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Lower Intermediate S1

Buying a Laptop in Hong Kong

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Traditional Chinese

Jyutping

Fun1 jing4 gwong1 lam4, jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 bong1 dou2 nei5?
Ngo5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5
Seong2 jiu3 mat1 gung1 nang4?
gau3 heng1   gau3 bok6 san1   gau3 kam1 wann2
san1 ceot1 ge3 ni1 fun2 aam1 saai3 nei5!

English

Welcome, what can I help you with?
I want to buy a laptop.
What functions do you want?
I want it to be light and thin, and also run for a long time.
This new model fits your needs exactly!

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Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
	zuk6 hong4	endurance
	fun1 jing4 gwong1 lam4	welcome
	sau2 tai4 din6 nau5	laptop
	gung1 nang4	function
	hau5 san1	thick
	dai2 waan2	competitive (inexpensive with many great features)
	san1 ceot1	new
	fun2 sik1	model
	bok6 san1	thin

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

ngo5 seoi1 jiu3 bou6 zuk6 hong4 nang4 lik6 hou2 ge3 din6 nou5	"I need a computer that has good endurance."
fun1 jing4 gwong1 lam4, jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 bong1 dou2 nei5?	"Welcome, how can I help you?"
Ngo5 soeng2 maai5 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5	I want to buy a laptop computer.
ni1 bou6 din6 nou5 hou2 do1 gung1 nang4	"That computer has a lot of functions."
hau5 san1 ge3 din6 nou5 ng4 fong1 bin6	"Thick computers are difficult to use."
go2 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 hou2 dai2 waan2	"That laptop is really competitively priced."
zeoi3 gan4 san1 ceot1 zo2 jat1 go3 hou2 zeng3 ge3 ji5 gei1	"There's a really nice type of new earphones released recently."
ni1 go3 fun2 sik1 hai6 haan6 loeng6 baan2	"That model is a limited edition."
bok6 san1 ge3 din6 nou5 hou2 sau3 fun1 jing4	"Thin computers are really popular."

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Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Good Enough

"I want it to be light and thin, and also to run for a long time."

Our grammar focus this lesson is on a new sentence structure to use with adjectives like , *faai3* ("fast"), , *gou1* ("tall"), and , *coeng4* ("long"). In our earlier lesson series, we started you off speaking Cantonese by teaching you a simple sentence pattern that combines adjectives like these with the adverb , *hou2* ("good"). Specifically, we learned that to make simple sentences using adjectives in Cantonese, the easiest thing to do is precede the adjective with the adverb (*hou2*) and create sentences such as , *ngo5 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 hou2 gwai3* ("My laptop is very expensive").

In this lesson we learn another adverb that can be used in exactly the same fashion. This is the adverb (*gau3*) and it can be used anywhere the adverb (*hou2*) can. Because this word technically means "enough," the meaning of sentences using (*gau3*) is softer than those using (*hou2*). But the word does not have the same negative connotation that the word "enough" does in English. In Cantonese these sentences with (*gau3*) still have a positive meaning. So the sentence (*ni1 bou6 din6 nou5 gau3 san1 fun2*) would literally translate as, "This computer is new enough," but really means something along the lines of, "This computer is quite new." Likewise, (*go2 bou6 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 gau3 bok6 san1*) should translate as, "That laptop is quite thin." Also, as with the adverb (*hou2*), remember that you can use (*gau3*) in front of verbs as well. It is a flexible and quite useful adverb.

Cultural Insight

Get Your Electronics Here!

Hong Kong's low import taxes make the city an inexpensive place to stock up on most electronics. Nathan Road constitutes one of the most popular places to purchase cameras, computers, and other electronic goods in addition to jewelry. It runs a thriving business selling these products into mainland China.

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