

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #15

The Hong Kong Disappearing Act

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 聽講佢辭咗職。
2. 你點知㗎?
3. 佢自己同我講㗎。
4. 其實佢係俾老闆炒㗎。
5. 唔怪得知啦，走得咁突然。

JYUTPING

1. teng1 gong2 keoi5 ci4 zo2 zik1.
2. nei5 dim2 zi1 gaa3 ?
3. keoi5 zi6 gei2 tung4 ngo5 gong2 gaa3.
4. kei4 sat6 keoi5 hai6 bei2 lou5 baan2 caau2 gaa3.
5. m4 gwaai3 dak1 zi1 laa1, zau2 dak1 gam3 dat6 jin4.

ENGLISH

1. A: I heard he quit the job.
2. B: How did you know?

CONT'D OVER

3. A: He told me himself.
4. B: Actually he was fired.
5. A: No wonder he left all of a sudden.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
聽講	teng1 gong2	to have heard	verb
職業	zik1 jip6	occupation	noun
辭職	ci4 zik1	to resign	verb
任職	jam4 zik1	to hold a post	verb
老闆	lou5 baan2	boss	noun
離職	lei4 zik1	to leave a job	verb
員工	jyun4 gung1	employee, employees, staff, staffs	noun
炒魷魚	caau2 jau4 jyu2	to be fired	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>聽講今日老細主動話請客。 <i>teng1 gong2 gam1 jat6 lou5 sai3 zyu2 dung6 waa6 ceng2 haak3.</i></p> <p>I heard the boss is treating us today.</p>	<p>職業唔分貴賤。 <i>zik1 jip6 m4 fan1 gwai3 zin6.</i></p> <p>All occupations are equal.</p>
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<p>佢同佢老細打交，然後辭職。 <i>keoi5 tung4 keoi5 lou5 sai3 daa2 gaau1, jin4 hau6 ci4 zik1.</i></p> <p>He fought with his boss and quit his job.</p>	<p>佢1月嗰時開始任職。 <i>keoi5 jat1 jyut6 go2 si4 hoi1 ci2 jam4 zik1.</i></p> <p>He started to work at the company in January.</p>
<p>老闆正在責備員工。 <i>lou5 baan2 zing3 zoi6 zaak3 bei6 jyun4 gung1.</i></p> <p>The boss is blaming the worker.</p>	<p>佢離職之後開咗一間自己嘅公司。 <i>keoi5 lei4 zik1 zi1 hau6 hoi1 zo2 jat1 gaan1 zi6 gei2 ge3 gung1 si1.</i></p> <p>He left a job to start his own company.</p>
<p>我哋公司有三千五百九十個員工。 <i>ngo5 dei2 gung1 si1 jau5 saam1 cin1 ng5 baak3 gau2 sap6 go3 jyun4 gung1</i></p> <p>Our company has 3590 employees.</p>	<p>佢俾人炒魷魚因為佢唔努力工作。 <i>keoi5 bei2 jan4 caau2 jau4 jyu2 jan1 wai4 keoi5 m4 nou5 lik6 gung1 zok3.</i></p> <p>He was fired because he didn't work hard.</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Preposition 同

佢自己同我講嘍。

"He told me himself."

In this lesson's grammar point, we want to highlight a new preposition 同 *tung4* ("with"), and we hear this in this phrase in the dialogue 同我講 *tung4 ngo5 gong2* ("with me to speak"). In the dialogue, we hear it in this line 佢自己同我講嘍 *Keoi5 zi6 gei2 tung4 ngo5 gong2 gaa3* ("He told me himself"). Of course, as a preposition, we put this in front of the verb, and that's how we got this structure 同我講 (*tung4 ngo5 gong2*). The interesting thing here is you can swap the verb there for any verb, so in addition to "with me to speak" 同我講, we can use other verbs, for instance, 玩 (*waan2*), 同我玩 *gei2 tung4 ngo5 waan2* ("to play with me"). 今晚去disco, 同我玩啊 *Gam1 maan5 heoi2 DISCO, tung4 ngo5 waan4 aa1* ("Go to the disco with me tonight").

This is much more common in Cantonese than in English, because "to play" is for kids in

English. 同我食飯 *tung4 ngo5 sik6 faan6* ("to eat with me"), 你介唔介意今晚同我食飯 *Nei5 gaai3 m4 gaai3 ji3 gam1 maan5 tung4 ngo5 sik6 faan6* ("Can you come and eat with me tonight"). And of course it's a general pattern, so we can change the directory object here: "with him" 同佢 (*tung4 keoi5*), "with us" 同我哋 (*tung4 ngo5 dei6*), "with them" 同佢哋 (*tung4 keoi5 dei6*).

For example:

1. 老闆同員工食飯。
lou5 baan2 tung4 jyun4 gung1 sik6 faan6
"The boss ate with the employees."
2. 聽講佢同佢嘅朋友都俾人炒魷魚。
teng1 gong2 keoi5 tung4 keoi5 ge3 pang4 jau5 dou1 bei2 jan4 caau2 jau4 jyu2
"I've heard he was fired with his friend."

Language Tip

In Cantonese, the preposition 同 (*tung4*) comes in front of verbs, and if you've got a direct object, you slide in the middle, as in the phrase 同我講.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Skill Sets in Hong Kong

Workers in Hong Kong who have highly specialized skills do not enjoy all the protection offered by competition. Employment risks in a thin market discourage investment in specific human capital. In response, Hong Kong workers choose breadth over depth. No wonder that they are more renowned for their flexibility than for their expertise. Hong Kong has been importing skilled labor from all corners of the world. Many highly educated workers are now working in Hong Kong, and most of them came by way of North America or Europe.