

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #1 Membership Has Its Rewards in Hong Kong

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 兩張八點半嘅戲飛，唔該。
2. B: 八點半鐵甲奇俠兩張。請揀位。大螢幕喺呢邊。
3. A: 第五排中間。一共幾錢啊？
4. B: 請問有無會員咭？或者學生證？
5. A: 無會員咭，有學生證，但係冇帶。
6. B: 需唔需要而家辦張會員咭？五十蚊一張。立即享受8折優惠，仲送埋兩杯嘢飲。
7. A: 都好啱。需要咩手續？
8. B: 麻煩填張表。填好之後激活就得喇。
9. A: 填好喇，唔該。
10. B: 一共一百五十蚊。憑戲飛喺嗰邊嘅櫃台攤嘢飲。

JYUTPING

1. A: loeng5 zoeng1 baat3 dim2 bun3 ge3 hei3 fei1, m4 goi1.
2. B: baat3 dim2 bun3 tit3 gaap3 kei4 hap6 loeng5 zoeng1. cing2 gaan2 wai2. daai6 jing4 mok6 hai2 ni1 bin1.
3. A: dai6 ng5 paai4 zung1 gaan1. jat1 gung6 gei2 cin2 aa6?

CONT'D OVER

4. B: cing2 man6 jau5 mou5 wui2 jyun4 kaat1? waak6 ze2 hok6 sang1 zing3?
5. A: mou5 wui2 jyun4 kaat1, jau5 hok6 sang1 zing3, daan6 hai6 mou5 daai3.
6. B: seoi1 ng4 seoi1 jiu3 ji4 gaa1 baan6 zoeng1 wui2 jyun4 kaat1? ng5 sap6 man1 jat1 zoeng1. lap6 zik1 hoeng2 sau6 baat3 zit3 jau1 wai6, zung6 sung3 maai4 loeng5 bui1 je5 jam2.
7. A: dou1 hou2 wo3. seoi1 jiu3 me1 sau2 zuk6?
8. B: maa4 fan4 tin4 zoeng1 biu2. tin4 hou2 zi1 hau6 gik1 wut6 zau6 dak1 laa6.
9. A: tin4 hou2 laa6, m4 goi1.
10. B: jat1 gung6 jat1 baak3 ng5 sap6 man1. pang4 hei3 fei1 hai2 go2 bin1 ge3 gwai6 toi2 lo2 je5 jam2.

ENGLISH

1. A: I want two tickets for the 8.30 film.
2. B: Two for Iron Man at 8.30. Please select seats. The screen is on this side.
3. A: We'll have the seats in the middle of row 5. How much in total?
4. B: Do you have a membership card? Or a student card?

CONT'D OVER

5. A: I don't have a membership card, and I forgot to bring my student card.
6. B: Would you like to get a membership card right away? It'll cost you 50 HKD but you'll get twenty percent off your tickets right away, and two complimentary drinks.
7. A: Sounds good. How do I get one?
8. B: Please fill out the form, and I'll activate it for you when you're done.
9. A: Done. Thanks.
10. B: It's 150 HKD altogether. You can get the drinks at the counter over there with your tickets.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
優惠	jau1 wai6	benefit	noun
折扣	zit3 kau3	discount	noun
激活	gik1 wut6	to activate	verb
揀位	gaan2 wai2	to select seats	verb
會員咭	wui2 jyun4 kaat1	membership card	noun
學生證	hok6 sang1 zing3	student card	noun
立即	lap6 zik1	immediately	adjectives
享受	hoeng2 sau6	to enjoy	verb
戲飛	hei3 fei1	film ticket	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>聖誕節就快到啦，好多大商場都開始做優惠大酬賓！</p> <p><i>sing3 daan3 zit3 zau6 faai3 dou3 laa3, hou2 do1 daai6 soeng1 coeng4 dou1 hoi1 ci2 zou6 jau1 wai6 daai6 cau4 ban1!</i></p> <p>It's almost Christmas, and many shopping malls have started sales and promotions.</p>	<p>我識得人做旅行社，買機票有折扣。</p> <p><i>ngo5 sik1 dak1 jan4 zou6 leoi5 hang4 se5, maa5 gei1 piu3 jau5 zit3 kau3.</i></p> <p>I know people from the travel agency, I can get discounts on air tickets.</p>
<p>你識唔識得激活賬戶啊？</p> <p><i>nei5 sik1 m4 sik1 dak1 gik1 wut6 zoeng3 wu6 aa3?</i></p> <p>Do you know how to activate the account?</p>	<p>叫咗你尋日買飛喇，而家先買，冇得揀位喇。</p> <p><i>giu3 zo2 nei5 cam4 jat6 maa5 fei1 gaa3 laa1, ji4 gaa1 sin1 maa5, mou5 dak1 gaan2 wai2 laa3.</i></p> <p>I told you to get the tickets yesterday. We would have picked our seats if you had listened to me.</p>
<p>千祈唔好辦健身房會員咭，肯定嘍錢。</p> <p><i>cin1 kei4 m4 hou2 baan6 gin6 san1 fong2 wui2 jyun4 kaat1, hang2 ding6 saai1 cin2.</i></p> <p>Don't join any gyms; it's a waste of money.</p>	<p>如果有學生證，好多書局買書都有優惠。</p> <p><i>jyu4 gwo2 jau5 hok6 saang1 zing3, hou2 do1 syu1 guk2 maa5 syu1 dou1 jau5 jau1 wai6.</i></p> <p>If you have a student card, you will get discount on books in many book stores.</p>
<p>你以為做運動係化妝咩？可以立即見效？</p> <p><i>nei5 ji5 wai4 zou6 wan6 dung6 hai6 faa3 zong1 me1? ho2 ji5 lap6 zik1 gin3 haau6?</i></p> <p>You think exercising is some kind of makeup that can give you a glossy look in an instant?</p>	<p>對於佢嚟講，人生嘅真諦就係享受每一秒。</p> <p><i>deoi3 jyu1 keoi5 lai2 gong2, jan4 sang1 ge3 zan1 dai3 zau6 hai6 hoeng2 sau6 mui5 jat1 miu5.</i></p> <p>According to him, the essence of life rises in enjoying every second.</p>

佢享受佢嘅酒吧度孤寂嘅時光。
keoi5 hoeng2 sau6 keoi5 hai2 zau2 baa1 dou6
gu1 zik6 ge3 si4 gwong1.

He enjoys his lonesome hour at the bar.

恆生銀行搞活動，辦信用卡送戲飛。

hang4 sang1 ngan4 hong4 gaau2 wut6 dung6,
baan6 seon3 jung6 kaat1 sung3 hei3 fei1.

The Hang Seng Bank is doing a promotion: get a credit card, and two movie tickets for free.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Omitting Subjects in Cantonese

兩張八點半嘅戲飛，唔該。

"I want two tickets for the 8:30 film."

One of the very special things about the Cantonese language is how often speakers will omit the subject of their sentences. We see this very clearly in our dialogue, such as in the sentence 兩張八點半嘅戲飛，唔該 *loeng5 zoeng1 baat3 dim2 bun3 ge3 hei3 fei1, m4 goi1* ("I want 2 tickets for the 8:30 show"), or the question 請問有冇會員咁 *cing2 man6 jau5 mou5 wui2 jyun4 kaat1* ("do you have a membership card").

Neither of the above sentences technically include their subjects. For instance, in the sentence 兩張八點半嘅戲飛 the subject is technically "me," as the speaker is asking if they can have two tickets for the 8:30 showing. Native speakers often find it awkward to parse out such a long sentence, and so just remove the subject out of habit.

It is likely that you have already internalized this habit, but we feel it is important to point out, especially since at the upper levels it is often common to run into sentences that will not make any sense if you try to interpret them literally. A good example of this is the sentence 聖誕節一定要去購物 *sing3 daan3 zit3 jat1 ding6 jiu3 heoi3 kau3 mat6* ("At Christmas, everyone goes to shopping"), which makes very little sense if read literally with "Christmas" as the subject of the sentence.

Here we have some good examples for you:

1. 聖誕節一定要去購物。
sing3 daan3 zit3 jat1 ding6 jiu3 heoi3 kau3 mat6
"At Christmas, everyone goes to shopping."
2. 考完試一定要去馬爾代夫。
haau2 jyun4 si5 jat1 ding6 jiu3 heoi3 maa5 ji5 doi6 fu1
"After the exam, we must go to the Maldives."

This lesson is perhaps a bit exaggerated in the sense that the subject is missing from all of the sentences in the dialogue. This is only a slight exaggeration of normal speaking habits in Hong Kong, however.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hong Kong Film

Hong Kong is one of the world's major film production centers, and has a local film industry that is a heavy producer of Chinese language action films and romantic comedies. Partly as a result, the island has a tremendous range of cinemas which feature both international imports as well as local film productions.

Major chains on the island include United Artists Cinemas (UA), Broadway Circuit, Golden Harvest and A.M.C Cinemas and MCL, while there are also a number of smaller cinemas which show locally produced films and films in Chinese. While online schedules are available for all major chains, the most convenient way to check out what is playing at a glance is to pick up a copy of the *South China Morning Post*, which lists a screening schedule and features contact numbers for the individual theaters.

Ticket prices vary depending on the show time and rates are generally reduced for off-peak shows (morning and afternoon screenings). Prices are also commonly discounted on Tuesdays. Smaller cinema chains also sell membership cards which permit customers to see an unlimited number of films in a given period for a set price. Be aware that you may need to purchase 3D glasses separately (about 6 HKD) if you decide to see a 3D film.