

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #12

Cantonese Restaurant: Part 2 - Reservations

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 想
2. 訂
3. 拾
4. 兩
5. 八
6. 點
7. 幾點

JYUTPING

1. soeng2
2. deng6
3. toi2
4. loeng5
5. baat3
6. dim2
7. gei2 dim2

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. to want
2. to make a reservation
3. table
4. two
5. eight
6. o'clock
7. what time

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
想	soeng2	to want	verb
訂	deng6	to make reservation	verb
枱	toi2	desk	noun
兩	loeng5	two (2)	numeral
八	baat3	eight (8)	noun
幾點	gei2 dim2	what time	phrase
點	dim2	o'clock	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>唔該，我想訂枱。 <i>m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 deng6 toi2.</i></p> <p>Can I make a reservation?</p>	<p>唔該，我想訂枱。 <i>m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 deng6 toi2.</i></p> <p>Can I make a reservation?</p>
<p>唔該，我想訂枱。 <i>m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 deng6 toi2.</i></p> <p>Can I make a reservation?</p>	<p>兩位。 <i>loeng5 wai2.</i></p> <p>For two.</p>
<p>佢住喺八樓。 <i>keoi5 zyu6 hai2 baat3 lau2.</i></p> <p>He lives on the eighth floor.</p>	<p>幾點啊？ <i>gei2 dim2 aa3?</i></p> <p>What time is it?</p>

十二點半

sap6 ji6 dim2 bun3

12 : 30

GRAMMAR

To make a reservation either by phone or in person, you can say 唔該，我想訂枱 (*m4 goi1, ngo5 soeng2 deng6 toi2.*) - "Excuse me, I want to book a table." This sentence contains two co-verbs. This combination of two verbs describes a series of actions. In this instance, we combine the two verbs 想, *soeng2* ("to want") and 訂, *deng6* ("to reserve"): the word is not "to want to order."

The waitstaff may ask you what time you want the reservation for: 幾點? (*gei2 dim2?*) - "What time?" To say a time, state the hour followed by 點, which means "o'clock." To reserve a table for "eight o'clock," say 八點, 唔該 (*baat3 dim2, m4 goi1.*) - "Eight o'clock, please."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip

Eating is considered a national pastime in Guangdong, and people take it seriously wheeling out the entire family and circle of friends for dining experiences. While most restaurants don't need a reservation, if you know that it is a special holiday or occasion, it is best to call ahead first.