

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #5

Parting Cantonese Greetings

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 再見
2. 再見喇
3. 拜拜
4. 遲啲見

JYUTPING

1. zoi3 gin3
2. zoi3 gin3 laa6
3. baai1 baai3
4. ci4 di1 gin3

ENGLISH

1. Good-bye.(formal)
2. Good-bye.
3. Bye bye.
4. See you later.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
再見	zoi3 gin3	good-bye	phrase
再見喇	zoi3 gin3 laa6	good-bye	phrase
拜拜	baai1 baai3	bye-bye	verb
遲啲見	ci4 di1 gin3	see you later	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

下次再見。 <i>haa6 ci3 zoi3 gin3.</i> See you next time.	再見喇。 <i>zoi3 gin3 laa6.</i> Good-bye.
拜拜。 <i>baai1 baai3.</i> Bye-bye.	遲啲見。 <i>ci4 di1 gin3.</i> See you later.

GRAMMAR

A parting greeting suitable for any occasion is 再見 (*zoi3 gin3*), which literally means "again see." Both of the syllables *zoi3* and *gin3* are mid, flat tones. This parting greeting is also perfect for occasions that are more formal. You can make this less formal by using 再見喇 (*zoi3 gin3 laa6*), which is commonly used between close friends. Cantonese has also taken a loanword from English, and it is not uncommon to hear 拜拜 (*baai1 baai3*) being used instead of 再見, especially among the younger generation.

Finally, a casual way of saying "See you later" is 遲啲見 (*ci4 di1 gin3*). The direct translation is "Later see." 遲 (*ci4*) is the lowest tone and means "later," while 啲 is the Cantonese version of "-er" in English. 見 (*gin3*) is the verb "to see."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip: 1

Many native Hong Kongers have completely adopted the English word "Good-bye" pronouncing it 拜拜 (*baai1 baai3*).