

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Beginner S1 #19

## The Case of Mistaken Identity in Hong Kong

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# 19

# TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你男朋友返咗美國？
2. 唔係啊，佢返咗英國。
3. 吓？佢唔係美國人咩？
4. 之前嗰個係。
5. 吓？你又換咗男朋友呀？

# JYUTPING

1. nei5 naam4 pang4 jau5 faan1 zo2 mei5 gwok3 ?
2. m4 hai6 aa3, keoi5 faan1 zo2 jing1 gwok3.
3. haa2 ? keoi5 m4 hai6 mei5 gwok3 jan4 me1 ?
4. zi1 cin4 go2 go3 hai6. haa2 ?
5. haa5? nei5 jau6 wun6 zo2 naam4 pang4 jau5 aa6 ?

# ENGLISH

1. A: Did your boyfriend go back to the United States?
2. B: No, he went back to England.

CONT'D OVER

3. A: Oh? Isn't he American?
4. B: My ex-boyfriend was American.
5. A: What? You've got a new boyfriend again?

## VOCABULARY

| Traditional | Romanization     | English     | Class   |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| 返           | faan1            | to return   | verb    |
| 換           | wun6             | to exchange | verb    |
| 美國          | mei5 gwok3       | America     | noun    |
| 男朋友         | naam4 pang4 jau5 | boyfriend   | noun    |
| 女朋友         | neoi5 pang4 jau5 | girlfriend  | noun    |
| 情侶          | cing4 lei5       | lovers      | noun    |
| 英國          | jing1 gwok3      | England     | noun    |
| 嗰個          | go2 go3          | that one    | pronoun |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>呢個月底我老公返。</p> <p><i>ni1 go3 jyut6 dai2 ngo5 lou5 gung1 faan1.</i></p> <p>My husband will return home by the end of the month.</p> | <p>港紙換美元。</p> <p><i>gong2 zi2 wun6 mei5 jyun4.</i></p> <p>I want to change HK Dollars to US Dollars.</p> |
| <p>你有冇去過美國？</p> <p><i>nei5 jau5 mou5 heoi3 gwo3 mei5 gwok3?</i></p> <p>Have you been to America?</p>                                 | <p>我男朋友係老師。</p> <p><i>ngo5 naam4 pang4 jau5 hai6 lou5 si1.</i></p> <p>My boyfriend is a teacher.</p>     |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 呢個係我女朋友。<br><i>ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 nei5 pang4 jau5.</i><br><br>This is my girlfriend.                           | 情侶在買衣服。<br><i>cing4 lei5 zoi6 maai5 ji1 fuk6</i><br><br>The couple is buying clothes. |
| 我唔鍾意英國嘅天氣。<br><i>ngo5 m4 zung1 ji3 jing1 gwok3 ge3 tin1 hei3.</i><br><br>I don't like the weather in England. | 嗰個幾錢？<br><i>go2 go3 gei2 cin2?</i><br><br>How much is that?                           |

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of this Lesson is Weird Sounds in Cantonese

吓？佢唔係美國人咩？

"Huh? Isn't he American?"

The grammar point in this lesson is very easy. It's not even about a word. It's this sound from this line in the dialogue: 吓？佢唔係美國人咩, *haa2 ? keoi5 m4 hai6 mei5 gwok3 jan4 me1* ("Huh? Isn't he American?") The 吓 *haa2* there is used to show that someone is surprised. For example: 吓？你又肥咗？ *haa2 ? nei5 jau6 fei4 zo2 ?* ("Huh? You gained weight again?"). The emotion here is "oh? huh? really? can this be true?" That's our first strange sound: 吓 *haa2*. The next one is *e6*. It's a low mid-flat sound. You use this sound to show that you are hesitant. For example: 諗，我唔知㗎 *e6, ngo5 m4 zi1 wo3*. ("Ah, I don't really know"). 諗，唔識㗎 *e6, m5 sik1 wo3*. ("Ah, I don't recognize him"). This sound is actually not too far from English. The last sound we want to introduce is unique to Cantonese: 嘍 (*ji2*). This sound means you are surprised as well, but in a good way. For instance, you have been looking for your watch and you suddenly find it hidden under your wallet, you can say 嘍，喺呢度啊 *Ji2, hai2 ni1 dou6 aa4*. ("Oh! It's here") or 嘍，你又換男朋友啊 *ji2, nei5 jau6 wun6 naam4 pang4 jau5 aa4?* ("Ah, you changed boyfriends again").

### Language Tip

In Cantonese, we also have the sound 唔 (*m4*). It's similar as the English sound "hmm," but without the sound of "h." There are three other sounds, 吓 (*haa2*) , 諗 (*e6*) , and 嘍 (*ji2*) that

are unique in Cantonese. They are all used at the beginning of sentences.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **Personalities in Hong Kong**

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It's not hard to find cross-cultural relationships in Hong Kong, and the majority of the combos of westerner-Hong Konger dating seem to work in both directions. Consider the spectrum of people you know back home—from wonderful to intolerable—that same spectrum exists in Hong Kong. And just like back home, there's usually an inverse correlation between looks and personality in Hong Kong.