

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #14 Talking About Your Age in Cantonese

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

14

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你今年幾多歲?
2. 不如你估下?
3. 我估你最多十八歲。
4. 我睇起嚟咁後生?
5. 唔通你超過十八歲?
6. 梗係啦! 我二十八歲喇。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 gam1 nin4 gei2 do1 seoi3 ?
2. bat1 jyu4 nei5 gu2 haa5 ?
3. ngo5 gu2 nei5 zeoi3 do1 sap6 baat3 seoi3.
4. ngo5 tai2 hei2 lai4 gam3 hau6 saang1 ?
5. m4 tung1 nei5 ciu1 gwo3 sap6 baat3 seoi3 ?
6. gang2 hai6 laa1 ! ngo5 ji6 sap6 baat3 seoi3 laa3.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: How old are you?
2. B: Why don't you guess?
3. A: I guess you're no more than 18.
4. B: I look that young?
5. A: Can it be that you're over 18?
6. B: Of course! I'm 28!

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
幾多歲	gei2 do1 seoi3	how old	noun
估下	gu2 haa5	to guess	verb
最多	zeoi3 do1	at most	adverb
超過	ciu1 gwo3	to exceed	verb
唔通	m4 tung1	can it be	adv
梗係	gang2 hai6	of course	adv
後生	hau6 saang1	young	adjective
睇起嚟	tai2 hei2 lai4	to look like	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>佢問佢：“你幾多歲啊？” keoi5 man6 keoi5: nei5 gei2 do1 sei3 aa3.</p> <p>He asked her, “how old are you”?</p>	<p>等我估下你幾多歲啦。 dang2 ngo5 gu2 haa5 nei5 gei2 do1 sei3 laa1.</p> <p>Let me guess how old you are.</p>
<p>個女仔最多25歲。 go3 nei5 zai2 zeoi3 do1 25(ji6 sap6 ng5) sei3.</p> <p>The girl was at most 25 years old.</p>	<p>你估錯咗，我超過30歲。 nei5 gu2 co3 zo2 , ngo5 ciu1 gwo3 30 (saam1 sap6) sei3.</p> <p>You're mistaken. I'm past 30.</p>
<p>唔通我哋曾經見過？ m4 tung1 ngo5 dei6 cang4 ging1 gin3 gwo3?</p> <p>Can it be that we have already met?</p>	<p>梗係，我哋尋日喺餐廳見過面。 gang2 hai6, ngo5 dei6 cam4 jat6 hai2 caan1 teng1 gin3 gwo3 min6.</p> <p>Of course, we met yesterday at the restaurant.</p>
<p>佢比起我印象中仲要後生。 keoi5 bei2 hei2 ngo5 jan3 zoeng6 zung1 zung6 jiu3 hau6 saang1.</p> <p>He looked very young, younger than I remembered.</p>	<p>佢睇起嚟好似佢老竇。 keoi5 tai2 hei2 lai4 hou2 ci5 keoi5 lou5 dau3.</p> <p>He looks a lot like his father.</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is a Pattern Used to Make Comparisons

不如你估下？

"Why don't you guess?"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about a pattern we use to make comparison. It's based on this line in the dialogue: 不如你估下？ *Bat1 jyu4 nei5 gu2 haa5* ("Why don't you guess"). That's not the most perfect translation, but it's the best way to translate it into English. Literally, it means "not as good as you guess." 我話俾你知不如你估下 *Ngo5 waa2 bei2 nei5 zi1 bat1 jyu4 nei5 gu2 haa5* ("What not as good as guess is my telling you"). So the pattern here is "A 不如 B." A and B need to be the same kind of things, either verbs or nouns. You can use

this pattern to describe what you'd like to do. You are talking about two options, but you prefer the second one. You are literally saying the first one isn't up to or as good as the second one.

For instance:

1. 食飯不如睇戲。
Sik6 faan6 bat1 jyu4 tai2 hei3
"Eating isn't as good as watching a movie."
2. KFC不如麥當勞。
KFC bat1 jyu4 mak6 dong1 lou4
"KFC isn't as good as McDonald's."
3. 食KFC不如食麥當勞。

Sik6 KFC bat1 jyu4 sik6 mak6 dong1 lou4
"Eating KFC isn't as good as eating McDonald's."
4. 去club不如去酒吧。
Heoi2 CLUB bat1 jyu4 heoi2 zau2 baa1
"Going to clubs isn't as good as going to bars."

Language Tip

You can use this pattern with both verbs and nouns. In the dialogue, the first option is implied, so it can be omitted.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Old is That Person?

The age of Asian people, especially Asian girls, can be a myth. In general, they look younger

than their actual age. There are many reasons why they seem to age "slower." Take Hong Kong for example, all the ladies always keep out of the sun and wear sun block even when they're not sunbathing; however, Westerners tend to be sun worshippers and the sun is definitely a key reason to aging as it dries up and ages the skin. HK peoples' healthy diets and the humidity in the air can also make people look younger.