



Survival Phrases S1

'Please Lower the Price' in Cantonese

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Traditional Chinese

太
貴
平
買
賣
一
百

Jyutping

taai3
gwai3
peng4
maai5
maai6
jat1 baak3

English

too
expensive
cheap
to buy
to sell
one hundred

Vocabulary

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
太	taai3	too
貴	gwai3	expensive
平	peng4	cheap
買	maai5	to buy
賣	maai6	to sell
一百	jat1 baak3	one hundred (100)

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

太好啦！ 這個袋太貴。 超級市場的蕃茄好平。	taai3 hou2 laa6! ze2 go3 doi2 taai3 gwai3. ciu1 kap1 si5 coeng4 dik1 faan4 ke2 hou2 peng4.	So great! This bag is too expensive. The tomatoes are very cheap at the supermarket.
我買。 唔賣。 呢個大樓有一百年歷史。	ngo5 maai5. m4 maai6. ni1 go3 daai6 lau4 jau5 jat1 baak3 nin4 lik6 si2.	I'll buy it. I'm not selling it. This building has one hundred years of history.

Grammar Points

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太 (taai3) is an adverb of degree, which we use to modify adjectives meaning "too ... something." You can use this adverb if you want to say something is "too expensive" by saying 太貴啦 (taai3 gwai3 laa6). At the end of the phrase, add a 啦 for emphasis and to soften the request.

Many shops in Hong Kong and Guangdong will let you bargain down the price. If you want the vendor to lower the price, you can suggest 平啲啦! (peng4 di1 laa1!) - "Cheaper, please." Notice the suffix 啲 added after the adjective 平 ("cheap"). Also, we add 啦 to the end of the sentence to soften the suggestion.

If the vendor refuses to lower the price, then you can reply with 我唔買 (ngo5 m4 maai5.) - "I won't buy it." We negate the verb 買 ("to buy") with the prefix 唔. If you want to buy the product, simply say 我買 (ngo5 maai5 - "I'll buy it.")

Cultural Insight

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Quick Tip

Many markets in Hong Kong and Guangdong will allow you to bargain. If you don't get the price you desire, then follow this simple trick. Once the seller hits their price floor, simply walk away. They will usually come running after you, and if not, there should be another vendor selling the exact same thing. Look around to get a feel for the real price by visiting different stalls.