

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #23

Do You Trust the Milk Powder from China?

CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

23

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 又嚟香港買奶粉呀?
2. B: 唔好講喇，今次淨係可以帶兩罐，我老婆仲鬧我有用。
3. A: 而家香港法例限制，淨係可以帶兩罐咋?
4. B: 係呀，斷奶之後，我個BB就唔夠食喇，又唔敢食大陸啲奶粉。
5. A: 其實...我聽人講最近啲大陸奶粉供應商都改良咗，應該冇乜問題。
6. B: 但係一朝俾蛇咬，十年怕井繩，邊個敢將自己個BB當試驗品呀。

JYUTPING

1. A: jau6 lei4 hoeng1 gong2 maai5 naai5 fan2 aa6?
2. B: m4 hou2 gong2 laa6, gam1 ci3 zing6 hai6 ho2 ji5 daai3 loeng5 gun3, ngo5 lou5 po4 zung6 naau6 ngo5 mou5 jung6.
3. A: ji4 gaa1 hoeng1 gong2 faat3 lai6 haan6 zai3, zing6 hai6 ho2 ji5 daai3 loeng5 gun3 zaa4?
4. B: hai6 aa6, tyun5 naai5 zi1 hau6, ngo5 go3 bi4 bi1 zau6 m5 gau3 sik6 laa6, jau6 m4 gam2 sik6 daai6 luk6 di1 naai5 fan2.

CONT'D OVER

5. A: kei4 sat6... ngo5 teng1 jan4 gong2 zeoi3 gan6 di1 daai6 luk6 naai5 fan2 gung1 jing3 soeng1 dou1 goi2 loeng4 zo2, jing1 goi1 mou5 mat1 man6 tai4.
6. B: daan6 hai6 jat1 ziu1 bei2 se4 ngaau5, sap6 nin4 paa3 zeng2 sing2, bin1 go3 gam2 zoeng1 zi6 gei2 go3 bi4 bi1 dong3 si3 jim6 ban2 aa6.

ENGLISH

1. A: You came to Hong Kong to buy milk powder again?
2. B: Don't mention it. I was only able to buy two cans this time. My wife said I was so incapable.
3. A: The current legal restriction only allows to bring two cans of powder?
4. B: That's right. But my baby really doesn't have enough to eat since weaning. And we're so worried about the milk powder in China.
5. A: Actually, I heard the industry in China is much better now, there shouldn't be any problem.
6. B: Once bitten, twice shy. Who would let their children take any risk?

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
奶粉	naai5 fan2	milk powder	noun

罐	gun3	a measure word for cans	classifiers
冇用	mou5 jung6	incapable	adjective
限制	haan6 zai3	limit	noun
斷奶	tyun5 naai5	weaning	noun
大陸	daai6 luk6	mainland	noun
改良	goi2 loeng4	improved	adjective
淨係	zing6 hai6	only	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>又買唔到奶粉喇，一定係俾人買晒。</p> <p><i>jau6 maai5 m4 dou2 naai5 fan2 laa6, jat1 ding6 hai6 bei2 jan4 maai5 saai3.</i></p> <p>The milk powder is sold out again, must have been bought out by others.</p>	<p>記得幫我買三罐貓糧呀。</p> <p><i>gei3 dak1 bong1 ngo5 maai5 saam1 gun3 maau1 loeng4 aa6.</i></p> <p>Remember to buy three cans of cat food for me.</p>
<p>唔好覺得做清潔好冇用，每個崗位都好重要㗎。</p> <p><i>m4 hou2 gok3 dak1 zou6 cing1 git3 hou2 mou5 jung6, mui5 go3 gong1 wai2 dou1 hou2 zung6 jiu3 gaa3.</i></p> <p>Don't think that being a cleaner is useless, each position is important.</p>	<p>呢啲優惠機票一定有啲限制。</p> <p><i>ni1 di1 jau1 wai6 gei1 piu3 jat1 ding6 jau5 di1 haan6 zai3.</i></p> <p>Discounted plane tickets like these must have some limitations.</p>

<p>究竟點樣可以令BB快啲斷奶? <i>gau3 ging2 dim2 joeng2 ho2 ji3 ling6 BB faai3 di1 tyun5 naai5?</i></p> <p>What can help to wean a baby?</p>	<p>有個有錢人叫李嘉誠，收購咗好多大陸嘅物業。 <i>jau5 go3 jau5 cin2 jan4 giu3 lei5 gaa1 sing4, sau1 kau3 zo2 hou2 do1 daai6 luk6 ge3 mat6 jip6.</i></p> <p>There is a wealthy man called Li Ka-shing who has acquired much property in mainland China.</p>
<p>今日嘅內容係如何避免喺中國大陸搭的士俾人扼錢! <i>gam1 jat6 ge3 noi6 jung4 hai6 jyu4 ho4 bei6 min5 hai2 zung1 gwok3 daai6 luk6 daap3 dik1 si2 bei2 jan4 ak1 cin2!</i></p> <p>Today's content is how to avoid getting cheated in mainland taxis.</p>	<p>新型號將舊型號所有嘅性能都改良咗。 <i>san1 jing4 hou6 zoeng1 gau6 jing4 hou6 so2 jau5 ge3 sing3 nang4 dou1 goi2 loeng4 zo2.</i></p> <p>All performances are improved in the new models.</p>

呢度淨係得我同你，你就同我講實話啦。

ni1 dou6 zing6 hai6 dak1 ngo5 tung4 nei5, nei5 zau6 tung4 ngo5 gong2 sat6 waa2 laa1.

There is only you and me here, tell me the truth.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Use the Expression 淨係...咋 (*zing6 hai6...zaa4*)

淨係可以帶兩罐咋?

"You can only bring two cans?"

淨係 (*zing6 hai6*) means "only" or "merely," while the final particle 咋 (*zaa4*) adds a hint of sympathy or disappointment. In the conversation, we hear 淨係可以帶兩罐咋? (*zing6 hai6 ho2 ji5 daai3 loeng5 gun3 zaa4?*). Let's break it down: 淨係 + 可以帶兩罐 + 咋? literally means "only can bring two cans? (that's too bad)"

However, without the final particle 咋, the sentence 淨係可以帶兩罐 (*zing6 hai6 ho2 ji5 daai3 loeng5 gun3*) is a straightforward and emotionless statement. So here we can see the power of the final particle 咋.

Change of Tone

In most cases, the final particle 咋 is pronounced as *zaa4* when the sentence is a question, and it's pronounced as *zaa3* when it's not a question.

Examples:

1. 呢個遊戲淨係准大人玩咋?
ni1 go3 jau4 hei3 zing6 hai6 zeon2 daai6 jan4 waan2 zaa4?
"Only adults are allowed to play this game?"
2. 成個戲院淨係得兩個人?
seng4 go3 heoi3 jyun2 zing6 hai6 dak1 loeng5 go3 jan4 zaa4?
"There are only two people in this theater?"
3. 佢淨係會同我講嘍咋。
keoi5 zing6 hai6 wui5 tung4 ngo5 gong2 gaa3 zaa3.
"He'll only tell me."
4. 呢個袋淨係要50蚊咋。
ni1 go3 doi2 zing6 hai6 jiu3 ng5 sap6 man1 zaa3.
"This bag only costs \$0."
5. 兩個咋?
loeng5 go3 zaa4?
"Only two?"
6. 兩個咋。
loeng5 go3 zaa3.
"Only two."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese Milk Scandal

A food safety incident shocked the whole country when sixteen infants in Gansu Province

were diagnosed with kidney stones. Government inspections soon discovered that melamine was being added to milk products and infant formula in order to make it appear to have a higher protein content. By November 2008, an estimated 300,000 victims were reported, with six infants dying from kidney stones and other kidney damage, and an estimated 54,000 babies being hospitalized. The issue raised concerns about food safety and political corruption in China, and it damaged the reputation of China's food.