

## LESSON NOTES

# Survival Phrases S1 #19

## 'Please Lower the Price' in Cantonese

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

# 19

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 太
2. 貴
3. 平
4. 買
5. 賣
6. 一百

## JYUTPING

1. taai3
2. gwai3
3. peng4
4. maai5
5. maai6
6. jat1 baak3

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. too
2. expensive
3. cheap
4. to buy
5. to sell
6. one hundred

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
太	taai3	too	adverb
貴	gwai3	expensive	adjective
平	peng4	cheap	adjective
買	maai5	to buy	verb
賣	maai6	to sell	verb
一百	jat1 baak3	one hundred (100)	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>太好啦!</p> <p><i>taai3 hou2 laa6!</i></p> <p>That's great!</p>	<p>這個袋太貴。</p> <p><i>Ze2 go3 doi2 taai3 gwai3.</i></p> <p>This bag is too expensive.</p>
---	---

<p>超級市場的蕃茄好平。  <i>Ciu1 kap1 si5 coeng4 dik1 faan4 ke2 hou2 peng4.</i></p> <p>The tomatoes are very cheap at the supermarket.</p>	<p>我買。  <i>Ngo5 maai5.</i></p> <p>I'll buy it.</p>
<p>唔賣。  <i>M4 maai6.</i></p> <p>I'm not selling it.</p>	<p>呢個大樓有一百年歷史。  <i>ni1 go3 daai6 lau4 jau5 jat1 baak3 nin4 lik6 si2.</i></p> <p>This building has one hundred years of history.</p>

## GRAMMAR

太 (*taai3*) is an adverb of degree, which we use to modify adjectives meaning "too ... something." You can use this adverb if you want to say something is "**too** expensive" by saying 太貴啦 (*taai3 gwai3 laa6*). At the end of the phrase, add a 啦 for emphasis and to soften the request.

Many shops in Hong Kong and Guangdong will let you bargain down the price. If you want the vendor to lower the price, you can suggest 平啲啦! (*peng4 di1 laa1!*) - "Cheaper, please." Notice the suffix 啲 added after the adjective 平 ("cheap"). Also, we add 啦 to the end of the sentence to soften the suggestion.

If the vendor refuses to lower the price, then you can reply with 我唔買 (*ngo5 m4 maai5*) - "I won't buy it." We negate the verb 買 ("to buy") with the prefix 唔. If you want to buy the product, simply say 我買 (*ngo5 maai5* - "I'll buy it.")

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Quick Tip

Many markets in Hong Kong and Guangdong will allow you to bargain. If you don't get the price you desire, then follow this simple trick. Once the seller hits their price floor, simply walk

away. They will usually come running after you, and if not, there should be another vendor selling the exact same thing. Look around to get a feel for the real price by visiting different stalls.