



Cantonese II

Week 6



| 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。

1. Ask if the oranges are sweet (tim4 甜)
2. Tell your friend his/her jacket (lau1 褸) is nice
3. Tell your friend his/her hair (tau4 faat3 頭髮) is a bit messy (lyun6 亂)
4. Tell your friend the food in the restaurant is bad (naan4 sik6 難食), don't go
5. The beer (be1 zau2 啤酒) is good (zeng3 正/ hou2 jam2 好飲)
6. The cake is so-so

Adverbs of time

Given that verbs do not indicate tense in Cantonese, adverbs are especially important in specifying when events take place:

keoi5 **ji4 gaa1** zung6 hai2 ji1 jyun2 佢而家仲喺醫院
She's still in hospital (now).

keoi5 **go2 zan6 si4** zung6 hai2 ji1 jyun2 佢嗰陣時仲喺醫院
She was still in hospital (then).

ngo5 **zik1 hak1** heoi3 jing1 gwok3 taam3 nei5 我即刻去英國探你
I'm going to visit you in England (right away).

ngo5 **dai6 ji6 si4** heoi3 jing1 gwok3 taam3 nei5 我第二時去英國探你
I'll visit you in England (in the future).

In English, the tense of the verb indicates when things take place, and the adverb can easily be omitted, while in Cantonese only the adverb indicates the time. Common adverbs include:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Present: | ji4 gaa1 而家 | now | gam1 jat6 今日 | today |
| Recent past: | tau4 sin1 頭先 | just now | ngāam-ngāam 啱啱 | just |
| Past: | ji5 cin4 以前 | before | bun2 loi4 本來 | originally |
| | soeng6 ci3 上次 | last time | go2 zan6 si4 嗰陣時 | then |
| | Kam4/cam4 jat6 琴日 | yesterday | cin4 jat6 前日 | the day before yesterday |

Future:

zik1 hak1

即刻

haa6 ci3

下次

ting1 jat6

聽日

right away

next time

tomorrow

dai6 (ji6) si4

第(二)時

dou3 si4

到時

hau6 jat6

後日

in the future

when the time
comes

the day after
tomorrow

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Adverbs
of time,
frequency
and duration

These adverbs may come:

(a) before the verb:

ngo5 dei6 ji4 gaa1 ceot1 heoi3

keoi5 ngaam1 ngaam1 zau2 zo2

我哋而家出去

佢啱啱走咗

We're going out now.

He just left.

(b) before the subject:

bun2 loi4 ngo5 soeng2 duk6 ji1 fo1

本來我想讀醫科

tau4 sin1 keoi5 m4 gei3 dak1 daai3 so2 si4

頭先佢唔記得帶鎖匙

Originally I wanted to study medicine.

Just now he forgot his keys.

Adverbs of frequency and duration

Useful adverbs to describe the frequency of an action include:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Sing4/ seng4 jat6 成日 | always | jat1 ci3 一次 | once |
| do1 sou3 多數 | mostly | léuhng chi 兩次 | twice |
| jau5 (zan6) si4 有(陣)時 | sometimes | sāam chi 三次 | three times |
| yāt sih-si4 一小時 | occasionally | géi chi 幾次 | several times |
| ping4 si4 平時 | normally | tung1 soeng4 通常 | usually |

mui5 每 'each' can be used to form adverbial phrases:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| múih go yuht 每個月 | every month | múih go sīngkèih 每個星期 | every week |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|

Note that several common time expressions of one syllable do not take a classifier and can form reduplicated adverbs:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| mui5 ci3 每次 or chi-chi 次次 | every time |
| mui5 jat6 每日 or yaht-yaht 日日 | every day |
| mui5 nin4 每年 or lihn-lihn 年年 | every year |
| mui5 ziu1 每朝 or jīu-jīu 朝朝 | every morning |
| mui5 maan5 每晚 or máahn-máahn 晚晚 | every evening |

Ask: How often do you _____ ?

Answer with with frequency we just learnt

Verbs of frequency and duration

Verbs to describe the frequency of an action include:

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 6 成日 | always | jat1 ci3 一次 | once |
| 多數 | mostly | léuhng chi 兩次 | twice |
| an6) si4 有(陣)時 | sometimes | sāam chi 三次 | three times |
| jat1 si4 si4 一小時 | occasionally | géi chi 幾次 | several times |
| 平時 | normally | tung1 soeng4 通常 | usually |

'each' can be used to form adverbial phrases:

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| o yuht | every month | múih go sīngkèih | every week |
| | | 每個星期 | |

Several common time expressions of one syllable do not take a classifier and can form reduplicated adverbs:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 3 每次 or chi-chi 次次 | every time |
| at6 每日 or yaht-yaht 日日 | every day |
| in4 每年 or lih-n-lih-n 年年 | every year |
| 1 每朝 or jīu-jīu 朝朝 | every morning |
| 每晚 or máahn-máahn 晚晚 | every evening |

1. lěoi hàng 旅行 (travel)
2. tiu mǎu 跳舞 (dance)
3. jǐng sǒng 影相 (taking photographs)
4. sǒng mǒng 上網 (surf on the Internet)
5. cǒng kēi 唱K (sing Karaoke)

1. dǎa bō 打波 (play ball games)
2. tàn gǐt tā 彈結他 (play guitar)
3. tái hěi 睇戲 (watch movies)
4. dǎa gēi 打機 (play video game)
5. tái sū 睇書 (read books)

Jau4 seoi2
游水
swimming

Zou6 gym
做gym

Go to the gym

Gin6 san1
健身

Go to the gym

Zyu2 je5 sik6
煮嘢食
Cooking

Haang4 saan1
行山
Hiking

Caai2 daan1 ce1
踩單車
Cycling

Teng1 jam1 ngok6
聽音樂
Listen to music

Translate the following into Cantonese using the adverbs we just learnt.

1. I was in Prague 【bou3 laai1 gaak3】 (yesterday)
2. She arrived at the university (just now)
3. I have met him (before)
4. They won the first prize (last time)
5. We were still small 【sai3 go3 細個】 (then)
6. I used to be a nurse 【wu6 si6 護士】 (originally)
7. We will contact 【lyun4 lok3 聯絡】 you (next time)
8. He got angry 【nau1 嬲】 (immediately)
9. I will treat you a meal 【ceng2 sik6 faan6 請吃飯】 (in the future)
10. We used to live in America 【mei5 gwok3】 (before)
11. I planned to go to Taiwan (originally)
12. I will go to Hong Kong (next time)
13. My father arrived home (just now)
14. I liked swimming (then)

UNIT 12

Comparison

Gwo3 過 and di 啲

In this unit, we look at ways of making simple comparisons. In colloquial Cantonese, there are two basic kinds of comparison:

- (a) Where two things are explicitly being compared, **gwo** 過 is used to mean ‘more (adjective) than (noun)’. The word order is similar to the English (and quite unlike that in Mandarin):

Jenny sai3 gwo3 ngo5

Jenny 細過我

Jenny is younger than me.

baat3 lau2 hou2 gwo3 ji6 lau2

八樓好過二樓

The eighth floor is better than the second floor.

ni1 deoi3 gwai3 gwo3 go2 deoi3

呢對貴過嗰對

This pair is more expensive than that one.

Note that **gwo** 過 is also a verb meaning ‘cross’ or ‘pass’, so it is natural that it comes to mean ‘surpass’ in comparisons.

- (b) If the object of comparison is not expressed (i.e. there is no ‘than ...’), **di** 啲 is used instead:

Jenny sai3 di1 Jenny 細啲

Jenny is younger.

baat3 lau2 hou2 di1 八樓好啲

The eighth floor is better.

go2 deoi3 gwai3 di1 嗰對貴啲

That pair is more expensive.

di 啲 literally means ‘a little’ but here serves largely to indicate a difference between the two items with respect to some property.

Modifying comparisons

Both kinds of comparison can be modified by adverbs of degree such as **hóu dō** 好多 'much' and **síu-síu** 少少 'a little', as follows:

- (a) In comparisons with **gwo** 過, the adverb of degree is simply added at the end of the construction:

nei5 lek1 gwo3 keoi5 hou2 do1

你叻過佢好多

You're much smarter than him.

keoi5 gou1 gwo3 nei5 siu2 siu2

佢高過你少少

She's a little taller than you.

ngo5 daai6 gwo3 keoi5 jat1 nin4

我入過佢一十

I'm a year older than her.

- (b) In comparisons where **dī** 啲 would normally be used, a degree word such as **hóu dō** 好多 'a lot' replaces **dī** 啲:

Lī go leng dī

呢個靚啲

→ **Lī go leng hóu dō**

呢個靚好多

This one is much nicer.

Lī go gwai dī

呢個貴啲

→ **Lī go gwai síu-síu**

呢個貴少少

This one is a little more expensive.

ni1 go3 cung5 di1

呢個重啲

→ ni1 go3 cung5 gei2 pui5

呢個重幾倍

This one is several times heavier.

The reason for this is that **dī** 啲 literally means 'a bit', so that combining it with an adverb like **hóu dō** 好多 'a lot' would be a contradiction in terms. This shows that **dī** 啲 as in **leng dī** 靚啲 is not really equivalent to the suffix **-er** in English 'prettier'.

zung6 仲 'even' can be applied to both the **gwo** 過 and **di** 啲 constructions but comes *before* the adjective:

gam1 ci3 zung6 hou2 gwo3 soeng6 ci3 i

今次仲好過上次

This time is even better than last time.

gam2 joeng2 zung6 hou2 di1 i)

咁樣仲好(啲)

This way is even better.

(**di** 啲 can be omitted here since the presence of **juhng** 仲 implies that a comparison is being made.)

Translate the following into Cantonese

1. It's warmer today (nyun5 暖)
2. She is happier now
3. My friend is older than me
4. She is much taller than before
5. It's slower this time
6. This restaurant is cheaper than that one
7. Cycling is better than walking (haang4 lou6 行路)
8. Your idea is better (zyu2 ji3 主意)

Make the following comparisons more explicit using the adverb given in brackets:

1. This year is (much) colder [dung3凍] than last year
2. It's (much) warmer [nyun5 暖] today
3. Your hair is (a little) shorter [dyun2短] now
4. Hong Kong is (several times) more expensive than here
5. I'm (even) more tired [gui6 疲] than she is
6. Eating rice is (even) cheaper than eating noodles
7. She is (5cm lei4 mai5厘米) taller than me
8. My elder brother is (20 pounds bong6磅) heavier than me

Tell us:

What you planned to do last year but couldn't do.

What activities do you like to do? How often you do them?

Compare yourself with your family member/ friend

Translate the following into Cantonese using the adverbs we just learnt.

1. I was in Prague 【bou3 laai1 gaak3】 (yesterday)

ngo5 cam4 jat6 hai2 bou3 laai1 gaak3 我尋日喺布拉格

2. She arrived at the university (just now)

Keoi5 ngaam1 ngaam1 dou3 zo2 daai6 hok6 佢啱啱到咗大學

3. I have met him (before)

ngo5 zi1 cin4/ ji5 cin4 gin3 gwo3 keoi5 我之前/以前見過佢

4. They won the first prize (last time)

keoi5 dei6 soeng6 ci3 jeng4 zo2 dai6 jat1 ming4 佢哋上次贏咗第一名

5. We were still small 【sai3 go3 細個】 (then)

ngo5 dei6 go2 zan6 zung6 sai3 go3 我地嗰陣仲細個

6. I used to be a nurse 【wu6 si6 護士】 (originally)

ngo5 bun2 loi4 hai6 go3 wu6 si6 我本來係個護士

7. We will contact 【lyun4 lok3 聯絡】 you (next time)

ngo5 dei6 haa2 ci3 wui5 lyun4 lok3 nei5 我地下次會聯絡你

8. He got angry 【nau1 嬲】 (immediately)

keoi5 zik1 hak1 nau1 zo2 佢即刻嬲咗

9. I will treat you a meal 【ceng2 sik6 faan6 請吃飯】 (in the future)

ngo5 dai6 si4 ceng2 nei5 sik6 faan6 我第時請你食飯

10. We used to live in America 【mei5 gwok3】 (before)

ngo5 ji5 cin4 zyu6 hai2 mei5 gwok3 我以前住喺美國

11. I planned to go to Taiwan (originally)

ngo5 bun2 loi4 daa2 syun3 heoi3 toi4 waan1 我本來打算去台灣

12. I will go to Hong Kong (next time)

ngo5 haa6 ci3 wui5 heoi3 hoeng1 gong2 我下次會去香港

13. My father arrived home (just now)

ngo5 baa4 baa1 ngaam1 ngaam1 faan1 zo2 uk1 kei2 我爸爸啱啱返咗屋企

14. I liked swimming (then)

ngo5 go2 zan6 zung1 ji3 jau4 seoi2 我嗰陣鍾意游水

Translate the following into Cantonese

1. It's warmer today (nyun5 暖)

gam1 jat6 nyun5 di1 今日暖啲

2. She is happier now

keoi5 ji4 gaa1 hoi1 sam1 di1 佢而家開心啲

3. My friend is older than me

ngo5 pang4 jau5 daai6 gwo3 ngo5 我朋友大過我

4. She is much taller than before

keoi5 gou1 gwo3 ji5 cin4 hou2 do1 佢高過以前好多

5. It's slower this time

gam1 ci3 maan6 di1 今次慢啲

6. This restaurant is cheaper than that one

ni1 gaan1 caan1 teng1 peng4 gwo3 go2 gaan2 呢間餐廳平過嗰間

7. Cycling is better than walking (haang4 lou6 行路)

caai2 daan1 ce1 hou2 gwo3 haang4 lou6 踩單車好過行路

8. Your idea is better (zyu2 ji3 主意)

nei5 ge3 zyu2 ji3 hou2 di1 你嘅主意好啲