

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #12

Why Didn't You Answer My Cantonese Call?

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 頭先點解唔聽我電話？
2. 開緊會，手機靜音。
3. 咁你得閒再打俾我啦。
4. 搵我有咩事？
5. 急事。
6. 咩急事？
7. 想問你點解唔聽我電話囉。

JYUTPING

1. tau4 sin1 dim2 gaai2 m4 teng1 ngo5 din6 waa2 ?
2. hoi1 gan2 wui2, sau2 gei1 zing6 jam1.
3. gam2 nei5 dak1 haan4 zoi3 daa2 bei2 ngo5 laa1.
4. wan2 ngo5 jau5 me1 si6 ?
5. gap1 si6.
6. me1 gap1 si6 ?
7. soeng2 man6 nei5 dim2 gaai2 m4 teng1 ngo5 din6 waa2 lo1.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Why didn't you answer my call just now?
2. B: I'm at a meeting. My phone was on mute.
3. A: Then call me back when you are free.
4. B: What did you call me for?
5. A: Emergency.
6. B: What emergency?
7. A: I wanted to ask why you didn't answer my call.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
電話	din6 waa2	telephone	noun
手機	sau2 gei1	cellphone	noun
模式	mou4 sik1	mode	noun
再	zoi3	again	adverb
靜音	zing6 jam1	silent	adjective
開會	hoi1 wui2	to hold a meeting	verb
震動	zan3 dung6	to vibrate	verb
急事	gap1 si6	emergency	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>有冇我電話? <i>jau5 mou5 ngo5 din6 waa2?</i></p> <p>Are there any phone calls for me?</p>	<p>我想買部新手機。 <i>ngo5 soeng2 maa5 bou6 san1 sau2 gei1.</i></p> <p>I want to buy a new cell phone.</p>
<p>請將你部電話調至飛行模式。 <i>ceng2 zoeng1 nei5 bou6 din6 waa2 tiu6 zi3 fei1 haang4 mou4 sik1.</i></p> <p>Turn on airplane mode for your phone.</p>	<p>再同我講一次，你嘅號碼係咩? <i>zoi3 tung4 ngo5 gong2 jat1 ci3 nei5 ge3 hou4 maa5 hai6 me1 ?</i></p> <p>Tell me again, what was your number?</p>
<p>我部手機依家係靜音模式。 <i>ngo5 bou6 sau2 gei1 ji1 gaa1 hai6 zing6 jam1 mou4 sik1.</i></p> <p>My cellphone is in silent mode.</p>	<p>我啲會星期六開會。 <i>Ngo5 dei6 wui2 sing1 kei4 luk6 hoi1 wui2.</i></p> <p>We will hold a meeting on Saturday.</p>
<p>你部手機係唔係啱啱震(動)咗? <i>nei5 bou6 sau2 gei1 hai6 m4 hai6 ngaam1 ngaam1 zan3 (dung6) zo2 ?</i></p> <p>Did your cellphone just vibrate?</p>	<p>我有急事，俾我過一過去。 <i>ngo5 jau5 gap1 si6 bei2 ngo5 gwo3 jat1 gwo3 heo3.</i></p> <p>I have an emergency, let me through.</p>

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is How to invite someone to do something in Cantonese

得閒再打俾我

"Call me back when you're free"

Our grammar focus today is about a special sentence pattern. We hear this in our dialogue : 咁你得閒再打俾我啦, *gam2 nei5 dak1 haan4 zoi3 daa2 bei2 ngo5 laa1* ("Then call me back when you're free.") The critical word is 得閒, *dak1 haan4*, ("when free"), which is followed by a verb or a verb phrase as in our lesson 再打俾我, *zoi3 daa2 bei2 ngo5*, ("again call me back"). Although in our dialogue we hear an adverb 再, *zoi3*, ("again") before the verb, we don't need it in our pattern. It makes perfect sense to just say 得閒打俾我, *dak1 haan4 daa2 bei2 ngo5*, ("Call me back when you're free"). Note that the word 得閒, *dak1 haan4*, ("to be available") here is a polite way to ask someone to do something with you.

More examples:

1. 得閒飲茶。
dak1 haan4 jam2 caa4
“When you’re free, let’s go grab a bite.”
2. 得閒再講。
dak1 haan4 zoi3 gong2
“Let’s talk about this when you’re free.”
3. 得閒再嚟過。
dak1 haan4 zoi3 lai4 gwo3
“Let’s come again when you have time.”

Bonus point:

得閒飲茶, *dak1 haan4 jam2 caa4*, (“When you’re free, let’s go grab a bite.”) is a common thing to say at the end of a less-than-perfect date. It’s like in English when you hear people say “Let’s do this again sometime”. He/She doesn’t mean it but a mention of the future seems comfortable for both. So in this sense, 得閒 *dak1 haan4*, (“when free”) actually means “never”. All three examples listed above have the same function.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Mobile Phones in Hong Kong

If you intend to stay in Hong Kong for a while and don't want to waste hundreds of dollars on roaming fees, you should get a Hong Kong mobile number, either through a prepaid card or a fixed tariff. If you plan on keeping your phone running more or less as it was at home, you might want to avoid huge data charges by making sure that your data roaming is turned off. And if you're calling home have the person call you back—it's cheaper for you to receive incoming calls from abroad than to call out.