

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #3 Buying a Car in Hong Kong

CONTENTS

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

3

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 先生好有眼光。呢款係新出嘅環保三廂車, 性價比好高。
2. B: 呢款車喺邊度生產?
3. A: 原裝德國進口, 質量有保證。車廂內部嘅設計出自大師之手, 非常優雅。
4. B: 的確幾好睇。唔知揸起嚟感覺點。
5. A: 如果先生有興趣有時間, 我可以安排你而家試車, 親自感受下。
6. B: 好啊。就而家啦。
7. A: 記得綁安全帶, 安全駕駛。

JYUTPING

1. A: sin1 saang1 hou2 jau5 ngaan5 gwong1. ni1 fun2 hai6 san1 ceot1 ge3 waan4 bou2 saam1 soeng1 ce1, sing3 gaa3 bei2 hou2 gou1.
2. B: ni1 fun2 ce1 hai2 bin1 dou6 sang1 caan2?
3. A: jyun4 zong1 dak1 gwok3 zeon3 hau2, zat1 loeng6 jau5 bou2 zing3. ce1 soeng1 noi6 bou6 ge3 cit3 gai3 ceot1 zi6 daai6 si1 zi1 sau2, fei1 soeng4 jau1 ngaa5.
4. B: dik1 kok3 gei2 hou2 tai2. m4 zi1 zaa1 hei2 lei4 gam2 gok3 dim2.

CONT'D OVER

5. A: fyu4 gwo2 sin1 saang1 jau5 hing3 ceoi3 jau5 si4 gaan3, ngo5 ho2 ji5 on1 paai4 nei5 ji4 gaa1 si3 ce1, can1 zi6 gam2 sau3 haa5.
6. B: hou2 aa3. zau6 ji4 gaa1 laa1.
7. A: gei3 dak1 bong2 on1 cyun4 daai3, on1 cyun4 gaa3 sai2.

ENGLISH

1. A: You have great taste, sir. This is a new environmentally friendly sedan with a great cost performance ratio.
2. B: Where was the car made?
3. A: It is imported with its original packaging from Germany, and it's guaranteed high quality. The inner design is by a master designer. It's truly elegant.
4. B: It does look good. I wonder how it feels to drive.
5. A: If you have interest and time, sir, I can arrange for you to have a test drive, so you can feel it yourself.
6. B: Ok. I'll do it now.
7. A: Remember to fasten your seat belt and drive safely.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
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優雅	jau1 ngaa5	elegant	adjective
生產	sang1 caan2	to produce	verb
三廂車	saam1 soeng1 ce1	sedan	noun
環保	waan4 bou2	environmentally friendly	noun
性價比	sing3 gaa3 bei2	cost-performance ratio	noun
原裝	jyun4 zong1	original packaging	noun
進口	zeon3 hau2	import	verb
質量	zat1 loeng6	quality	noun
保證	bou2 zing3	guarantee	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我想搵一條優雅嘅紅色長裙。
ngo5 soeng2 wan2 jat1 tiu4 jau1 ngaa5 ge3
hung4 sik1 coeng4 kwan4

I want to buy an elegant red dress.

因為零部件嘅泰國生產廠家水浸，
所以維修要一個月。

jan1 wai6 ling4 bou6 gin2 ge3 taai3 gwok3 sang1
caan2 cong2 gaa1 seoi2 zam3, so2 ji5 wai4 sau1
jiu3 jat1 go3 jyut6.

Because the water-damaged component
is made in Thailand, you'll have to wait a
month for the repair.

<p>一般家庭都係買三廂車，方便載人載貨。</p> <p><i>jat1 bun1 gaa1 ting4 dou1 hai6 maa5 saam1 soeng1 ce1, fong1 bin6 zoi3 jan4 zoi3 fo3.</i></p> <p>Most families would prefer a sedan to carry people and goods conveniently.</p>	<p>雖然電動車比較環保，但電動車唔夠馬力，又成日要充電。</p> <p><i>seoi1 jin4 din6 dung6 ce1 bei2 gaau3 waan4 bou2, daan6 din6 dung6 ce1 m4 gau3 maa5 lik6, jau6 sing4 jat6 jiu3 cung1 din6.</i></p> <p>Although electronic bicycles are environmentally friendly, they don't have strong horsepower and need to be charged frequently.</p>
<p>十萬蚊有找就買到奔馳？性價比好高喔。</p> <p><i>sap6 maan6 man1 jau5 zaau2 zau6 maa5 dou2 ban1 ci4? sing3 gaa3 bei2 hou2 gou1 wo3.</i></p> <p>You bought a Mercedes for 10,000 HK dollars? That's a great value!</p>	<p>我嘅相機電池壞咗，想換個原裝電池。</p> <p><i>ngo5 ge3 soeng2 gei1 din6 ci4 waa6 zo2, soeng2 wun6 go3 jyun4 zong1 din6 ci4.</i></p> <p>My camera's battery isn't working, so I want to replace it with an official one in the original packaging.</p>
<p>喺香港買進口奢侈品好抵。</p> <p><i>hai2 hoeng1 gong2 maa5 zeon3 hau2 ce1 ci2 ban2 hou2 dai2.</i></p> <p>In Hong Kong, the price of imported luxury products is quite low.</p>	<p>質量好係一間公司嘅保證。</p> <p><i>zat1 loeng6 hou2 hai6 jat1 gaan1 gung1 si1 ge3 bou2 zing3.</i></p> <p>Good quality is a mark of a company.</p>

如果有問題，我哋保證七日內無條件退換。

jyu4 gwo2 jau5 man6 tai4, ngo5 dei6 bou2 zing3 cat1 jat6 noi6 mou4 tiu4 gin2 teoi3 wun6.

If there's any problem, we offer a seven-day warranty for an unconditional return or exchange.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 眼光，品味...

先生好有眼光。

"You have great taste, sir."

Our grammar point in this lesson is a usage of a way of thinking. It involves in this line in the dialog 先生好有眼光 *sin1 saang1 hou2 jau5 ngaan5 gwong1* we translate this as ("you've got great taste, sir"). And the point we want to discuss is that in English we are using the metaphor of eating to describe making a value judgments on things, even though it's a question of aesthetic. In Cantonese, we are using eyesight to describe making a judgement or having good taste. In the dialogue, it literally means "you've got good eyesight."

This brings us to an important point because in English to have good taste is specifically about aesthetic judgment. But in Cantonese the phrase, 有眼光 *jau5 ngaan5 gwong1* ("have good taste") is a much broader expression of opinion. It can be good taste, as in you've got great taste in design; it can be good judgment as in the decision to purchase a house, or it might also be good intuition. So, in English where we use the metaphor of eating, in Cantonese we use the concept of seeing.

There are two final points we want to make. If you are just talking about aesthetic design, there are two narrower ways of speaking, 品味 *ban2 mei6* ("taste") or 品味 *tei1 si2* ("taste"). The first one is often used in a more formal way and the second one is actually a loanword, coming from the English word "taste."

Sample Sentences:

1. 條裙好優雅，你好有眼光
tiu4 kwan4 hou2 jau1 ngaan5, nei5 hou2 jau5 ngaan5 gwong1
"Very elegant dress. You've got such great taste."
2. 你十年前就買咗呢套房喇，好有眼光啊
nei5 sap6 nin4 cin4 zau6 maai5 zo2 ni1 tou3 fong2 laa4, hou2 jau5 ngaan5 gwong1 aa3
"You had great taste, buying this house such a long time ago."
3. 你請咗嗰個人啊，好有眼光啊
nei5 ceng2 zo2 go2 go3 jan4 aa4, hou2 jau5 ngaan5 gwong1 aa3
"You hired that person? That's really good intuition."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Driving in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong motorist is faced with a shortage of parking spaces, high traffic density, high fuel costs and an annual or four-monthly vehicle licence fee. Hong Kong's heat and humidity make for a harsh environment for cars, so regular maintenance is essential. However, buying a car in Hong Kong is relatively straightforward. All cars must be right-hand drive, except in rare circumstances involving cross-border work, as road users drive on the left. There are dealerships for new cars throughout Hong Kong. Alternatively, there is a high turnover in the second-hand market with new cars devaluing relatively quickly. Cars are often advertised by people leaving Hong Kong, and such adverts may be found on websites or in newspapers, and on notice boards in public places.