

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #6

Where is the Bathroom in Hong Kong?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 廁所
2. 洗手間
3. 喺
4. 邊
5. 邊度
6. 可唔可以
7. 借

JYUTPING

1. ci3 so2
2. sai2 sau2 gaan1
3. hai2
4. bin1
5. bin1 dou6
6. ho2 m4 ho2 ji5
7. ze3

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. toilet
2. washroom
3. to be
4. where
5. where
6. can or cannot
7. to borrow

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
廁所	ci3 so2	washroom	noun
洗手間	sai2 sau2 gaan1	washroom	noun
邊	bin1	which, where, who, side	noun
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
可唔可以	ho2 m4 ho2 ji5	can or cannot	phrase
借	ze3	to borrow	verb
喺	hai2	to be (somewhere); to be located at	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

廁所喺邊? <i>ci3 so2 hai2 bin1 ?</i> Where is the washroom?	洗手間喺邊? <i>sai2 sau2 gaan1 hai2 bin1 ?</i> Where is the washroom?
廁所喺邊度? <i>ci3 so2 hai2 bin1 dou6?</i> Where is the toilet?	邊度有廁所? <i>bin1 dou6 jau5 ci3 so2 ?</i> Where is the washroom?
可唔可以借洗手間? <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 ze3 sai2 sau2 gaan1 ?</i> Can I use the washroom?	可唔可以借洗手間? <i>ho2 m4 ho2 ji5 ze3 sai2 sau2 gaan1 ?</i> Can I use the washroom?
你喺邊? <i>Nei5 hai2 bin1 ?</i> Where are you?	

GRAMMAR

In Cantonese, the word for "bathroom" is very straightforward. Breaking down the word 洗手間, gives us 洗, *sai2* ("to wash"); 手, *sau2* ("hand"); and 間, *gaan1* ("room"). Together, this is "wash-hand-room." Other words for "bathroom" include 廁所, *caak1 so2* ("toilet") and 衛生間, *wai6 saang1 gaan1* ("restroom").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip

When going to the bathroom, don't mix up the sign for men and women! Usually a 男 "male" can be seen outside a men's bathroom, and 女 "female" outside a ladies' bathroom. But to avoid embarrassing moments, most of the shopping malls use picture signs now.

Bathrooms in China and Hong Kong differ greatly in quality, size, and cleanliness. At many

larger restaurants, you can find 洗手間 in-house. For smaller shops, there may be a "communal bathroom" located on the street called a 公共衛生 (*gung1 gung6 wai6 saang1*). Oftentimes, these are squat toilets that experience high traffic, so come prepared with your own toilet paper.