

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #1

Thank You! in Cantonese

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 唔該
2. 唔該晒
3. 多謝
4. 多謝晒

JYUTPING

1. m4 goi1
2. m4 goi1 saai3
3. do1 ze6
4. do1 ze6 saai3

ENGLISH

1. Thanks.
2. Thanks a lot.
3. Thank you.
4. Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
唔該	m4 goi1	please; thank you; excuse me	phrase
唔該晒	m4 goi1 saai3	Thank you very much.	phrase
多謝	do1 ze6	Thank you. (formal)	expression
多謝晒	do1 ze6 saai3	Thank you very much. (formal)	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

唔該細聲啲。 <i>m4 goi1 sai3 seng1 di1.</i> Please lower your volume.	真係唔該晒。 <i>zan1 hai6 m4 goi1 saai3.</i> A million thanks.
多謝你。 <i>do1 ze6 nei5.</i> Thank you.	真係多謝晒。 <i>zan1 hai6 do1 ze6 saai3.</i> A million thanks.

GRAMMAR

In the Cantonese language, 唔該 (*m4 goi1*) has a few meanings. We most commonly use this to mean "Thanks" in a casual way. We can also use it to mean "please," and it can even be used to get someone's attention. 唔該 literally translates as "no" (唔) and "should" (該). You put these together and it means something along the lines of "shouldn't." 唔該 is made up of two sounds, one for each character. The first sound is *m4*, pronounced with your mouth closed almost like humming, low and flat. The second sound is *goi1* with a flat high tone, almost like singing. We can also use 唔該 when we want to gain someone's attention in a polite way, especially in a restaurant setting when needing to get a waiter's attention.

唔該晒 (*m4 goi1 saai3*) is a more emphatic way of saying "Thank you."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Native Hong Kongers commonly use handshakes when greeting Westerners. The Hong Kong Chinese handshake is rather light, so don't try to squeeze with all your might. During the greeting, many Hong Kong Chinese lower their eyes as a sign of respect, but you do not have to reciprocate.