

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #1

Planning a Summer Vacation in Cantonese

CONTENTS

Dialogue - Cantonese

 Main

 English

 Jyutping

Vocabulary

Sample sentences

Vocabulary phrase usage

Grammar

Cultural insight

1

DIALOGUE - CANTONESE

MAIN

1. Karen : 暑假去邊度玩？
2. Olivia : 想去澳門。
3. Karen : 幾時去呀？
4. Olivia : 未決定。

ENGLISH

1. Karen : Where are you going for summer holiday?
2. Olivia : I want to go to Macau.
3. Karen : When are you going?
4. Olivia : I haven't decided.

JYUTPING

1. Karen : syu2 gaa3 heoi3 bin1 dou6 waan2?
2. Olivia : soeng2 heoi3 ou3 mun2.
3. Karen : gei2 si4 heoi3 aa3?
4. Olivia : mei6 kyut3 ding6.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
想	soeng2	to want	transitive verb
決定	kyut3 ding6	to decide, decision	verb; noun
玩	wan2, waan2	to play	verb
邊度	bin1 dou6	where	pronoun
幾時	gei2 si4	when	adverb
澳門	ou3 mun2	Macau	noun, proper noun
暑假	syu2 gaa3	summer vacation	noun, adjective
未	mei6	yet, never	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>我想飲酒。</p> <p><i>ngo5 soeng2 jam2 zau2.</i></p> <p>I want to drink alcohol.</p>	<p>好難決定邊個設計好啲。</p> <p><i>hou2 naan4 kyut3 ding6 bin1 go3 cit3 gai3 hou2 di1.</i></p> <p>It's hard to decide which design is the best.</p>
<p>我哋為咗決定去邊度度蜜月而鬧交。</p> <p><i>ngo5 dei6 wai6 zo2 kyut3 ding6 heoi3 bin1 dou6 dou6 mat6 jyut6 ji4 naau6 gaau1</i></p> <p>We got in an argument when deciding where to go for honeymoon.</p>	<p>我對呢個決定毫不猶疑。</p> <p><i>ngo5 deoi1 ni1 go3 kyut3 ding6 hou4 bat1 jau4 ji4 .</i></p> <p>I have no hesitation about this decision.</p>
<p>玩夠未呀？</p> <p><i>waan2 gaau3 mei6 aa3?</i></p> <p>Have you played long enough?</p>	<p>你聽晚去邊度？</p> <p><i>nei5 ting1 maan5 heoi3 bin1 dou6?</i></p> <p>Where are you going tomorrow night?</p>
<p>去咗邊度？</p> <p><i>heoi3 zo2 bin1 dou6?</i></p> <p>Where did (you) go?</p>	<p>足球比賽幾時開始？</p> <p><i>zuk1 kau4 bei2 coi3 gei2 si4 hoi1 ci2?</i></p> <p>When does the football game start?</p>
<p>你幾時到？</p> <p><i>nei5 gei2 si4 dou3?</i></p> <p>When will you arrive?</p>	<p>澳門有好多好得意嘅街名。</p> <p><i>ou3 mun2 jau5 hou2 do1 hou2 dak1 ji3 ge3 gaai1 meng2.</i></p> <p>Macau has a lot of funny street names.</p>
<p>好多學生都係暑假做兼職。</p> <p><i>hou2 do1 hok6 saang1 dou1 hai2 syu2 gaa3 zou6 gim1 zik1.</i></p> <p>Many students are working part-time jobs during the summer holiday.</p>	<p>我暑假會去夏令營。</p> <p><i>ngo5 syu2 gaa3 wui5 heoi3 haa6 ling6 jing4.</i></p> <p>I will go to summer camp during the summer vacation.</p>
<p>今年暑假我會去美國玩。</p> <p><i>gam1 nin4 syu2 gaa3 ngo5 wui5 heoi3 mei5 gwok3 wan2.</i></p> <p>I'll go visit the United States during this year's summer vacation.</p>	<p>做完未？</p> <p><i>zou6 jyun4 mei6?</i></p> <p>Have you finished yet?</p>
<p>你開始放假未呀？</p> <p><i>nei5 hoi1 ci2 fong3 gaa3 mei6 aa3?</i></p> <p>Has your holiday started yet?</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

暑假 (syu2 gaa3)

This is made up of two characters: 暑 (syu2) means "hot (temperature)" or "summer heat," and 假 (gaa3) means "holiday."

想 (soeng2)

想 literally means "to think." However, in most casual situations, it means "to want to" or "to desire." For example, 想去 (soeng2 heoi3) "to want to go," 想食 (soeng2 sik6) "to want to eat."

For example:

1. 我想食春卷

ngo5 soeng2 sik6 ceon1 gyun2

"I want to eat spring rolls."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Reviewing Interrogative Words

幾時去呀？

gei2 si4 heoi3 aa3?

"When are you going?"

In our Absolute Beginner series, we covered the main interrogative words. Let's review them once again because we'll be seeing them more and more in future lessons.

Examples from this dialog:

1. 暑假去邊度玩？

syu2 gaa3 heoi3 bin1 dou6 waan2?

"Where are you going for summer holiday?"

2. 幾時去呀？

gei2 si4 heoi3 aa3?

"When are you going?"

乜 (*mat1*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "what" question. The word order of a Cantonese "what" question is very different from English. In English, the word "what" always comes at the beginning of the question, but in Cantonese the word order of the question will be the same as the answer. For example, the question "What do you want to eat?" is 你想食乜 (*nei5 soeng2 sik6 mat1*), and has the same word order as the answer: 我想食菜 (*ngo5 soeng2 sik6 coi3*) "I want to eat vegetables." Note how in the answer 乜 (*mat1*) is replaced by the new information.

Formation:

(subject) + (verb) + 乜 ?

For example:

1. 你想食乜 ?

nei5 soeng2 sik6 mat1?

"What do you want to eat?"

2. 我想食菜。

ngo5 soeng2 sik6 coi3.

"I want to eat vegetables."

點 (*dim2*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "how" question. It is usually followed by a verb to imply "how to," for example 點食 (*dim2 sik6*) "how to eat."

Formation:

(subject) + 點 + (verb phrase)?

For example:

1. 呢個點食呀 ?

ni1 go3 dim2 dik6 aa3?

"How do you eat this?"

點解 (*dim2 gaai2*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "why" question. Its position in the sentence is flexible: it can occur either before or after the subject. As we mentioned above, 點 (*dim2*) means "how." When put together with the verb 解 (*gai2*) "to interpret," its literal meaning is "how to interpret," hence "why."

Formation:

點解 + sentence ?

(subject) + 點解 + (verb phrase) ?

For example:

1. 點解學廣東話 ?

dim2 gaai2 hok6 gwong2 dung1 waa2?

"Why (do you) learn Cantonese?"

2. 你點解喊呀 ?

nei5 dim2 gaai2 haam3 aa3?

"Why do you cry?" / "Why are you crying?"

邊個 (*bin1 go3*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "**who**" question. Literally it is composed of 邊 (*bin1*) "which" and 個 (*go3*) "unit," therefore it also implies "which one." Regarding the word order, we put 邊個 (*bin1 go3*) in the same location as how the answer would appear.

For example:

1. 你想見邊個?
nei5 soeng2 gin3 bin1 go3?
"Who do you want to see?"
2. 我想見陳生。
ngo5 soeng2 gin3 can4 saang1.
"I want to see Mr. Chan."
3. 邊個喺入面?
bin1 go3 hai2 jap6 min6?
"Who is inside?"
4. Mary喺入面。
Mary hai2 jap6 min6.
"Mary is inside."

邊度 (*bin1 dou6*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "**where**" question. It is composed of two characters: 邊 (*bin1*) "which" and 度 (*dou6*) "place; location." and together they mean "where." In most cases, 邊度 (*bin1 dou6*) is placed at the end of the question sentence.

Formation:

(subject) + (verb) + 邊度 ?

For example:

1. 你去邊度?
nei5 heoi3 bin1 dou6?
"Where are you going?"
2. 廁所喺邊度?
ci3 so2 hai2 bin1 dou6?
"Where is the toilet?"
3. 廁所喺後面。
ci3 so2 hai2 hau6 min6.
"The toilet is at the back."

幾時 (*gei2 si4*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "**when**" question. It is the combination of the words 幾 (*gei2*) "how much" and 時 (*si4*) "time."

Formation:

(subject) + 幾時 + (verb) ?

For example:

1. 你幾時去香港?

gei2 si4 heoi3 hoeng1 gong2?

"When are you going to Hong Kong?"

2. 我聽日去香港。

ting1 jat6 heoi3 hoeng1 gong2.

"I'll go to Hong Kong tomorrow."

3. 幾時食飯?

gei2 si4 sik6 faan6?

"When to eat?"

幾多 (*gei2 do1*) is the interrogative word used to ask a "**how many**" or "how much" question. It is the combination of the words 幾 (*gei2*) "how much" and 多 (*do1*) "many."

Formation:

幾多 + (noun) + sentence ?

(subject) + (verb) + 幾多 + (noun) ?

For example:

1. 幾多人去澳門?

gei2 do1 jan4 heoi3 ou3 mun2?

"How many people go to Macau?"

2. 你有幾多錢?

nei5 jau5 gei2 do1 cin2?

"How much money do you have?"

Cheat Sheet

乜	<i>mat1</i>	What
邊度	<i>bin1 dou6</i>	Where
幾時	<i>gei2 si4</i>	When
邊個	<i>bin1 go3</i>	Who
點解	<i>dim2 gai2</i>	Why
點	<i>dim2</i>	How
幾多	<i>gei2 do1</i>	How many; How much

Language Expansion

Remember that in Cantonese, we don't necessarily have to put the interrogative words at the beginning of the sentence like in English. It's common to put them behind the verb. For example:

去邊度 (*heoi3 bin1 dou6*) [literally "to go where"] → "Where to go"

見邊個 (*gin3 bin1 go3*) [literally "to see who"] → "Whom to see"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Popular Hong Kong Getaway Destinations

Many Hong Kong people go on a short trip during the weekend to get away from the bustling city life. The most popular destinations are Macau, Sai Kung, and outlying islands like Lantau Island and Lamma Island.

Macau is renowned for its casinos and rich culture. Although the tourism draw is largely based on gambling, we should not overlook the delicious fused Portuguese food and European architecture. A large section of Macau has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Sai Kung has always been a fishing harbor, where tourists can buy fresh seafood and ask nearby restaurants to cook for you. Other than the famous seafood restaurants, Sai Kung town also offers laid-back coffee shops and small galleries.

Lantau Island is the largest island of Hong Kong. It is where the Tian Tan Buddha, Ngong Ping Cable Car, and Hong Kong International Airport are located.