

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #3 Skipping Class in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 老師今日有冇點名?
2. 冇, 點解你唔嚟上堂?
3. 好彩, 我尋晚飲大咗。
4. 但係老師知道你有嚟上堂。
5. 啊? 佢點知㗎?
6. 我講嘅。

JYUTPING

1. lou5 si1 gam1 jat6 jau5 mou5 dim2 meng2 ?
2. mou5, dim2 gaai2 nei5 m4 lei4 soeng5 tong4 ?
3. hou2 coi2. ngo5 cam4 maan5 jam2 daai6 zo2.
4. daan6 hai6 lou5 si1 zi1 dou3 nei5 mou5 lei4 soeng5 tong4.
5. aa2 ? keoi5 dim2 zi1 gaa3 ?
6. ngo5 gong2 ge3.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Did the teacher call the roll today?
2. B: No. Why didn't you come to the class?
3. A: Lucky me. I was out drinking last night.
4. B: But the teacher knows you didn't come.
5. A: What? How did she know?
6. B: I told her.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
缺席	kyut3 zik6	to be absent	verb
上堂	soeng5 tong4	to have class	verb
飲大咗	jam2 daai6 zo2	to have drunk a lot	verb phrase
宿醉	suk1 zeoi3	to have a hangover	verb
老師	lou5 si1	teacher	noun
教務主任	gaau3 mou6 zyu2 jam6	administrative director at school	noun
遲到	ci4 dou3	to be late	verb
校長	haau6 zoeng2	principal	noun
點名	dim2 meng2	to call the roll	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>上個學期佢缺席咗十五日。 soeng6 go3 hok6 kei4 keoi5 kyut3 zik6 zo2 sap6 ng5 jat6.</p> <p>He was absent fifteen days last semester.</p>	<p>我要上堂。 ngo5 jiu3 soeng5 tong4.</p> <p>I have to go to school.</p>
<p>佢同佢朋友飲大咗。 keoi5 tung4 keoi5 pang4 jau5 jam2 daai6 zo2.</p> <p>He got really drunk with his friends.</p>	<p>佢宿醉因為佢飲得太多。 keoi5 suk1 zeoi3 jan1 wai4 keoi5 jam2 dak1 taai3 do1.</p> <p>He drank too much and got a hangover.</p>
<p>佢哋係老師。 keoi5 dei6 hai6 lou5 si1.</p> <p>They're teachers.</p>	<p>每間學校都有幾位教務主任。 mui5 gaan1 hok6 haau6 dou1 jau5 gei2 wai2 gaau3 mou6 zyu2 jam6.</p> <p>The school has several administrators.</p>
<p>你又遲到。 nei5 jau6 ci4 dou3.</p> <p>You're late again.</p>	<p>每間學校都有一位校長。 mui5 gaan1 hok6 haau6 dou1 jau5 jat1 wai2 haau6 zoeng2.</p> <p>Every school has a single principal.</p>

老師點咗名。

lou5 si1 dim2 zo2 meng2 .

The teacher held roll call.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking "how" with 點

佢點知㗎？

"How did she know?"

In our grammar point for this lesson, we want to highlight the phrase 點知 *dim2 zi1* ("how do you know?"). In our dialogue, we see this used in the sentence 佢點知 *keoi5 dim2 zi1* ("How did he/she know?"). Taken literally, 點知 means "how to know" or "how did you know?" What

is happening is that 點 (*dim2*) is our question marker, and we are adding specific verbs to the end; single-character verbs in particular, as we can see in these examples:

1. 你點嚟?
nei5 dim2 lei4?
"How do you come?"
2. 你點用?
nei5 dim2 jung6?
"How do you use?"

Note that when we use these questions in longer sentences, our question phrase comes at the end, as follows:

1. 落咁大雨，你點嚟？
lok6 gam3 daai6 jyu5, nei5 dim2 lei4?
"It's raining so hard. How did you come?"
2. 部機器點用？
bou6 gei1 hei3 dim2 jung6?
"This piece of machinery, how do you use it?"
3. 廣東話呢個點講？
gwong2 dung1 waa2 ni1 go3 dim2 gong2?
"In Cantonese, how do you say this?"

Language Tip

Do you know that the character 點 (*dim2*) is also used to describe time? Used in that context, the character means "o'clock." Simply say a number between one and twelve and then add 點 (*dim2*). For example, 八點 *bat6 dim2* means "eight o'clock," while 五點 means "five o'clock." If you want to specify the number of minutes, just put them after the hour phrase as with 四點二十 or "four twenty."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Hong Kong Educational System

Students skipping classes is not a major concern in Hong Kong, which consistently ranks third in international surveys of student cognitive skills and educational attainment. The island ranks behind only South Korea and Finland in repeated tests, with its students' literacy and math competence levels ranking far above those in even countries like Canada and France. Despite this, there continues to be disagreement in Hong Kong over the right direction of educational reform, and concerns that there is an over-emphasis on rote-learning in the Hong Kong public education system.