



Survival Phrases S1

Asking for Help in Cantonese

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Traditional Chinese

救命！
救我！
警察！
報警。
搶嘢
偷嘢

Jyutping

gau3 meng6 !
gau3 ngo5 !
ging2 caat3 !
bou3 ging2 .
coeng2 je5
tau1 je5

English

Help!
Help me!
Police!
Call the police.
robbery
stealing

Vocabulary

| Traditional | Jyutping | English |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 救命 | gau3 meng6 | Help |
| 警察 | ging2 caat3 | police |
| 報警 | bou3 ging2 | to call the police |
| 偷嘢 | tau1 je5 | to steal things |
| 搶 | coeng2 | to rob |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

救命！

我係警察。

而家報警。

有人偷嘢。

搶嘢！

gau3 meng6 !

ngo5 hai6 ging2 caat3.

ji4 gaa1 bou3 ging2.

jau5 jan4 tau1 je5.

coeng2 ye5 !

Help!

I'm a policeman.

Call the police now.

Someone's stealing.

Robbery!

Cultural Insight

Quick Tip: 1

Hong Kong films have often portrayed triads (黑社會) as gun wielding gangsters who fear nobody, but that only happens in the movies. Even in their heyday, triads tended to engage only in prostitution, counterfeiting or loan-sharking and lived underground lives, and rarely targeted the average person on the street. Just stay away from the triads by avoiding loan sharks and illegal betting.

Call 999 when you urgently need help from the Police, Fire and Ambulance services. Hong Kong has a strict service control system, so once you call 999, the police should show up within ten minutes in most cases, usually less.