

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #7

Buying a Computer in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 部電腦幾多錢?
2. 五千八百蚊。
3. 太貴喇。
4. 唔要配件，四千八，一口價。
5. 冇鼠標鍵盤我點用啊?
6. 鼠標鍵盤都有。
7. 咁有咩啊?
8. 主板。

JYUTPING

1. bou6 din6 nou5 gei2 do1 cin2 ?
2. ng5 cin1 baat3 baak3 man1.
3. taai3 gwai3 laa3.
4. m4 jiu3 pui3 gin2, sei3 cin1 baat3, jat1 hau2 gaa3.
5. mou5 syu2 biu1 gin6 pun2 ngo5 dim2 jung6 aa3 ?
6. syu2 biu1 gin6 pun2 dou1 jau5.

CONT'D OVER

7. gam2 mou5 me1 aa3 ?

8. zyu2 baan2.

ENGLISH

1. A: How much is this computer?
2. B: 5800 HKD.
3. A: It's too expensive.
4. B: No accessories, 4800 HKD, no bargain.
5. A: How can I use a computer without a mouse or keyboard?
6. B: Mouse and keyboard are included.
7. A: Then what accessories are missing?
8. B: The motherboard.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
顯示器	hin2 si6 hei3	monitor	noun
光碟	gwong1 dip2	optical disc	noun
硬盤	ngaang6 pun2	hard drive	noun
屏幕	ping4 mok6	screen; display	noun

一口價	jat1 hau2 gaa3	no haggling	phrase
主板	zyu2 baan2	motherboard	noun
鼠標	syu2 biu1	mouse (computer)	noun
鍵盤	gin6 pun2	keyboard (computer)	noun
電腦	din6 nou5	computer	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>喂！點解個顯示器轉咗做藍色嘅？ <i>wei3 ! dim2 gaai2 go3 hin2 si6 hei3 zyun3 zo2 zou6 laam4 sik1 ge2 ?</i></p> <p>Hey why did the monitor turn blue?</p>	<p>DVD係一種光碟。 <i>DVD hai6 jat1 zung2 gwong1 dip2.</i></p> <p>A DVD is a type of optical disc.</p>
<p>部電腦個硬盤維修唔到。 <i>bou6 din6 nou5 go3 ngaang6 pun2 wai4 sau1 m4 dou2.</i></p> <p>The computer hard drive cannot be fixed.</p>	<p>個屏幕開唔到，係因為佢爛咗。 <i>go3 ping4 mok6 hoi1 m4 dou2, hai6 jan1 wai4 keoi5 laan6 zo2.</i></p> <p>The screen is broken so it won't start.</p>
<p>喺蘋果店裡面只有一口價，冇商量。 <i>hai2 ping4 gwo2 dim3 leoi5 min6 zi2 jau5 jat1 hau2 gaa3, mou5 soeng1 loeng4.</i></p> <p>At the Apple store, there is no haggling.</p>	<p>佢唔著，因為個主板壞咗。 <i>keoi5 m4 zoek6, jan1 wai4 go3 zyu2 baan2 wai6 zo2.</i></p> <p>it won't turn on, because the motherboard is broken.</p>
<p>呢個無線鼠標需要新電池。 <i>ni1 go3 mou4 sin3 syu2 biu1 seoi1 jiu3 san1 din6 ci4.</i></p> <p>The wireless mouse needs new batteries.</p>	<p>點解個鍵盤用唔到嘅？ <i>dim2 gaai2 go3 gin6 pun2 jung6 m4 dou2 ge2 ?</i></p> <p>Why isn't the keyboard working?</p>
<p>我新買咗一部電腦。 <i>ngo5 san1 maa5 zo2 jat1 bou6 din6 nou5.</i></p> <p>I bought a new computer.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is On How to Omit 呢 *ne1*, ("this") and 嗰 *go2*, ("that") in Cantonese

部電腦幾多錢?

"How much is this computer?"

In our grammar point in this lesson, we want to take a look at this sentence for our dialogue: 部電腦幾多錢? *bou6 din6 nou5 gei2 do1 cin2*, ("How much is this computer?"). Note that we've translated this as how much is THIS computer, but in the Cantonese, the word "this" is missing: 部電腦 *bou6 din6 nou5*, ("this computer"). Note that we don't have to specify 呢部電腦 *ni1 bou6 din6 nou5*, ("this computer") or 嗰部電腦 *go2 bou6 din6 nou5*, ("that computer"). What happens here is because everyone knows what we're talking about, we can drop the determiner and just use the measure word.

This is a really colloquial way to speak in Cantonese. A lot of textbooks don't teach you this, but when you're out on the street, you're going to hear it all the time.

More examples:

1. 我要買部電腦。
ngo5 jiu3 maai5 bou6 din6 nou5
"I want to buy a/this/that computer."
2. 部電腦壞咗。
bou6 din6 nou5 waai6 zo2
"This/that computer is broken."

You can use this with any other noun as long as you get the measure word right.

1. 個鼠標。
go3 syu2 biu1
"This/that mouse."
2. 個鼠標壞咗。
go3 syu2 biu1 waai6 zo2
"This/that mouse is broken."

3. 個鼠標好貴。
go3 syu2 biu1 hou2 gwai3
"This/that mouse is really expensive."
4. 個鍵盤壞咗。
go3 gin6 pun4 waai6 zo2
"This/that keyboard is broken."
5. 個顯示器太細喇。
go3 hin2 si6 hei3 tai3 sai3 laa3
"This/that monitor is too small."
6. 個顯示器太大喇。
go3 hin2 si6 hei3 tai3 daai6 laa3
"This/that monitor is too big."

As a general rule, in colloquial Cantonese, when we already know what object we're talking about, we don't need to use the determiner, like: 呢 *ne1*, ("this") or 嗰 *go2*, ("that"). We can jump directly to the measure word and follow with the object. And that can mean "this" or "that," or something like "mine" or "yours," depending on the context.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where to Buy a Computer in Hong Kong

Desktops, notebooks, tablets, mobiles, even the humble earphone: Hong Kong is the place to find the latest and the best electronics. The local market is both demanding and well-informed, which means you can be sure that whatever you are looking for will be there. Windsor House Shopping Center in Causeway Bay, Star House in Tsim Sha Tsui and the Wan Chai Computer Center in Wan Chai are just three of many department stores that have several floors devoted to computer hardware, software and accessories.