



Cantonese II

Week 5



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) |

Verbs:

1.	līn zāap	練習	<i>practice</i>	6.	sāan bōu	散步	<i>stroll; a walk</i>
2.	lèi hōi	離開	<i>leave</i>	7.	dāap s̀ỳun	搭船	<i>take a ferry</i>
3.	zōu lǎu sī	做老師	<i>to be a teacher</i>	8.	z̀ỳun	轉	<i>change; transfer</i>
4.	tái dīn sī	睇電視	<i>watch television</i>	9.	z̀ỳun 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 sān 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. z̀ỳu 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

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

啲水唔夠熱

Ngo5 jiu3 maai5 di1 sin1 naai5

我要買啲鮮奶

Nei5 di1 caa4 hou2 hoeng1

你啲茶好香

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
我今日睇咗本書
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 **mgōi** 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)

Translate the following

1. I want to eat something
2. Do you want to eat something?
3. I want to drink some water
4. I want to drink a cup of tea
5. Can I borrow this book?
6. Can I borrow these books?
7. The food is delicious
8. The people are noisy (cou4 嘈)
9. The cat is cute
10. The cats are cute

Exercise 8.4

Choose the appropriate classifier to replace **ge** 嘅 in the following possessive expressions:

1. keoi5 ge3 sau2 biu1 佢嘅手錶 her watch
2. lou5 baan2 ge3 toi2 老闆嘅枱 the boss's desk
3. go2 cang4 lau2 ge3 mun4 e mùhn 嗰層樓嘅門 the door of that flat
4. ngo5 gei3 so2 si4 我嘅鎖匙 my key
5. nei5 gei3 soeng2 gei1 你嘅相機 your camera

a zoeng1 張

b tiu4 條

c Zek3 隻

D. Gaa3 架

e dou6 度

F. Bou6 部

Attributive adjectives

These modify the noun. All such adjectives come before the noun they modify:

peng4	ge sāam 平嘅衫	cheap clothes
gwaai1 ge3 sai3 lou6 zai2	ái 乖嘅細路仔	good, obedient children
co3 ge3 kyut3 ding6	錯嘅決定	a wrong decision

The particle **ge** 嘅, which we have already seen in possessive constructions (Unit 5), serves here to link the adjective and noun. The adjective can be modified by **hóu** 好 ‘very’, **jeui** 最 ‘most’, etc.:

hou2 kan4 lik6 ge3 hok6 saang1	siang 好勤力嘅學生	hard-working students
zeoi3 nin4 hing1 ge3 bok3 si6	最年輕嘅博士	the youngest PhD
gam3 daai6 ge3 jing2 hoeng2	咁大嘅影響	such a big influence

Predicative adjectives

These are used to state that something has a certain property. The verb **hai6** 係 ‘to be’ is not used (see Unit 7), but instead the adverb **hóu** 好 is usually included:

ngo5 hou2 hoi1 sam1	我好開心	I’m happy.
di1 tong1 hou2 haam4	m 啲湯好鹹	The soup is salty.

9

Adjec

keoi5 gin6 saam1 hou2 leng3
gam1 jat6 hou2 sap1

hóu leng 佢件衫好靚
p 今日好濕

Her dress is beautiful.
It's humid today.

hóu 好 by itself can mean 'good' or 'very', but when used in this way, it does not really mean 'very' but is merely part of the syntax of predicative adjectives.

Modifying adjectives

Other modifiers such as **géi** 幾 'quite' and **gam** 咁 'so' can appear in place of **hóu** 好, for example:

di1 gei1 piu3 gei2 peng4
nei5 go3 sau2 tai4 din6 nou5 gam3 gwai3
go3 daan6 gou1 taai3 tim4
on1 cyun4 zeoi3 gan2 jiu3
tiu3 sing2 gau3 saai3 coeng4

The air tickets are quite cheap.
Your laptop computer is so expensive.
The cake is too sweet.
Safety is most important.
The string is (more than) long enough.

Reduplicated adjectives

Another strategy to modify the meaning of an adjective is reduplication together with the suffix **-dái** 㗎:

dīn 癲 crazy → **dīn-dīn-dái** 癲癲㗎

fú 苦 bitter → **fú-fú-dái** 苦苦㗎

sau 瘦 thin → **sau-sáu-dái** 瘦瘦㗎

tim4 甜 sweet → **Tim4 tim2 dei2** 甜甜㗎

nyun5 暖 warm → **Nyun5 nyun5 dei2** 暖暖㗎

mun6 悶 bored/boring → **Mun6 mun2 dei2** 悶悶㗎

rather crazy

rather bitter

rather thin

rather sweet

rather warm

rather bored (or: boring)

Note the change to a high rising tone on the repeated syllable (see Unit 3): this happens in all cases except where the original tone is high level (as in **dīn-dīn-dái** 癲癲㗎 ‘rather crazy’) or already high rising (as in **fú-fú-dái** 苦苦㗎 ‘rather bitter’). These forms are used to qualify the force of an adjective:

di1 zung1 joek6 fu2 fu2 dei2

dái 啲中藥苦苦㗎

Chinese medicine is rather bitter.

tiu4 gai1 sap1 sap1 dei2

條街濕濕㗎

The street is a bit wet.

tou3 hei3 mun6 mun2 dei2

dái 套戲悶悶㗎

The film was fairly boring.

ngo5 gok3 dak1 mun6 mun2 dei2

nún-dái 我覺得悶悶㗎

I feel rather bored.

Note that these forms are not used together with **hóu** 好 or other modifiers such as **géi** 幾 'quite':

ni1 go3 gaau3 sau6 din1 din1 dei2 ge3

呢個教授癲癲咁嘅

(not * **Lī go gausauh hóu dīn-dīn-déi ge**

呢個教授好癲癲咁嘅)

go3 wu6 si6 fei4 fei2 dei2 個護士肥肥嘅

(not * **Go wuhsih géi fèih-féi-déi**

個護士幾肥肥嘅)

This professor is pretty
crazy.

The nurse is rather chubby.

Such reduplicated forms are also used as adverbs (Unit 10).

Exercise 9.2

Add an appropriate attributive adjective to modify the following:

Example: ngo5 go4 go1 hai2 jat1 gaan1 hou2 jau5 meng2 ge3 gung1 si1 zou6 je5

我哥哥喺一間好有名嘅公司做嘢

My (elder) brother works for a famous company

1 keoi5 uk1 kei2 jau5 go3 佢屋企有個_____

haak3 teng1 客廳

At home there is a ... living room.

2 deoi3 min6 jau5 gaan1 對面有間_____

caan1 teng1 餐廳

Across the street there is a ... restaurant.

3 ngo5 zeoi3 gan6/kan5 tai2 zo2 我最近睇咗

本_____ syū 書

I have recently read a ... book.

Exercise 9.3

Substitute a modifier (e.g. **géi** 幾, **gam** 咁, **taai** 太, **gau saai** 夠晒) for **hóu** 好:

mun5 zuk1

lek1

gui6

dak1 ji3

long6 maan6

tau4 faat3...dyun2

gaa1 si1...peng4

gaau3 sau6...ceot1 meng2

laan5

soeng2... leng3

We are satisfied.

She's smart (capable).

They're tired.

The children are cute.

The film is romantic.

Her hair is very short.

The furniture is cheap.

The professor is famous.

The student is lazy.

The photos are pretty.

Exercise 9.1

Use appropriate predicative adjectives to describe the following:

Example: the film on an aeroplane → **Tou hei hóu chéuhng** 套戲好長
The film was long.

1. your city
2. Your sibling
3. Your friend
4. Your parents
5. Your favorite food
6. Your favorite movie

Exercise 9.4

Form reduplicated adjectives to express the meaning based on the adjective provided, remembering the change of tone:

Example: The baby is chubby (**fèih** 肥) → **Go bìhbī fèih-féi-déi** 個BB肥肥嘍

- 1 This dish (dip6 sung1 碟餸) is a bit hot (laat6 辣).
- 2 The soup (tong1 啲湯) is rather sour (syun1 酸).
- 3 Your clothes (saam1 啲衫) are a bit wet (sāp 濕).
- 4 The weather (tin1 hei3 天氣) is rather cold (dung3 凍).
- 5 Her face (faai3 min6 塊面) is rather round (jyun4 圓).
- 6 Her eyes (Deoi3 ngaan5 對眼) are a little red (hung4 紅).
- 7 His office (baan6 gung1 sat1 個辦公室) is rather messy (lyun6 亂).
- 8 The button (lap1 lau2 粒鈕) is rather loose (sung1 鬆).
- 9 Your glasses (fu3 ngaan5 geng2 副眼鏡) are rather fuzzy (mung4 朦).
- 10 Your husband (lou5 gung1 老公) is a bit drunk (zeoi3 醉).

蘋果	ping4 gwo2	Apple
橙	caang2	Orange
香蕉	hoeng1 ziu1	Banana
梨	lei4	Pear
士多啤梨	si6 do1 be1 lei2	Strawberry
提子	tai4 zi2	Grapes
椰菜	je4 coi3	Cabbage
薯仔	syu4 zai2	Potato
番茄	faan1 ke2	Tomato

gam1 jat6 jau5 me1 san1 sin1 aa3

今日有咩新鮮呀？

leng3 neoi2 gam1 jat6 tai2 coi3 sam1 hou2 san1 sin1 aa3

靚女，今日睇菜心好新鮮呀。

hai6 aa3 dim2 maai6 aa3

係呀？點賣呀？

sap6 sei3 man1 jat1 gan1

十四蚊一斤。

taai3 gwai3 laa3 m4 sai2 laa3 m4 goi1

太貴喇，唔洗喇唔該。

ni1 di1 hai6 bun2 dei6 coi3 hou2 peng4 gaa3 laa3

呢啲係本地菜，好平架喇。

gam2 ngo5 maai5 gan1 bun3 peng4 di1 dak1 m4 dak1 aa3

咁，我買斤半，平啲得唔得呀？

hou2 laa1 sau1 nei5 man1 laa1

好啦，收你蚊啦。

ni1 dou6 man1 m4 goi1 baai1 baai3

呢度蚊。唔該。拜拜。

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQ0_M15BTyc&t=3076s