

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #4 Hong Kong Bank Security

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你好，有咩可以幫到你？
2. 我張銀行卡壞咗。
3. 請你輸入密碼我幫你檢查下。
4. 我唔記得咗個密碼。
5. 咁你需要重新修改密碼。
6. 咁改成九九九啦。
7. 密碼越複雜越安全。
8. 哦，咁改成六個九啦。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 hou2, jau5 me1 ho2 ji5 bong1 dou2 nei5 ?
2. ngo5 zoeng1 ngan4 hong4 kaat1 wai6 zo2.
3. cing2 nei5 syu1 jap6 mat6 maa5 ngo5 bong1 nei5 gim2 caa4 haa5.
4. ngo5 m4 gei3 dak1 zo2 go3 mat6 maa5.
5. gam2 nei5 seoi1 jiu3 cung4 san1 sau1 goi2 mat6 maa5.
6. gam2 goi2 sing4 gau2 gau2 gau2 laa1.

CONT'D OVER

7. mat6 maa5 jyut6 fuk1 zaap6 jyut6 on1 cyun4.

8. o4, gam2 goi2 sing4 luk6 go3 gau2 laa1.

ENGLISH

1. A: Hello, how can I help you?

2. B: My debit card is not working.

3. A: Please input the password and I'll look into it for you.

4. B: I forgot the password.

5. A: You need to set a new password.

6. B: Then change it to 999.

7. A: The more complex the password is, the more secure it is.

8. B: You're right. Make it six nines.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
檢查	gim2 caa4	to check	verb
信用卡	seon3 jung6 kaat1	credit card	noun
提款卡	tai4 fun2 kaat1	debit card	noun
儲蓄卡	cyu5 cuk1 kaat1	saving card	noun

重新	cung4 san1	once again	verb
修改	sau1 goi2	to change	verb
複雜	fuk1 zaap6	complicated	adjective
密碼	mat6 maa5	password	noun
銀行卡	ngan4 hong4 kaat1	bank card	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>檢查下你個戶口裡面有幾多錢。 <i>gim2 caa4 haa5 nei5 go3 wu6 hau2 lei5 min6 jau5 gei2 do1 cin2.</i></p> <p>Check how much money is in your account.</p>	<p>你張信用卡用唔到。 <i>nei5 zoeng1 seon3 jung6 kaat1 jung6 m4 dou2.</i></p> <p>Your credit card can't be used.</p>
<p>依張係一張提款卡，唔係信用卡。 <i>ji1 zoeng1 hai6 jat1 zoeng1 tai4 fun2 kaat1, m4 hai6 seon3 jung6 kaat1.</i></p> <p>This is a debit card, not a credit card.</p>	<p>插張儲蓄卡喺依部櫃員機。 <i>caap3 zoeng1 cyu5 cuk1 kaat1 hai2 ji1 bou6 gwai6 jyun4 gei1.</i></p> <p>Insert your saving card to use this ATM.</p>
<p>你要重新開過一次機。 <i>nei5 jiu3 cung4 san1 hoi1 gwo3 jat1 ci6 gei1.</i></p> <p>You have to restart the machine again.</p>	<p>佢力求喺演唱會上重新演繹呢首歌。 <i>keoi5 lik6 kau4 hai2 jin2 coeng3 wui5 soeng6 cung4 san1 jin2 jik6 ni1 sau2 go1.</i></p> <p>He is trying to give a new performance of the song in his concert.</p>
<p>你應該要修改你個密碼。 <i>nei5 jing1 goi1 jiu3 sau1 goi2 nei5 go3 mat6 maa5.</i></p> <p>You need to change your password.</p>	<p>依兩個國家之間嘅關係好複雜。 <i>ji1 loeng5 go3 gwok3 gaa1 zi1 gaan1 ge3 gwaan1 hai6 hou2 fuk1 zaap6.</i></p> <p>These two countries have a very complicated relationship.</p>

你一定要記住呢個密碼。

*nei5 jat1 ding6 jiu3 gei3 zyu6 ni1 go3 mat6
maa5.*

You've absolutely got to remember this password.

個櫃員機吞咗我張銀行卡。

*go3 gwai6 jyun4 gei1 tan1 zo2 ngo5 zoeng1
ngan4 hong4 kaat1.*

The ATM ate my bank card.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Pattern "The more...the better." in Cantonese (越多越好)

密碼越複雜越安全。

"The more complex the password is, the more secure it is."

This lesson focus is on the grammar pattern 越 ... 越 ... (*jyut6 ... jyut6 ...*). This pattern is used in combination with adjectives. We can put either the same adjective in both places, or combine different adjectives to varying effects, as illustrated in the examples below:

1. 越多越好

jyut6 do1 jyut6 hou2

"The more the better."

2. 越貴越好

jyut6 gwai3 jyut6 hou2

"The more expensive the better."

3. 越長越好

jyut6 coeng4 jyut6 hou2

"The longer the better."

These four character compounds are not sentences on their own because they're missing subjects. So to create a sentence with this pattern, first state the subject and then follow it up with an observation about that subject. In our dialogue, we see this in the line 密碼越複雜越安全 *mat6 maa5 jyut6 fuk1 zaap6 jyut6 on1 cyun4*, which translates literally as "password,

the more difficult the more safe" or more colloquially as "the more complex your password, the safer it is." Clearly, while this pattern can be a bit tricky to translate naturally, it is tremendously useful. In the following examples, try to think about how to translate these sentences before checking our English translation:

1. 經驗越多越好。

ging1 jim6 jyut6 do1 jyut6 hou2.

"When it comes to experience, more is generally better."

2. 密碼越長越好。

mat6 maa5 jyut6 coeng4 jyut6 hou2.

"When it comes to your password, the longer it is the better it is."

3. 買嘢嘅時候，越平越唔好。

maai5 je5 ge3 si4 hau6 , jyut6 peng4 jyut6 m4 hou2.

"When you're buying things, it's important to realize that the cheaper something is the worse quality it is."

Language Tip

This pattern is particularly common in Hong Kong because the sound of the character 越 (*jyut6*) is the same as that of the word "Cantonese" or 粵 (*jyut6*). This leads to a lot of puns about Cantonese culture and Cantonese society. For instance, if someone says 粵食粵滋味 (*jyut6 sik6 jyut6 zi1 mei6*) they can mean both "the more you eat, the better it tastes" as well as implying that "Cantonese food has a Cantonese taste." Another good example is the commonly-heard 粵講粵好 (*jyut6 gong2 jyut6 hou2*) which means not only "the more you speak, the better you get" but also "Cantonese ways of speaking are really good."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Currency in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong currency system is somewhat special in that the currency in circulation on the island is issued by private banks under the authority of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority,

rather than directly by the central government. This means that at present individual bills carry the name and imprimatur of three private banks, including HSBC and the Bank of China. This system is similar to the way currency is regulated in the United Kingdom. In order to issue these bills, banks are required to keep the equivalent of the amount issued in US currency reserves. This is one reason Hong Kong has one of the largest US currency reserves in the world.