



## Survival Phrases S1

### Cantonese Restaurant: Part 3 - Smoking

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## Traditional Chinese

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呢度  
嗰度  
俾  
唔俾  
食煙  
可以  
唔可以  
唔好意思

## Jyutping

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ni1 dou6  
go2 dou6  
bei2  
m4 bei2  
sik6 jin1  
ho2 ji5  
m4 ho2 ji5  
m4 hou2 ji3 si1

## English

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here  
there  
to allow  
to not allow  
to smoke  
can  
cannot  
sorry

## Vocabulary



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Traditional	Jyutping	English
呢度	ni1 dok6	here
嗰度	go2 dou6	there
俾	bei2	to allow
唔俾	m4 bei2	not allowed
食煙	sik6 jin1	to smoke
可以	ho2 ji5	can; to allow
唔可以	m4 ho2ji5	not to allow
唔好意思		excuse me, sorry

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

呢度啲嘢好好食。	ni1 dok6 di1 je5 hou2 hou2	Food here is delicious.
唔該，嗰度俾唔俾食煙？	ji6 。 m4 goi1 , go2 dou6 bei2 m4 bei2 sik6 jin1?	Excuse me, is smoking allowed there?
唔該，呢度俾唔俾食煙？	m4 goi1 , ni1 dou6 bei2 bei2 sik6 jin1?	Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?
唔好意思，唔俾。	m4 hou2 ji3 si1 , m4 bei2.	No, I am sorry, it's forbidden.
唔該，呢度可唔可以食煙？	m4 goi1 , ni1 dou6 ho2 m4 ho2ji5 sik6 jin1?	Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?
我哋可以一齊去。	ngo5 dei6 ho2 ji5 jat1 cai4 heoi3	We can go together.
唔好意思，唔可以。	m4 hou2 ji3si1 , m4 ho2 ji5.	No, I am sorry, it's forbidden.
唔好意思，洗手間係邊？		Excuse me, where is the washroom?

## Grammar Points

Smoking in mainland China is very common in all places, especially in restaurants. If you want to find out if you can smoke in a restaurant, you can ask the question 唔該，呢度可唔可以食煙？ m4 goi1 ni1 dou6 ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 sik6 jin1 ? ("Excuse me, is smoking allowed here?")

In previous lessons, we have gone over the standard verb reduplication method in Cantonese when asking a question. In the previous question, the verb reduplicated was 唔可以 (ho2 m4 ho2 ji5), which means "to be able to." This is a special case in which the

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verb is a two-character word. With this example, you repeat the first character, 可. The second half of the phrase is 唔, a negation, followed by the repetition of the entire verb 可以.

There are two replies to this question on whether or not you can smoke. The affirmative answer is 可以. The negative answer is 唔可以.

In the above question, the word for "to smoke cigarettes" is 食煙 (sik6 jin1). This literally means to "eat the cigarette," but in this context, the verb 食 functions as "to smoke."

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## Cultural Insight

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### Quick Tip

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Smoking is still prevalent among many Hong Kongers, although new laws are making it more difficult to smoke in public places including restaurants. A new movie released in 2010 called "Love in a Puff," tells the romantic story of two people who meet while outside their office on a smoke break.

The first laws to curb smoking in Hong Kong were enacted in 1982 with several amendments after that. The smoking ban, as it is commonly referred to, bans smoking indoors in restaurants that sell more food than liquor, indoor workplaces other than exempted bars, mahjong parlors, saunas, karaoke bars, and schools as well as beaches, swimming pools, sports grounds, and most public parks. The latest extension of the ban came into force on January 1, 2007.