



Survival Phrases S1

Please Say it Slower in Cantonese

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Traditional Chinese

講
多次
慢
啲

Jyutping

gong2
do1 ci3
maan6
di1

English

to speak
one more time
slow
-er

2

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
講	gong2	to speak
講多次	gong2 do1 ci3	say it again
慢	maan6	slow
啲	di1	-er

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

唔該講多次。
你識唔識講廣東話？

m4 goi1 gong2 do1 ci3.
nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 gong2
gwong2 dung1 waa2?

Can you repeat that please?
Do you speak Cantonese?

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可唔可以講多次？	ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 gong2 do1 ci3 ?	Can you say it again?
唔該講慢啲。	m4 goi1 gong2 maan6 di1 。	Can you speak slowly please?
行慢啲。	haang4 maan6 di1。	Walk slower.
唔該慢啲講多次。	m4 goi1 maan6 di1 gong2 do1 ci3。	Can you repeat again, slowly please?
行慢啲。	haang4 maan6 di1。	Walk slower.
唔該細聲啲。	m4 goi1 sai3 seng1 di1。	Please lower your volume.

Grammar Points

In Cantonese, the equivalent of the English suffix "-er" is 啲 (di1). This can be placed after any adjective to change the meaning to "(adjective)-er." In the example from the audio podcast, the host asked 唔該慢啲 (m4 goi1 maan6 di1) - "Slower please." The adjective being modified by the suffix is 慢 (maan6) "slow." When combined with 啲, the word becomes "slower."

We can add other verbs to a sentence when using 啲. For example, 唔該講慢啲 (m4 goi1 gong2 maan6 di1) - "Can you speak slowly please?" The verb being modified by 慢啲 is the verb "to speak" (講, gong2).

Concurrently, you can also ask someone to speak faster using 唔該講快啲 (m4 goi1 gong2 faai3 di1). The adjective is replaced with 快 ("fast").

Cultural Insight

Quick Tip

The Cantonese language can be called by three names, all with slightly different connotations.

- 白話 (Baak6 waa2), meaning plain speech, is used outside of Guangzhou in Guangdong.
- 粵語 (Jyut6 jyu5), meaning proper speech. People living in Guangdong and Guangxi will refer to Cantonese in this way.
- Cantonese speakers who have emigrated from Hong Kong or Guangdong use 廣州話 (gwong2 zau1 waa2) to refer to Cantonese.



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