CantoneseClass101.com

Upper Beginner S1 #9
A Full House in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你屋企有幾多個人?

2. 一共有三個人。

3. 三個人住咁大間屋做咩?

4. 我地仲養咗三隻狗，三隻貓。

5. 吓? 咁鬼多?

6. 佢哋一人一間房，所以間屋都唔算大。

JYUTPING

1. nei5 uk1 kei2 jau5 gei2 do1 go3 jan4 ?

2. jat1 gung6 jau5 saam1 go3 jan4.

3. saam1 go3 jan4 zyu6 gam3 daai6 gaan1 uk1 zou6 me1 ?

4. ngo5 dei6 zung6 joeng5 zo2 saam1 zek3 gau2, saam1 zek3 maau1.

5. haa2 ? gam3 gwai2 do1 ?

6. keoi5 dei6 jat1 jan4 jat1 gaan1 fong2, so2 ji5 gaan1 uk1 dou1 m4 syun3 daai6.

ENGLISH

1. A: How many people are in your family?

2. B: In total, three are three people.

3. A: Do you need such a big house for just three people?

4. B: We have three dogs and three cats too.

5. A: Wow, that many?

6. B: And each of them have their own room so the house isn't that big.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
一共	jat1 gung6	total	adv
屋企人	uk1 kei2 jan4	family member	noun
隻	zek3	measure word for cats and dogs	measure word
狗	gau2	dog	noun
貓	maau1	cat	noun
返屋企	faan1 nguk1 kei2	to go home	verb
因為	jan1 wai6	because	conjunction
養	joeng5	to raise	verb
所以	so2 ji5	therefore	conjunction

SAMPLE SENTENCES

一共五百個人。 *jat1 gung6 ng5 baak3 go3 jan4。* 500 people all together.	你有幾多屋企人? *nei5 jau5 gei2 do1 uk1 kei2 jan4 ?* How many people are in your family?
我哋有三隻貓同一隻狗。 *ngo5 dei2 jau5 saam1 zek3 maau1 tung4 jat1 zek3 gau2* We have three cats and one dog.	毛鬆鬆的狗在追皮球。 *mou4 sung1 sung1 dik1 gau2 zoi6 zeoi1 pei4 kau4* The shaggy dog is running after a ball.
黑貓從屏幕裡穿過。 *hak1 maau1 cong4 ping4 mok6 leoi5 cyun1 gwo3* The black cat is walking across the screen.	等位嘅人咁多，不如打包返屋企食啦。 *dang2 wai2 ge3 jan4 gam3 do1, bat1 jyu4 daa2 baau1 faan1 uk1 kei2 sik6 laa1.* There are so many people waiting, let's get the food to go.
因為我病咗，所以唔返學。 *jan1 wai6 ngo5 beng6 zo2 ，so2 ji5 m4 faan1 hok6。* Because I'm ill, I don't go to school.	你有冇養貓或者狗啊? *nei5 jau5 mou5 joeng5 maau1 waak6 ze2 gau2 aa3 ?* Do you have cats or dogs?

因為你忙，所以唔搵你。
jan1 wai6 nei5 mong4 ，so2 ji5 m4 wan2 nei5。

Because you were busy, therefore I didn't ask for you.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say "therefore" in Cantonese 所以 *so2 ji5*
佢哋一人一間房，所以間屋都唔算大。
"And each of them have their own room so the house isn't that big."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is talking about cause-effect relationships in Cantonese. We

do this using the conjunction 所以 *so2 ji5*, ("therefore"). In our dialogue, we heard this in this line: 佢哋一人一間房，所以間屋都唔算大 *keoi5 dei6 jat1 jan4 jat1 gaan1 fong2, so2 ji5 gaan1 nguk1 dou1 m4 syun3 daai6*, ("Each of them have their own room, therefore, the house isn't that big"). The important thing is to notice that it falls into two pieces. First, we have the reason, and then 所以 *so2 ji5* , ("therefore") followed by the second statement.

More examples:

1. 呢個太貴，所以我唔會買。
   ni1 go3 taai3 gwai3, so2 ji5 ngo5 m4 wui5 maai5
   "This is too expensive, and so, I won't buy it."

2. 我唔肚餓，所以飲啲嘢就算喇。
   ngo5 m4 tou5 ngo6 , so2 ji5 jam2 di1 je5 zau6 syun3 laa3
   "I'm not hungry, so let's have drinks."

3. 我唔見咗護照，所以呢個係我嘅駕駛證。
   ngo5 m4 gin3 zo2 wu6 ziu3, so2 ji5 ni1 go3 hai6 ngo5 ge3 gaa3 sai2 zing3
   "I lost my passport, therefore here's my driver's license."

The way we're teaching you this is the most colloquial way people would make these statements in Cantonese. There is another word you can add at the beginning of a sentence though. It's 因為 *jan1 wai4*, ("because"). Most of the time when people are speaking, they're not going to do this, because it's a bit more formal and less casual. Let's look at some sample sentences with both "because" and "therefore."

1. 因為我唔肚餓，所以我唔想食嘢。
   jan1 wai4 ngo5 m4 tou5 ngo6, so2 ji5 ngo5 m4 soeng2 sik6 je5
   "Because I'm not hungry, therefore I don't want to eat."

2. 因為太貴喇，所以我唔想買。
   jan1 wai4 taai3 gwai3 laa6, so2 ji5 ngo5 m4 soeng2 maai5
   "Because it's too expensive, therefore I don't want to buy it."

3. 因為想學廣東話，所以聽 CantoneseClass101。
   jan1 wai4 soeng2 hok6 gwong2 dung1 waa2 , so2 ji5 teng1 CantoneseClass101.
   "Because I want to learn Cantonese, therefore I listen to CantoneseClass101."

Besides the most common 因為 and 所以, there are some other ways to say "because" and "therefore" in Cantonese:

1. 由於 *jau4 jyu1*, ("because"). It is mostly seen in written Cantonese and you don't have to add a "therefore" to the result-sentence if the cause-sentence is led by 由於. For example, 由於停電，我上唔到網 *jau4 jyu1 ting4 din6, ngo5 seong5 m4 dou2 mong5* ("Because of the electricity shortage, I can't get online").

2. 因此 *jyu1 si6*, ("therefore"). It's also a formal word and you don't need to add a "because" to the cause-sentence. For example, 公司欠咗幾百萬，因此唯有裁員 *Gung1 si1 him3 zo2 gei2 baak3 maan6, jan1 ci2 wai2 jau5 coi4 jyun4* ("The company owes millions in debt, so it has to cut jobs").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Housing in Hong Kong

Housing in Hong Kong varies by location and income. More than seven million people live on about 1108 km island, and Hong Kong has the third most expensive real estate in the world. Public housing is a major component of the housing in Hong Kong. In particular, prices drop almost automatically once you get off Hong Kong Island itself. Conversely, living off the island means longer commutes to the business districts and harder to procure western comforts and amenities. The average Hong Kong home measures only 450 square feet. IKEA multipurpose furniture is a must.