



Lower Intermediate S1

You Should Do as You're Told in China

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Traditional Chinese

- A 可唔可以影印呢張？
B 得。要幾多份？
A 我要十份，雙面。
B 彩色定黑白？
A 黑白喇。
B 黑白可能唔清楚喔
A 唔緊要，照印啦。

Jyutping

- A ho2 ng4 ho2 ji5 jing2 jan3 ni1 zoeng1 ?
B dak1. jiu3 gei2 do1 fan6 ?
A ngo5 jiu3 sap6 fan6, soeng1 min2.
B coi2 sik1 ding6 hak1 sik1 ?
A hak1 baak6 laa1.
B hak1 baak6 ho2 nang4 ng4 cing1 co2 o6.
A ng4 gan2 jiu3, ziu3 jan3 laa1.

English

- A Can you photocopy this?
B Sure. How many copies?
A I need 10 copies, double-sided.
B Color or black and white?
A Black and white is fine.
B Black and white might not be as clear.
A Doesn't matter, just do it.

Vocabulary

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| Traditional | Jyutping | English |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| 黑白 | hak1 baak6 | black and white |
| 彩色 | coi2 sik1 | colored |
| 雙面 | soeng1 min2 | double-sided |
| 單面 | dan1 min2 | single-sided |
| 份 | fan6 | measure word for copies (/sets / items) |
| 影印 | jing2 jan3 | to photocopy |
| 照 | ziu3 | according to (do as you're told) |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 請問黑白打印幾多錢？ | Cing2 man6 hak1 baak6 daa2 jan3 gei2 do1 cin2 ? | Excuse me, how much does it cost to print black and white copies? |
| 你哋依度可唔可以影印彩色嘅？ 我想全部打印雙面嘅。 | nei5 dei6 ji1 dou6 ho2 m4 ho2 jan3 soeng1 min2 ge3 ? ngo5 soeng2 cyun4 bou6 daa2 jan3 soeng1 min2 ge3. | Can you make colored copies here? I want them all double-sided. |
| 如果打印單面嘅，會唔會著數少少？ | jyu4 gwo2 daa2 jan3 daan1 min2 ge3, wui5 m4 wui5 zoek6 sou3 siu2 siu2 ? | Would it be cheaper if I print single-sided? |
| 如果打印多份，就需要多少少時間。 | jyu4 gwo2 daa2 jan3 do1 fan6, zau6 sei1 jiu3 do1 siu2 siu2 si4 gaan3. | It will take a little bit longer if you want to print a lot of copies. |
| 兩份炒飯。 打印係唔係貴過影印？ | loeng5 fan6 caau2 faan6. daa2 jan3 hai6 m4 hai6 gwai3 gwo3 jing2 jan3 ? | Two orders of fried rice. Is printing more expensive than copying? |
| 你照打啦，我就要單面嘅。 | nei5 ziu3 daa2 laa1, nog5 zau6 jiu3 daan1 min2 ge3. | Just do what I said, I want single-sided. |

Grammar Points

Having it Your Way

照印啦

"Just do it!"

Our focus in today's grammar point is a common way to tell other people to do things your way. We see this in the dialogue in the line 照印啦, which we judiciously translated as "just do it". Comparisons to the Nike slogan aside, what we have here is the character 照 introducing the action that you want someone to perform. An extended version of this sentence might be 照我講既去印 ("do it the way I say"). Consider the following other examples:

1. 照去
Go the way you've been told.
2. 照用
Use it the way you've been told.
3. 照做
Do it the way you've been told.

Note that this structure leaves it ambiguous exactly what the standard is for performing the verb. We are telling people to perform an action, but according to what? This is one reason these expressions are considered slightly curt, although not necessarily rude.

Cultural Insight

Photocopy shops are surprisingly hard to find in Hong Kong given the size and density of the city. Maybe it is the way people in Hong Kong are crazy about the environment, but if you need to make a copy in a hurry, the best thing to do is look for smaller photography shops that advertise the fujifilm or kodak brands with neon in-store signage. In addition to photo printing services, these shops usually offer photocopy services as well. And be sure to bring a USB stick: there's no guarantee they'll be able to connect your machine to the printer otherwise.