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L5 – Daily life

Yaht-sèuhng sāng-wuht 日常生活

Learning Tasks:

- To ask for directions
- To recognize the location of nearby facilities
- To ask about & indicate a reason
- To recognize clock hour
- To describe daily routine
- To ask about & a weekly schedule
- To talk about a sequence of actions

Grammar & Culture Notes:

1. conjunction ‘and’	tùhng	同
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“Tùhng 同” means ‘and’ or ‘with’.

Example:

- | | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| 1. Ngóh-tùhng-kéuih dōu-jyuh-hái gūng-sī sūk-se. | 我同佢都住喺公司宿舍. | <i>He and I both live in the company provided apartments.</i> |
| 2. Ngóh-séung-yám ga-fē tùhng náaih-chàh. | 我想飲咖啡同奶茶. | <i>I would like to have coffee and tea.</i> |

2. continuous marker	gán	緊
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“V- gán 緊” is similar to English “V-ing”, showing an on-going action. Note that “gán 緊” is placed between the verb and the object, e.g. is expressed “sihk-gán-faahn 食緊飯 (eatng)”.

Example:

1. Ngóh duhk-gán gōu-kāp fo-chìhng. 我讀緊高級課程。 *I am studying an advanced course.*

2. Ngóh séuhng-gán-móhng. 我上緊網。 *I am on-line.*

3. ‘why?’ question dím-gáai? 點解?

To ask the reason for something, “dím-gáai 點解” is used right before a verb / adjective phrases or before a subject. To explain the reason, use “yān-wàih 因為 because)”.

Example:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dím-gáai kéuih chih-dou a? | 佢點解遲到呀? | <i>Why was he late?</i> |
| a. Ngóh-m4-jī dím-gáai. | 我唔知點解. | <i>I don’t know why.</i> |
| b. Yān-wàih sāk-chē. | 因為塞車. | <i>Because of traffic.</i> |

4. a series of event sīn...gān-jyuh... 先…跟住…

To describe a series of events, use the following pattern:

event1 + ‘sīn 先first’ + ‘gān-jyuh 跟住 and then’ + event2...

Example:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| 1) Ngóh sihk-jóu-chāan sīn, gān-jyuh fáan-gūng, sihk-aan. | 我食早餐先, 跟住返工、食晏。 | <i>I’ll eat breakfast first then go to work and go to lunch.</i> |
| 2) Ngóh héui ló-chín sīn, gān-jyuh hàahng-gāai, sihk-faahn. | 我去攞錢先, 跟住行街、食飯。 | <i>I’ll withdraw some money first, then go shopping and have dinner.</i> |

5. direction-giving

The following phrases are often used when you ask for directions.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 1) yāt-jihk-hàahng | 一直行 | <i>go straight ahead</i> |
| 2) jyun-wāan | 轉彎 | <i>turn</i> |
| 3) jyun-jó | 轉左 | <i>turn left</i> |
| 4) jyun-yauh | 轉右 | <i>turn right</i> |

5) hái-chìhn-mihn	喺前面	<i>in front (down the road)</i>
6) hái-gaak-lèih	喺隔離	<i>next-door</i>
7) hái-deui-mihn	喺對面	<i>opposite of</i>
8) m4-jī-dou	唔知道	<i>don't know</i>

Example:

1) Chíng-mahn Méih-Gwok líhng-sih-gún hái bīn-douh-a?

請問美國領事館喺邊度呀?

May I ask where the US Consulate General is?

2) Yāt-jìhk-hàahng, hàahng-dou louh-háu jyun-jó.

一直行，行到路口轉左。

Go straight. Turn left when you at street intersection.

6. time segment expression

Cantonese divides a day into five time segments.

1) jiū-jóu	朝早	<i>morning</i>
2) jūng-ńgh	中午	<i>noon</i>
3) aan-jau	晏晝	<i>afternoon</i>
4) yeh-máahn	夜晚	<i>night</i>
5) bun-yé	半夜	<i>Midnight</i>

Example:

1) Néih **jiū-jóu** móuh-sìhk jóu-chāan, ngoh-m4-ngoh-a?

你朝早有食早餐，餓唔餓呀?

You didn't have breakfast this morning, aren't you hungry?

M4-ngoh.

唔餓。

Not hungry.

2) Ngóh **aan-jau** móuh-tòhng **yeh-máahn** yauh-tòhng.

我晏晝有堂，夜晚有堂。

I have no afternoon classes, but I have evening classes.

7. word order

The basic word order in Cantonese is the same as that of English: subject-verb-object, as in “I love you”, “ngóh 我 jūng-yi 鍾意 néih 你”.

However, when more information is added, the word order becomes quite different from that of English. Let’s see how information such as ‘with someone’, ‘specific time’ or ‘location of action’ should be properly placed in Cantonese.

Subject-verb-object

Subject-with someone-verb-object

Subject-with someone-specific time-verb-object

Subject-with someone-specific time-location-verb-object

Example:

- | | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| 1) Kéuih tühng ngóh kàhm-yaht héui Wohng-gok máaih-yéh. | 佢同我琴日去旺角買嘢。 | <i>She went with me to Mongkok and shopped around yesterday.</i> |
| 2) Láih-baai-yaht ngóh tühng pàhng-yáuh hái Wohng-gok tiu-móuh. | 禮拜日我同朋友喺旺角跳舞。 | <i>I danced with my friend in Mongkok on Sunday.</i> |

8. clock time:

dím

點

A number plus “dím 點” is used to form a clock hour expression, e.g. “léuhng-dím 兩點 2 o’clock”. When asking the time, “géi-dím 幾點” is used. Unlike English, the time expression is placed before a verb phrase to indicate the time you do something.

Example:

- | | | |
|--|--------|------------------------------|
| 1) Yih-ga géi-dím a? | 而家幾點呀? | <i>What time is it now?</i> |
| léuhng-dím | 兩點 | <i>2 o’clock</i> |
| * Remarks: 2 o’clock is “léuhng-dím”. 12 o’clock is “sahp-yih-dím” | | |
| 2) Ngóh baat-dím fāan-gūng | 我八點返工。 | <i>I go to work at 8:00.</i> |

9. nightlife spot**Làahn-gwai-fōng****蘭桂坊 Lan Kwai Fong**

Lan Kwai Fong is one of Hong Kong's most popular nightlife hot spots and home to over 90 restaurants and bars. The atmosphere ranges from stylish wine pairings to raucous jelly shots and the food on offer is as diverse as the clientele.

Dialog Vocabulary:

	拼音	繁體	英文
🎧 1	gūng-jok	工作	<i>work; job</i>
🎧 2	gwaih-tòih	櫃台	<i>counter; working table</i>
🎧 3	faahn-tòhng	飯堂	<i>canteen; cafeteria; eating place</i>
🎧 4	yāt-jihk-hàahng	一直行	<i>go straight</i>
🎧 5	chìhn-mihn	前面	<i>in front of</i>
🎧 6	lauh-háu	路口	<i>street intersection</i>
🎧 7	jyun-yauh	轉右	<i>right turn</i>
🎧 8	gihn-sān-sāt	健身室	<i>gym</i>
🎧 9	gaak-lèih	隔離	<i>next</i>
🎧 10	ngàhn-hòhng	銀行	<i>bank</i>
🎧 11	tòuh-syū-gún	圖書館	<i>library</i>
🎧 12	bāt-gwo	不過	<i>but</i>
🎧 13	gwaih-yùhn-gēi	櫃員機	<i>ATM</i>
🎧 14	guih	𩇛	<i>tired; exhausted</i>
🎧 15	bo	嘍	<i>suffix - for certainly</i>
🎧 16	kàhm-máahn	琴晚	<i>last night</i>
🎧 17	yám-jáu	飲酒	<i>drinks</i>
🎧 18	yeh	夜	<i>night, evening</i>
🎧 19	fan	瞓	<i>sleep</i>
🎧 20	yeh-fan	夜瞓	<i>to sleep very late</i>

21	mē	咩	<i>suffix - indicating surprise</i>
22	bun-yé	半夜	<i>midnight</i>
23	yāt-dím	一點	<i>one o'clock</i>
24	pìhng-síh	平時	<i>usually</i>
25	géi-dím?	幾點?	<i>what time?</i>
26	fan-gaau	瞓覺	<i>sleep</i>
27	jaahp-gwaan	習慣	<i>be used to; habit; custom</i>
28	jóu-seuih-jóu-héi	早睡早起	<i>early sleep early get up</i>
29	héi-sān	起身	<i>get up</i>
30	chūng-lèuhng	沖涼	<i>take a bath</i>
31	jóu-chāan	早餐	<i>breakfast</i>
32	aan-jau	晏晝	<i>afternoon</i>
33	hohk	學	<i>study; learn</i>
34	yíh-gīng	已經	<i>already</i>
35	dāk	得	<i>Verb suffix. Giving okay affect to the verb it is attached to</i>
36	juhng	仲	<i>still; also</i>
37	yiú	要	<i>want; need</i>
38	gōu-kāp	高級	<i>advanced; high-class</i>
39	fo-chìhng	課程	<i>course</i>
40	jān	真	<i>really; true</i>
41	kàhn-lihk	勤力	<i>hardworking; diligent</i>
42	hóu-chíh	好似	<i>seem; look like</i>
43	laak	嘍	<i>suffix - indicating change + liveliness.</i>

Dialog:

Mary brings David to walk around the office. 🎧

🎧 1 Nī-douh haih gūng-jok ge gwaih-tòih.

Mary: 呢度係工作嘅櫃台。

Here are our working counters.

🎧 2 Faahn-tòhng hái bīn-douh a?

David: 飯堂喺邊度呀?

Where is the canteen?

🎧 3 Yāt-jihk-hàahng, chihm-mihn louh-háu jyun-yauh hái faahn-tòhng.

Mary: 一直行，前面路口轉右喺飯堂。

Go straight until the first corner, and turn right, then you'll see the canteen.

🎧 4 Yáuh-móuh gihn-sān-sāt-a?

David: 有冇健身室呀?

Is there a gym?

🎧 5 Yáuh, gihn-sān-sāt hái faahn-tòhng gaak-lèih.

Mary: 有，健身室喺飯堂隔離。

Yes. The gym is next to the canteen.

🎧 6 Ngàhn-hòhng tùhng tòuh-syū-gún nē?

David: 銀行同圖書館呢?

And the bank and library?

🎧 7 Nī-douh-móuh, bāt-gwo, faahn-tòhng léih-mihn yáuh gwaih-yùhn-gēi.

Mary: 呢度有，不過飯堂裏面有櫃員機。

None here, but there are ATMs inside the canteen.

🎧 8 Néih hóu-chíh hóu-guih bo?

David: 你好似好劬嘍?

You seem so tired?

🎧 9 Haih-ā. Kàhm-máahn ngóh tùhng-pàhng-yáuh héui Làahn-gwai-fōng yám-jáu.

Mary: 係呀。琴晚同朋友去蘭桂坊飲酒。

Yes. I had some drinks at Lan Kwai Fong last night with my friends.

🎧 10 Néih hóu-yeh-fan mē?

David: 你好夜瞓咩?

Did you go to sleep very late last night?

🎧 11 Ngóh bun-yé yāt-dím-fan. Néih pìhng-síh géi-dím fan-gaau a?

Mary: 我半夜一點瞓。你平時幾點瞓覺呀?

I went to sleep at one am. What time do you usually go to sleep?

🎧 12 Ngóh jaahp-gwaan jóu-seuih-jóu-héi, yeh-máahn sahp-dím fan-gaau, jiū-jóu luhk-dím héi-sān.

David: 我習慣早睡早起，夜晚十點瞓覺，朝早六點起身。

I am used to keeping early hours. I go to bed at ten and get up at six.

🎧 13 Néih luhk-dím héi-sān?!

Mary: 你六點起身? !

You get up at six?!

🎧 14 Haih-ā. Héui gihn-sān-sāt-sīn, gān-jyuh chūng-lèuhng、sìhk-jóu-chāan、fāan-gūng. Néih-nē?

David: 係呀。去健身室先，跟住沖涼、食早餐、返工。你呢?

Yes. I go to gym first, and then I take a bath, eat breakfast and go to work. And you?

🎧 15 Láih-baai-yāt ji láih-baai-ńgh fāan-gūng, láih-baai-luhk aan-jau hohk-Gwóng-dūng-wá.

Mary: 禮拜一至五返工，禮拜六晏晝學廣東話。

I go to work from Monday to Friday. I study Cantonese on Saturday afternoons.

🎧 16 Néih ge Gwóng-dūng-wá yíh-gīng góng-dāk hóu-hóu, juhng-yiu-hohk?

David: 你嘅廣東話已經講得好好，仲要學?

Your Cantonese is already very good, you still need to study?

🎧 17 Dō-jeh. Ngóh duhk-gán gōu-kāp fo-chìhng.

Mary: 多謝。我讀緊高級課程。

Thank you. I am studying an advanced course.

🎧 18 Néih jān-kàhn-lihk laak.

David: 你真勤力嘞!

You are really hardworking!



Supplementary Vocabulary:

拼音	繁體	英文
A. days of the week		
🎧 1 láih-baai	禮拜	<i>religious service; a week; Sunday</i>
🎧 2 láih-baai-yāt	禮拜一	<i>Monday</i>
🎧 3 láih-baai-yih	禮拜二	<i>Thursday</i>
🎧 4 láih-baai-sāam	禮拜三	<i>Wednesday</i>
🎧 5 láih-baai-sei	禮拜四	<i>Thursday</i>
🎧 6 láih-baai-ńgh	禮拜五	<i>Friday</i>
🎧 7 láih-baai-luhk	禮拜六	<i>Saturday</i>
🎧 8 láih-baai-yaht	禮拜日	<i>Sunday</i>
🎧 9 sīng-kèih	星期	<i>a week</i>
🎧 10 sīng-kèih-yāt	星期一	<i>Monday</i>
🎧 11 sīng-kèih-yih	星期二	<i>Thursday</i>
🎧 12 sīng-kèih-sāam	星期三	<i>Wednesday</i>
🎧 13 sīng-kèih-sei	星期四	<i>Thursday</i>
🎧 14 sīng-kèih-ńgh	星期五	<i>Friday</i>
🎧 15 sīng-kèih-luhk	星期六	<i>Saturday</i>
🎧 16 sīng-kèih-yaht	星期日	<i>Sunday</i>
拼音	繁體	英文
B. office nearby facilities		
🎧 1 ngàhn-hòhng	銀行	<i>bank</i>
🎧 2 gwaih-yùhn-gēi	櫃員機	<i>ATM</i>

🎧	3	faahn-tòhng	飯堂	<i>canteen; cafeteria</i>
🎧	4	chāan-tèng	餐廳	<i>Western-style restaurant</i>
🎧	5	chàh-làuh	茶樓	<i>Chinese style restaurant</i>
🎧	6	yàuh-guhk	郵局	<i>post office</i>
🎧	7	tòuh-syū-gún	圖書館	<i>library</i>
🎧	8	gihn-sān-yuhn	健身院	<i>gymnasia</i>
🎧	9	ga-fē-dim	咖啡店	<i>coffee shop</i>
🎧	10	bihn-leih-dim	便利店	<i>convenience store</i>
🎧	11	sái-sáu-gāan	洗手間	<i>bath room / toilet</i>
🎧	12	deih-tit-jaahm	地鐵站	<i>MTR station</i>
🎧	13	bā-sí-jaahm	巴士站	<i>bus station / stop</i>
🎧	14	dīk-sí-jaahm	的士站	<i>Taxi station</i>



C. meals

🎧	1	jóu-chāan / yám-chàh	早餐 / 飲茶	<i>breakfast / dim sum breakfast</i>
🎧	2	ńgh-chāan / ńgh-faahn / aan	午餐 / 午飯 / 晏	<i>lunch</i>
🎧	3	hah-ńgh-chàh	下午茶	<i>afternoon tea / high tea</i>
🎧	4	faai-lohk-sìh-gwòng	快樂時光	<i>happy hour</i>
🎧	5	máahn-faahn / máahn- chāan	晚飯 / 晚餐	<i>dinner</i>
🎧	6	sīu-yeh	宵夜	<i>midnight snack</i>

D. daily activities:

🎧	1	héi-sān	起身	<i>get up / wake up</i>
🎧	2	chaat-ngàh	刷牙	<i>brush the teeth</i>
🎧	3	sái-mihn	洗面	<i>wash the face, clean the face</i>
🎧	4	wuhn-sāam	換衫	<i>change clothes</i>
🎧	5	fa-jōng	化妝	<i>put on makeup</i>

🎧	6	fāan-gūng	返工	<i>go to work</i>
🎧	7	jouh-yéh	做嘢	<i>working</i>
🎧	8	fāan-hohk	返學	<i>go to school</i>
🎧	9	séuhng-tòhng	上堂	<i>attend a class</i>
🎧	10	jouh-gūng-fo	做功課	<i>do homework</i>
🎧	11	duhk-syū	讀書	<i>study / learn</i>
🎧	12	sihk-aan	食晏	<i>eat lunch</i>
🎧	13	fong-gūng	放工	<i>off work</i>
🎧	14	fong-hohk	放學	<i>off school</i>
🎧	15	fāan-ūk-kéi	返屋企	<i>go home</i>
🎧	16	sihk-faahn	食飯	<i>eat dinner</i>
🎧	17	tái-dihn-sih	睇電視	<i>watch TV</i>
🎧	18	séuhng-móhng	上網	<i>surf the net</i>
🎧	19	chūng-lèuhng	沖涼	<i>take a shower</i>
🎧	20	fan-gaau	瞓覺	<i>sleep / go to bed</i>



Say it in Cantonese:

What do you say ...

1. **Q.** *Here are our working counters.*

A. ...

2. **Q.** *Where is the bathroom / toilet?*

A. ...

3. **Q.** *Go straight until the first corner, and turn left, then you will see the toilet.*

A. ...

4. **Q.** *Did you go to sleep very late last night?*

A. ...

5. **Q.** *I went to sleep at twelve midnight.*

A. ...

6. **Q.** *I am used to early sleep and early get up.*

A. ...

7. **Q.** *I go to brush teeth first, and then wash face, change clothes and eat breakfast.*

A. ...

8. **Q.** *I had some drinks at Lan Kwai Fong last night with my girlfriend.*

A. ...

9. **Q.** *Where is the Hong Kong Cafe?*

A. ...

<< End of Lesson 5 >>