

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation #1

What Makes a Cantonese Word

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Make-Up of a Cantonese Word

There are only approximately six hundred unique sounds in the Cantonese language. These unique sounds we have categorized into a Romanized phonetic system to aid Cantonese learners in learning the pronunciation of the Cantonese characters. Further, each character has its own tone, and we indicate the tone in the *Jyutping* phonetic system by a number placed after the Romanized word.

An initial sound and a final sound make up individual Cantonese words. Each Cantonese character is one syllable. You can also combine these characters, or syllables, in groups of two or more to make compound words.

***Jyutping* Sounds Mentioned in the Lesson**

The following is a list of the Romanized *Jyutping* pronunciations we go over in this lesson:

1. [toe]
2. [loeng]
3. [doek]
4. [jik]
5. [biu]
6. [syu]
7. [syun]
8. [fun]
9. [pung]

10. [me]

11. [saat]

Some comparisons of *Jyutping* sounds:

1. [ap] / [aap]

2. [ak] / [ek]

3. [song] / [sung]

4. [ce] / [ci]

5. [hoe] / [hoeng] / [hoek]

6. [m] / [ng]

The six/nine tones are indicated by the following numbers in *Jyutping*:

1st tone: [si1]

2nd tone: [si2]

3rd tone: [si3]

4th tone: [si4]

5th tone: [si5]

6th tone: [si6]

7th tone: [sik1]

8th tone: [sek3]

9th tone: [sik6]

Pronunciation Tip

To get a grasp on all the different sound combinations in the Cantonese language, make sure to go to the ***Jyutping* Chart** at www.cantonese-class101.com/cantonese-alphabet. There you will find a listing of all the possible Cantonese sounds with audio files you can listen to and repeat after to help you to perfect your pronunciation.