

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #14

Cantonese Restaurant: Part 4 - At the Table

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 菜單
2. 小菜
3. 主菜
4. 甜品

JYUTPING

1. coi3 daan1
2. siu2 coi3
3. zyu2 coi3
4. tim4 ban2

ENGLISH

1. menu
2. small dish
3. main course
4. dessert

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
菜單	coi3 daan1	menu	noun
小菜	siu2 coi3	dish	noun
主菜	zyu2 coi3	main dish	noun
甜品	tim4 ban2	dessert	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>菜單，唔該。 <i>coi3 daan1 , m4 goi1.</i></p> <p>Menu, thanks.</p>	<p>手撕雞是一種廣東小菜。 <i>sau2 si1 gai1 si6 jat1 zung2 gwong2 dung1 siu2 coi3</i></p> <p>Shredded chicken salad is a Cantonese dish.</p>
<p>今晚主菜有燒牛肉及煎魚兩個選擇。 <i>gam1 maan5 zyu2 coi3 jau5 siu1 ngau4 juk6 kap6 zin1 jyu5 loeng5 go3 syun2 zaak6</i></p> <p>The choices for tonight's main dish are roast beef and fried fish.</p>	<p>芝麻糊是一種港式甜品。 <i>zi1 maa4 wu4 si6 jat1 zung2 gong2 sik1 tim4 ban2.</i></p> <p>Sesame paste is a Hong Kong-style dessert.</p>

GRAMMAR

To order food at a restaurant, wave the waiter over and request a menu with the phrase 菜單，唔該。 (*coi3 daan1, m4 goi1?*) - "Please can I have the menu?" You can break down the word for "menu." 菜 is a mid-flat tone, and it means "vegetable," and 單 is the high-flat tone meaning "list." The menu doesn't only have vegetables of course, and it can include a variety of different types of food depending on the restaurant.

If you want to order a drink, listen for this phrase from the waitress: 想飲啲咩啊? (*soeng2 jam2 di1 me1 aa1?*)

The verb "to drink" is 飲. In previous lessons, we covered co-verbs. The two-character co-verb in the previous example is 想飲, *soeng2 jam2* ("to want to drink").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip

Dinner and eating in general is a communal affair. Oftentimes, dinners and banquets are used as an excuse to honor a special guest, improve business ties, or to just have a good time. Since a lot of people are usually getting into the eating action, a Lazy Susan is placed in the middle of the table. The Lazy Susan allows all guests to have equal access to every dish on a rotating plate.

Don't be shy when eating and taking large portions. Usually more food is ordered than can be eaten, so there will most likely be leftovers. Dinners can drag on for quite some time, up to three hours. Remember it is a marathon and not a sprint, so pace your eating.