



Pronunciation

Cantonese Tones in Combination

4

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

The Focus of This lesson is How Tones Sound Relative to the Other Tones They are Combined With
Tones in Combination

In this lesson, we will hear how the following tones sound when combined together in the following words:

Cantonese	Jyutping	"English"
唔該	m4 goi1	"thank you"
加油	gaa1 jau2	"go for it"
書店	syu1 dim3	"bookstore"
搭配	daap3 pui3	"to match," "to pair up"
冰水	bing1 seoi2	"cold water"
陰暗	jam1 am3	"dim," "dark"
知道	zi1 dou3	"to know"
十四	sap6 sei3	"fourteen"
可以	ho2 ji5	"can"
沒有	mut6 jau5	"to not have" (written language)
廣東話	gwong2 dung1 waa2	"Cantonese" (language)
人民	jan4 man4	"the people"
美國	mei5 gwok3	"America"
好玩	hou2 waan2	"fun"
哥哥	go4 go1	"older brother"
媽媽	maa4 maa1	"mom"
再見	zoi3 gin3	"good-bye"

Pronunciation Tip

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When wrapping your mind around Cantonese words and their tones, try to hear the word as a whole rather than attempting to pronounce each syllable in its separate tone. If you listen to an entire word and try to mimic the overall sound of the combined word, the tones will start to come a lot easier. Over-exaggerating each tone syllable by syllable makes it hard to speak naturally.