 maan6,zung6 ho2 ji5 heoi3 waat6 syut3.
A Nei5 sik1 waat6 syut3 me1?
B M4 sik1 aa3!Ho2 ji5 hok6 aa1 maa3!

English

- A Where are you going for Christmas?
B I want to go somewhere that snows.
A What for?
B It's very romantic when it snows, I can also go skiing.
A Do you know how to ski?
B No, but I can learn!

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
假期	gaa kei4	holiday
落雪	lok6 syut3	to snow
浪漫	long6 maan6	romantic
滑雪	waat6 syut3	to ski
溜冰	lau4 bing1	to skate
砌雪人	cai3 syut3 jan4	to build a snowman
打雪戰	daa2 syut3 zin3	to have a snowball fight

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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我聖誕節有三日假期啊，可以一齊去行街。	Ngo5 sing3 daan3 zit3 jau5 saam1 jat6 gaa3 kei4 aa3,ho2 ji5 jat1 cai4 heoi3 haang4 gaai1.	I have three days holiday on Christmas,we can go shopping together.
香港基本上唔會落雪，因為嗰度成年都又熱又濕。	hoeng1 gong2 gei1 bun2 soeng6 m4 wui5 lok6 syut3, jan1 wai6 go2 dou6 seng4 nin4 do1 jau6 jit6 jau6 sap1.	It almost never snows in Hong Kong, it's hot and wet all year.
佢一直都期待過一個浪漫嘅白色聖誕節。	Koi5 jat1 zik6 dou1 kei4 doi6 gwo3 jat1 go3 long6 maan6 ge3 bak6 sik1 sing3 daan3 zit3.	She is looking forward to a romantic white Christmas.
你滑雪嘅時候一定要做好安全措施。	Nei5 waat6 syut3 ge3 si4 hau6 jat1 ding6 jiu3 zou6 hou2 on1 cyun4 cou3 si1.	You should do the safety measures before skiing.
不好在湖上面溜冰，好危險。	M4 hou2 hai2 wu4 seong6 min6 lau4 bing1,hou2 ngai4 him2.	Don't skate on the lake, it's dangerous.
原來砌雪人有我想象中咁簡單。	Jyun3 loi4 cai3 syut3 jan4 mou5 ngo5 seong6 zoeng6 zung1 gam3 gaan2 daan1.	Building a snow man is more difficult than I thought.
小朋友打雪仗的時候要注意安全。	Siu2 paang4 jau5 daa2 syut3 zeong3 ge3 si4 hau6 jiu3 zyu3 ji3 on1 cyun4.	Children should be careful when having a snow ball fight.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Describe a Place

我想去有雪落嘅地方。

"I want to go somewhere that snows."

In our last lesson, we talked about things a person could be with the verb 有. For example, we learned how to say 有米 ("rich") or 有學問 ("knowledgeable"). In this lesson, we build on our last lesson by looking at a way to use the verb 有 to talk about things a place

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can be, and bundle a descriptive phrase into a proper grammatical object. To create an object of this sort, start this structure with the verb 有 and then follow it in turn with the word describing the place, and then the subordinate particle 嘅, and then the name of the place. In our dialogue, we hear this when the second speaker says 有雪落嘅地方 ("somewhere that snows"). For more examples, look at these two sentences:

1. 我鍾意有歌唱嘅地方。
"I like places where we can sing songs."
2. 香港係一個有衫買嘅地方。
"Hong Kong is a place where people can buy clothes."

The complexity here is in the way we have to unbundle verb phrases which already consist of a verb and an object. Taking the phrase in our dialogue as an example, we see 有雪落 where the normal order of the standalone verb is 落雪 ("to snow"). In sentences with this 有 structure, the verb phrase is unbundled and reversed, becoming 有雪落.

Cultural Insight

Does it Snow in Hong Kong?

Hong Kong is known for being hot and muggy, and even at the coldest time of the year the temperature rarely falls below five degrees celcius. Given that it is usually above ten degrees even in January and February, you may be surprised to learn that it has in fact snowed in Hong Kong. The last time this happened was in 1975, when the temperature dropped to zero celcius and there was widespread snow throughout the New Territories. In previous years there had occasionally been a smattering of snow in less populated areas like Cape Collinson.