

Cantonese II

Week 4



Chan : háau j̀yun s̀i l̀aa, d̀im g̀ai n̄i d̄ei m̀ f̀aan ūk k̄ei ̀aa?
考完試喇，點解你哋唔返屋企呀？
(Examinations are over, why don't you go home?)

Felix : nḡo d̄ei k̄ing g̀an d̀im j̀oeng h̄ing z̀uk ̀aa!
我哋傾緊點樣慶祝呀！
(We are talking about how to celebrate it!)

Chan : n̄i d̄ei f̀ong g̀aa s̀oeng h̄oi b̄in d̄ou wán ̀aa?
你哋放假想去邊度玩呀？
(Where do you want to go for fun during the holiday?)

h̄oi l̄oi h̄ang d̄ing h̄ai h̄oi p̄at t̀i ̀aa?
去旅行定係開 par-ty 呀？
(Are you going for a trip or having a party?)

Ying-ying : nḡo d̄ei d̀aa s̀yun j̄at c̀ai h̄oi h̄ang s̄an
我哋打算一齊去行山
(We are planning to go hiking together)

t̀ung s̄iu j̄e s̄ik.
同燒嘢食。
(...and have a barbeque.)



Chan : hóu t̀ai j̄i wò! h̄oi b̄in d̄ou ̀aa?
好提議嗎！去邊度呀？
(Good suggestion! Where are you going?)

Aiza : h̄oi S̄an G̀ai w̄ak z̄e l̄ei d̄ou l̀aa!
去新界或者離島啦！
(We'll go either to the New Territories or the outer islands!)

Farah : ̀aa s̀òe, n̄i p̄ing s̀i z̀au m̀t z̀ou m̀t j̄e g̀aa?
亞 Sir，你平時週末做乜嘢嘍？
(Sir, what do you do usually during weekends?)

Chan : hái ūk k̄ei f̀an h̄aa g̀au, tái h̄aa d̄in s̄i l̀aa!
喺屋企瞓吓覺，睇吓電視啦！
(I stay at home, take some naps, and watch some television!)

Students : n̄i g̀o z̀au m̀t t̀ung nḡo d̄ei j̄at c̀ai h̄oi wán h̄aa l̀aa!
呢個週末同我哋一齊去玩吓啦！
(Join us and have fun this weekend!)

Chan : hóu ̀ak! j̄y m̀ai nḡo l̀aa!
好呢！預埋我啦！
(Ok! Count me in!)

hóu j̄e!
好嘢！
(Yay!)



E. To give permission or to prohibit someone to do something (Track 240)

1) Can/May and Cannot/May not

nī dōu hó jǐ sīk jě.
呢度可以食嘢。
(You can/may eat here.)



nī dōu m̄ hó jǐ sīk jě.
呢度唔可以食嘢。
(You cannot/may not eat here.)

<u>Subject / Topic</u>	hó jǐ 可以 (can / may)	<u>Verb / Verbal phrase.</u>
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- 1. kěoi dēi 佢哋 (they)
- 2. nēi dēi 你哋 (you)
- 3. dāai jàn 大人 (adult)
- 4. sīng kèi jāt 星期日 (Sunday)
- 5. fòng gāa 放假 (on holiday)

- 1. jǎp lèi 入嚟 (come in)
- 2. cēot hēoi 出去 (go out)
- 3. jám záu 飲酒 (drink alcohol)
- 4. jāu sīk 休息 (take a rest)
- 5. tái dīn sī 睇電視 (watch TV)

<u>Subject / Topic</u>	m̄ + hó jǐ 唔 + 可以 (cannot / may not)	<u>Verb / Verbal phrase.</u>
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- 1. hōk sāang 學生 (students)
- 2. sái lōu zái 細路仔 (children)
- 3. hái hēi jýun 喺戲院 (in cinema)
- 4. hái tòu sýu gún 喺圖書館 (in library)
- 5. ngǒ dēi 我哋 (we)

- 1. cì dòu 遲到 (be late)
- 2. jám záu 飲酒 (drink alcohol)
- 3. sīk jīn 食煙 (smoke)
- 4. kīng gái 傾偈 (chat)
- 5. góng dāai wāa 講大話 (tell lies)

2) **To ask for permission (Can/May I...?)** 🎧 (Track 241)

ngǒ dēi hó m̀ hó jǐ mǎn nēi ǎa?
我 哋 可 唔 可 以 問 你 呀?
(May we ask you?)

nēi hó m̀ hó jǐ bōng ngǒ dēi ǎa?
你 可 唔 可 以 幫 我 哋 呀?
(Can you help us?)



Q:	ngǒ 我 (I)	hó m̀ hó jǐ 可 唔 可 以 (can or cannot?)	<u>Verb / Verbal phrase</u>	ǎa? 呀? [Pt]
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- | | | |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|
| 1. zǎu sīn | 走先 | (leave first) |
| 2. hēoi sái sáu gāan | 去洗手間 | (go to the washroom) |
| 3. m̀ béi cín | 唔俾錢 | (not to pay) |
| 4. dǎap dīk sí | 搭的士 | (take the taxi) |
| 5. sí hǎa | 試吓 | (have a try) |

3) **To request someone to do something (Could you...?)** 🎧 (Track 242)

Q:	nēi 你 (you)	hó m̀ hó jǐ 可 唔 可 以 (can or cannot?)	<u>Verb / Verbal phrase</u>	ǎa? 呀? [Pt]
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- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|------------------|
| 1. zǒi góng jāt cǐ | 再講一次 | (repeat once) |
| 2. góng dāai sēng dī | 講大聲啲 | (speak louder) |
| 3. dǎa dīn wáa béi ngǒ | 打電話俾我 | (give me a call) |
| 4. góng m̀ gōi | 講唔該 | (say please) |
| 5. bōng ngǒ | 幫我 | (help me) |

3. Conditional sentence: *if*-clause (Track 243)

jyú gwó jǎu mǎn tài, mǎn lǒu sī lāa.
 如 果 有 問 題， 問 老 師 啦。
 (If you have any questions, ask the teacher.)



jyú gwó 如 果 (If)	<u>Clause 1,</u> (condition/supposition)	<u>Clause 2.</u> (result/suggestion)
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|---------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1. sóeng hòi sái sáu gāan | 想去洗手間 | (want to go to washroom) |
| 2. dāk hàn | 得閒 | (have free time) |
| 3. m̄ hōi sām | 唔開心 | (feel unhappy) |
| 4. bēng zó | 病咗 | (get sick) |
| 5. nēi cì dòu | 你遲到 | (you are late) |
| 6. nēi sīk Gwóng Dūng Wáa | 你識廣東話 | (you know Cantonese) |

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1. géoi sáu lāa | 舉手啦 | (raise your hand) |
| 2. jāt cài sīk fān lāa | 一齊食飯啦 | (have meal together) |
| 3. dáa dīn wáa bēi ngǒ lāa | 打電話俾我啦 | (give me a call) |
| 4. hòi tái jī sāng lāa | 去睇醫生啦 | (go to see a doctor) |
| 5. ngǒ m̄ dāng nēi gǎa | 我唔等你㗎 | (I won't wait for you) |
| 6. nēi hó jī hái Hōeng Góng zōu jě | 你可以喺香港做嘢 | (you can work in HK) |

Chan : nǐ dēi hái dōu
你 哋 喺 度

zōu gán māt jǐ āa?
做 緊 乜 嘢 呀?
(What are you doing over here?)



Felix : Càn sāng, ngǒ dēi hóu gán zōeng āa!
陳 生，我 哋 好 緊 張 呀!
(Mr. Chan, we are very nervous!)

Chan : dím gáai gám gán zōeng āa? jǎu mē sǐ āa?
點 解 咁 緊 張 呀？有 咩 事 呀？
(Why are you so nervous? What's the matter?)

Farah : jān wāi zǎu lèi háau sǐ lǎa!
因 為 就 嚟 考 試 喇！
(Because the examinations are coming soon!)

Aiza : ngǒ dēi mē zī dím jóeng zéon bēi āa!
我 哋 唔 知 點 樣 準 備 呀！
(We don't know how to prepare for them!)

Chan : mē sái dāam sān, nǐ dēi pìng sǐ làu sān sǒeng tòng,
唔 使 擔 心，你 哋 平 時 留 心 上 堂，
(Don't worry! You pay attention in class,)

lòk tòng zī hǎu zīyūn sān wān zǎap gūng fò;
落 堂 之 後 專 心 溫 習 功 課；
(...concentrate on your studies and review your homework after class,...)

gám, háau sǐ jāt dǐng mǎu mǎn tài gè.
噉，考 試 一 定 有 問 題 嘅。
(...then, examinations must not be a problem.)

Aiza: jǐyú gwó ngǒ dēi jǎu mǎn tài, hó mē hó jǐ mǎn nǐ āa?
如 果 我 哋 有 問 題，可 唔 可 以 問 你 呀？
(If we have questions, can we ask you?)

Chan : gáng hǎi hó jǐ lǎa!
梗 係 可 以 啦！
(Of course you can.)

Verbs:

1. līn zāap	練習	<i>practice</i>	6. sǎan bōu	散步	<i>stroll; a walk</i>
2. lèi hōi	離開	<i>leave</i>	7. dǎap sùn	搭船	<i>take a ferry</i>
3. zōu lǎu sī	做老師	<i>to be a teacher</i>	8. zǚn	轉	<i>change; transfer</i>
4. tái dīn sī	睇電視	<i>watch television</i>	9. zǚn cē	轉車	<i>transfer to a vehicle</i>
5. fǒng gǎa	放假	<i>on holiday</i>			

1. lèi 嚟 (*come*)
2. hēoi 去 (*go to*)
3. fāan 返 (*come back*)
4. záu 走 (*leave*)

1. hōk 學 (*learn*)
2. sīk 識 (*know*)
3. dǎng 等 (*wait*)
4. zōu 做 (*do; to be*)
5. tái 睇 (*watch*)

1. zāap gwāan 習慣 (*get used to*)
2. cāam gāa 參加 (*join*)
3. līn zāap 練習 (*practice*)
4. wān zāap 溫習 (*review*)
5. lèi hōi 離開 (*leave*)

1. héi zó sǎn 起咗身 (*have got*)
2. fǎn zó gǎau 瞓咗覺 (*have gone to bed*)
3. sīk zó zóu cāan 食咗早餐 (*have eaten breakfast*)
4. fāan zó hōk 返咗學 (*have gone to school*)
5. zōu zó gūng fò 做咗功課 (*have done homework*)
6. zǚu zó fāan 煮咗飯 (*have prepared meal*)

maai5 ye5	買嘢	shopping
maai5 sung3	買餸	Grocery shopping
haang4 gaai1	行街	Window shopping
tai2 hei3	睇戲	Watch movies
Coeng3 K	唱K	Sing karaoke
daa2 gei1	打機	Play video games
teng1 go1 / ting1 jam1 ngok6	聽歌/聽音樂	Listen to music

A. Translate the following into English.

1) gó wái lǒu sī góng gán Jāt Bún Wáa.



2) ngǒ zǎu lèi mǒu cín lǎa!



3) dím gáai nǐi gám dǎk hàn ǎa?



4) ngǒ mùi mùi hái dǒu tiu gán mǒu.



5) nǐi dím jóeng lǐn zǎap Gwóng Dūng Wáa ǎa?



6) nǐi dǐi dím jóeng jàu Zūng Wàn hǒi Còi Wān ǎa?



7) j̀yù gwó nǐi gòk dāk m̀n, tái d̀n s̀i lāa.



B. Add the words in the brackets to the following sentences by placing '↓' in appropriate positions.

1) kěoi dēi hái dōu dǎa bō. (gán)



2) jān wāi kěoi hóu gūi, só jǐ kěoi hái dōu fán gǎau. (gán)



3) nī dēoi hǎai lěng, ngǒ sóeng mǎai ǎa! (gǎm)



4) jān wāi ngǒ sāang jǎt, só jǐ ngǒ hōi sām. (zǎu lèi / gǎm)



5) nēi dēi mǎu mǎn tài, lǒk tòng lǎa! (jyú gwó)



6) kěoi dēi fāan ūk kái lǎa. (hó jǐ)



9 C. Listen to the short dialogue and circle the right answers. 🎧 (Track 272)

Q: Subject + hó mề hó jǐ + Verb / verbal phrase + ả?

A (yes): Subject + hó jǐ + Verb / verbal phrase.

A (no): Subject + mề hó jǐ + Verb / verbal phrase.

e.g. Q: ngỗ sỗeng tồng hó mề hó jǐ sǐk jẻ ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



1) Q: ngỗ đễi hó mề hó jǐ jất cài dảap cề ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



2) Q: nễi hó mề hó jǐ gảau ngỗ zđu gũng fỏ ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



3) Q: gỏ gảa đĩk sỏ hó mề hó jǐ dảng ngỗ đễi jất zăn ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



4) Q: nễi hó mề hó jǐ sũng lải mắt bẻi ngỗ đễi ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



5) Q: lỏu sỏ sỏng kẻi jất hó mề hó jǐ tũng ngỗ đễi jất cài hẻoi lẻoi hằng ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



6) Q: hỏi nỏ đđu hó mề hó jǐ dỏa đĩn wỏa ả?

A: hó jǐ / mề hó jǐ.



Express the followings in Cantonese:

1. If you don't go, I won't go either
2. I have to go to work soon
3. You can go to watch movie with me
4. Can I leave early (zou2 早) ?
5. If there is traffic jam (sak1 ce1 塞車) , I can take the metro (daap3 dei6 tit3 搭地鐵)
6. I can help (bong1 幫) you to prepare dinner
7. I must get up at 6am tomorrow
8. She is very focused in studying for her exam
9. He is worried about the war (daa2 zoeng6 打仗)

Express the followings in Cantonese:

1. Ask your friend if you can eat with them
2. Ask the teacher if you can go to the toilet (sai2 sau2 gaan1 洗手間)
3. Tell your friend that you are busy, don't count you in
4. Tell your friend you are worried about something
5. Reassure your friend that everything will be alright
6. Ask for help

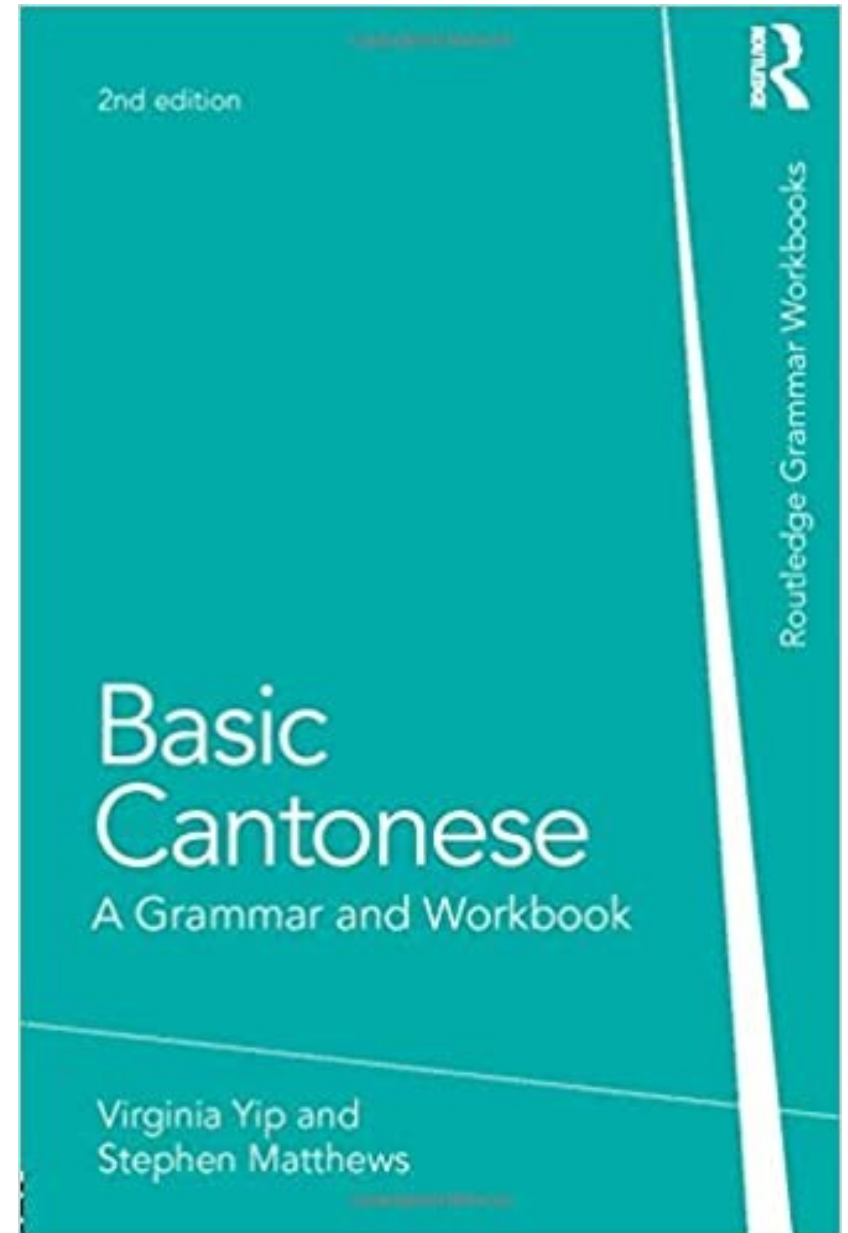
Discuss where to go for the weekend with your friends

- Propose a time, one friend can't make it, propose a new time
- Propose what to do, ask if they like it
- One friend wants to do something else (explain why

New textbook: Basic Cantonese A Grammar and Workbook

Yale romanization of Cantonese

Limitation: unable to describe all vowels being used in Cantonese



Difference between Jyutping and Yale in initial consonants

Jyutping	Yale
z	j
c	ch
j	y

Difference between Jyutping and modified Yale in vowels

Jyutping	Yale
aa	a
oe	eu
oeng	eung
oek	euk
eo	eui
eon	eun
eot	eut
eu	/
em	/
en	/
ep	/
et	/

https://hongkongvision.com/tool/cc_py_conv_zh

Plurals and quantities with **di** 啲

The word **di** 啲 can be seen as a special kind of measure or, more precisely, as a collective classifier. It is used for both countable and uncountable nouns:

(a) when referring to an unspecified number of countable items:

Di1 caang2 hou2 tim4

啲橙好甜

Ngo5 heoi3 taam3 di1 pang4 jau5

我去探啲朋友

Keoi5 di1 tung4 si6 taai3 mong4

佢啲同事太忙

The oranges are nice and sweet.

I'm going to visit some friends.

Her colleagues are too busy.

(b) when referring to quantities of uncountable substances:

Di1 seoi2 m4 gau3 jit6

㗎水唔夠熱

Ngo5 jiu3 maai5 di1 sin1 naai5

我要買㗎鮮奶

Nei5 di1 caa4 hou2 hoeng1

你㗎茶好香

The water is not hot enough.

I need to buy some fresh milk.

Your tea smells good.

Which classifier?

There are dozens of different classifiers, from the ubiquitous **go** 個 to very specific items like **bún** 本 in **bún syū** 本書 'the book'. As the term suggests, classifiers generally serve to sort nouns into semantic classes of objects:

Classifier	Semantic class	Examples	
bá 把	tools, instruments	bá dōu 把刀	knife
Gaa3 架	machines, vehicles	ga chē 架車	ce1 the car
gāan 間	buildings	gāan ūk 間屋	the house
Gin6 件	most clothes	gihn sāam 件衫	shirt, dress
	people	Jat1 go3 ji1 sang1 一個醫生	a doctor
Go3	abstract things	Ni1 go3 kyut3 ding6 呢個決定	this decision
		Jat1 go3 mung6 ng 一個夢	a dream
Zek3 隻	most animals	Zek3 gau2 隻狗	a dog
	one of a pair	Jat1 zek3 sau2 一隻手	one hand

A further important criterion is that many common classifiers categorize objects by their shape:

Classifier	Characteristics	Examples	
faai 塊	vertical surface	jat1 faai3 geng3 一塊鏡	a mirror
fuk 幅	square/rectangular	jat1 fuk1 waa2 一幅畫	a picture
zoeng1 張	flat surface	jat1 zoeng1 toi2 一張枱	a table
zi1 支	cylindrical	zi1 bat1 支筆	a pen/pencil
lāp 粒	small and round	jat1 lap1 tong2 一粒糖	a sweet
tiu4 條	long and narrow	tiu4 lou6 條路	the road

The shape criterion can override the semantic class criterion, so that animals and items of clothing distinguished by their elongated shape take **tiu4** 條, rather than **jek** 隻 or **gihn** 件:

This usage typically refers to a particular item. When the noun it goes with comes before the verb, it is definite (generally corresponding to 'the'):

gin6 saam1 hou2 gwai3

gaa3 ce1 zau2 zo2

go3 wai6 hou2 tung3

u gwai 件衫好貴

架車走咗

tung 個胃好痛

The dress is expensive.

The car has gone.

The stomach hurts.

When the classifier and noun come after the verb, it can be definite, but it can also refer to an indefinite, but specific, item ('a certain ...'):

keoi5 maai5 zo2 gin6 saam1

ngo5 gam1 jat6 tai2 zo2 bun2 syu1

keoi5 dei6 hoi1 zo2 go3 wu6 hau2

佢買咗件衫

u 我今日睇咗本書

u 佢哋開咗個戶口

She's bought a/the dress.

I read a/the book today.

They opened an/the account.

Exercise 8.2

Order the following items at a restaurant, adding **ngōi** 唔該 for politeness at the beginning or end of the sentence (see Unit 27):

- 1 two glasses (**būi** 杯) of red wine (**hung4 zau2** 紅酒)
- 2 a dish (**dip6** 碟) of fried noodles (**caau2 min6** 炒麵)
- 3 three bowls (**wun2** 碗) of rice (**faan6** 飯)
- 4 another pair (**deoi3** 對) of chopsticks (**faai3 zi2** 筷子)
- 5 a bottle (**zeon1** 樽) of water (**seoi2** 水)
- 6 a menu (**caan1 paai2** 餐牌)
- 7 two wine glasses (**zau2 bui1** 酒杯) (**zek3**)
- 8 a pot (**wu4** 壺) of hot water (**jit6 seoi2** 熱水)
- 9 a piece (**gin6** 件) of cake (**daan6 gou1** 蛋糕)
- 10 a cup (**būi** 杯) of coffee (**gaa3 fe1** 咖啡)