

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Top 25 Cantonese Questions You Need to Know S1 #17 What Time Is It? in Cantonese

17

A: Top 25 Cantonese Questions You Need to Know - Lesson 17: What time is it? in Cantonese. In each lesson of this 25 part series, you'll master a common question for Cantonese learners, and then learn how to answer it like a native. You'll learn how these key phrases work by breaking them down into each component. Then through repetition and new vocabulary, you'll expand your understanding of the question, its answers, and any variations.

In this lesson, you'll learn how to respond to the common question “What time is it?” In Cantonese this is

B: 而家幾點?

The first word in the question is

B: 而家

A: meaning “now” in English.

B: (Slow, by syllable) 而家

A: Listen again and repeat.

B: 而家

A: This pattern of first introducing a word at natural speed, providing the translation, breaking it down, and then giving it again at natural speed will be repeated throughout the series. Try to speak aloud as often as possible. The next word in the question is

B: 幾

A: meaning “how many”, “how long”

B: (Slow, by syllable) 幾

A: Now repeat.

B: 幾

{Pause}

Listen to the first two words and repeat.

B: 而家幾

{pause}

Next is

B: 點

A: meaning “time”

B: (Slow, by syllable) 點

A: Now repeat.

B: 點

{Pause}

Listen to the entire question and repeat.

B: 而家幾點

{pause}

A: It literally means “Now what time?”

A: You will hear this common question again and again throughout your studies. Master the following pattern and responses to the question “What time is it?”

B: 十二點。

A: “It's 12 o'clock.” or literally “12 o'clock.” Again, slowly. Repeat the phrase.

B: (Slow) 十二點。

{pause}

A: Let's break it down from the beginning. The first word:

B: 十二

A: means “twelve.”

B: (Slow, by syllable) 十二

A: Now repeat

B: 十二

{Pause}

A: And after that

B: 點

meaning “o'clock.”

B: (Slow, by syllable) 點

A: Now repeat.

B: 點

{Pause}

A: Listen to the speaker say, “It's 12 o'clock.”, and then repeat.

B: 十二點。

{pause}

A: To use a different phrase, replace 12 with 9.

B: 九

A: 9

B: (slow) 九 (regular) 九

A: Listen to the phrase again, this time with 9.

B: 九點。

A: It mostly stays the same. Simply replace 12 with 9.

{pause}

B: 九點。

A: To expand on the pattern, replace 9 with 6.

B: 六

A: 6

B: (slow) 六 (regular) 六

A: Listen to the phrase again, this time with 6 o'clock

B: 六點。

A: It mostly stays the same. Simply replace 9 with 6. Say It's 6 o'clock.

{pause}

B: 六點。

A: To expand on the pattern, replace 6 with 2.

B: 兩

A: 2

B: (slow) 兩 (regular) 兩

A: Listen to the phrase again, this time with 2 o'clock

B: 兩點。

A: It mostly stays the same. Simply replace 6 with 2. Say It's 2 o'clock.

{pause}

B: 兩點。

Now it's time for a quiz. Imagine you're visiting Hong Kong and someone asks you what time it is. It's 12 o'clock. Respond to the question.

B: 而家幾點? (five seconds) 十二點。

A: Now imagine it's 9 o'clock. Respond to the question.

B: 而家幾點? (five seconds) 九點。

A: Imagine it's 6 o'clock. Answer the speaker's question.

B: 而家幾點? (five seconds) 六點。

A: Imagine it's 2 o'clock. Respond to the question.

B: 而家幾點? (five seconds) 兩點。

A: You want to ask someone what time it is. Ask the question.

(5 seconds)

B: 而家幾點?

{pause}

A: This is the end of Lesson 17