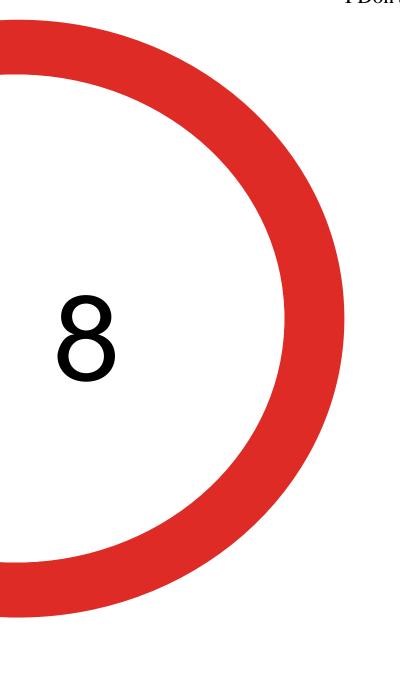
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Survival Phrases S1 I Don't Understand



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Traditional Chinese

我唔明知知咩意 思

Jyutping

ngo5 m4 ming4 zi1 zi1 dou3 me1 ji3 si1

English

I not to understand to know to know what meaning

Vocabulary

2

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
我	ngo5	
唔	m4	not
明白	ming4 baak6	to understand
知道	zi1 dou3	to know
知	zi1	to know
咩	me1	what
意思	ji3 si1	meaning

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

我叫Nicole。 ngo5 giu3 Nicole。 l'm (called) Nicole. 佢老公唔高興。 keoi5 lou5 gung1 m4 gou1 Her husband's not happy.

hing3。

佢唔係男仔。 keoi5 m4 hai6 naam4 zai2。 She is not a boy.

小學生明白問題。 siu2 hok6 sang1 ming4 baak6 The elementary school

man6 tai4 students understand the question.

我唔明。 ngo5 m4 ming4. I don't understand.

我唔知 ngo5 m4 zi1 I don't know 我知道。 ngo5 zi1 dou3。 I know.

我唔知。 ngo5 m4 zi1. I don't know. 你叫咩名? nei5 giu3 me1 meng2? What's your name?

你叫诨名? nei5 giu3 me1 meng2? What's your name? 咩意思? me1 ji3 si1? What does it mean?

Grammar Points

The word for "understand" in Cantonese is 明白 (ming4 baak6). Taken apart, the first character, 明, is "bright" or "clear," and the second character, 白, is "white." Together it means "bright and white," something along the lines of "I read you loud and clear" in English.

Cultural Insight

Quick Tip #1

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Don't be afraid to admit that you don't understand what someone is saying. Simply reply 唔明白 (m4 ming4 baak6) - "I don't understand." Usually the person you are speaking to will automatically understand your predicament and repeat themselves a little bit slower.