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L7 – Marking phone calls

Dá-dihn-wá 打電話

Learning Tasks:

- To ask for and give a phone number
- To talk with someone on the phone
- To respond to an apology
- To ask and indicate availability
- To talk about a purpose
- To talk about an appointment
- To indicate a place to meet

Grammar & Culture Notes:

1. adjective ‘important’

gán-yiu

緊要

The word to express ‘important’ in Cantonese is “gán-yiu 緊要”. It is interesting to note that the corresponding word of “緊要” in Putonghua is similar but the word order is not the same “要緊”.

Example:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Ngóh yáuh-dī gán-yiu -sih, séung-jáu-sīn. | 我有啲 緊要 事, 想走先。 | <i>As I have something important, I want to leave early.</i> |
| 2. M4- gán-yiu , néih jáu-sīn-lā. | 唔 緊要 , 你走先啦。 | <i>Never mind, you can go ahead and leave first.</i> |

2. ‘(give a phone call) to...’

béi

畀

In Cantonese, “to give a phone call to someone” is expressed by “dá-dihn-wá 打電話 + béi 畀 + someone” or “kō (call) + someone”. (“kō” is a sound loaned from English.)

Example:

1 Q Néih dāk-hàahn **dá-dih-n-wá** béi-ngóh-lā.

你得閒打電話畀我啦。

Give me a call when you are free.

A Ngóh chih-dī kō néih lā.

我遲啲 call 你啦。

I will call you later.

3. Verb ‘look for’:

wán

搵

In Cantonese, “look for” or “to find” is expressed by “wán 搵”.

Example:

- | | | |
|--|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Yáuh-yàhn wán-néih-a! | 有人搵你呀! | <i>Someone is looking for you!</i> |
| 2) Ngóh-séung hái Hēung-góng wán-gūng. | 我想喺香港搵工。 | <i>I want to find a job in HK.</i> |

4. ‘(someone) is in’:

hái-douh

喺度

The Cantonese verb “hái 喺” is used to denote the location of a person or thing. However, “hái 喺” must accompany a place word such as “ūk-kéi 屋企 home”. In case the place is understood from the context, the generic locative term “douh 度” follows “hái 喺”, meaning someone or something is “here/there/in”.

Example:

1 Q Chàn-siú-jé hái-m4-hái-douh a?

陳小姐喺唔喺度呀?

Is miss Chan in?

A Kéuih hái-douh, m4-gōi dāng-dāng.

佢喺度，唔該等等。

Yes she is, please wait.

2 Q Kéuih hái-m4-hái ūk-kéi a?

佢喺唔喺屋企呀?

Is she at home?

A Kéuih m4-hái ūk-kéi.

佢唔喺屋企.

She is not at home.






5. 'when' question:

géi-sìh?





幾時?

To ask the when questions, “géi-sìh 幾時” is put between the subject and verb phrase. The following are the suggested answers to the ‘when’ questions.


a) days yaht 日:








chìhn-yaht	前日	day before yesterday	
kàhm-yaht / chàm-yaht	琴日 / 尋日	yesterday	
gām-yaht	今日	today	
tīng-yaht	聽日	tomorrow	
hauh-yaht	後日	day after tomorrow	

b) weeks láih-baai 禮拜/ sīng-kèih 星期:

seuhng-go-láih-baai / seuhng-go-sīng-kèih	上個禮拜/上個星期	last week	
gām-go-láih-baai / gām-go-sīng-kèih	今個禮拜/今個星期	this week	
nī-go-láih-baai / nī-go-sīng-kèih	呢個禮拜/呢個星期	this week	
hah-go-láih-baai / hah-go-sīng-kèih	下個禮拜/下個星期	next week	

c) months yuht 月:

seuhng-go-yuht	上個月	last month	
gām-go-yuht	今個月	this month	

nī-go-yuht	呢個月	<i>this month</i>	
hah-go-yuht	下個月	<i>next month</i>	
<i>d) years nín 年:</i>			
chìhn-nín	前年	<i>year before last</i>	
gauh-nín	舊年	<i>last year</i>	
gām-nín	今年	<i>this year</i>	
chēut-nín	出年	<i>next year</i>	
hauh-nín	後年	<i>year after next</i>	

Example:

1 Q Néih **gēi-sìh** sāang-yaht a?

你幾時生日呀?

When is your birthday?

A Ngóh **hah-go-láaih-baai-yāt** sāang-yaht.

我下個禮拜一生日。

My birthday is next Monday.

6. ‘meet someone at some place’ hái 喺 + place + dáng 等 + person

To meet someone somewhere, the sentence order is “hái 喺 at + place + dáng 等 wait + person”. Sometimes “gin 見 see” is used instead of “dáng 等 wait”.

Example:

1 Q Hái-bīn-douh dáng-néih-a?

喺邊度等你呀?

Where shall I meet you?

A Hái hohk-haauh mùhn-háu-gin-lā.

喺學校門口見啦。

Let's us meet in front of the school main gate.

7. Verb suffix 'back':

fāan

返

To express the meaning of "back", "fāan 返" is added after a verb.

Example:

- 1 Ngóh yìh-gā m4-dāk-hàahn, yāt-jahn dá-**fāan**-béi-néih-lā.

我而家唔得閒，一陣打返畀你啦。

I am not free right now. I'll call you back later.

- 2 Ngóh béi-**fāan**-chín néih-ā.

我畀返錢你㗎

I'll give the money back to you.

Dialog Vocabulary:

	拼音	繁體	英文
🎧 1	wái	喂	<i>hello (or other interjection to attract someone's attention)</i>
🎧 2	àh	啊	<i>Really? Sure! (At the end of a sentence used to express doubt, admiration, agreement, confirmation, defense, etc.)</i>
🎧 3	dá-cho	打錯	<i>wrong number (phone dial)</i>
🎧 4	óh	哦	<i>Oh! (Used to express understanding, or a sudden realization, etc.)</i>
🎧 5	gán-yiu	緊要	<i>important</i>
🎧 6	chéng-mahn	請問	<i>(Polite way to address someone before asking a question) excuse me, may I ask...</i>
🎧 7	gwai-sing	貴姓	<i>(Formal-polite to ask 'what is your (sur) name?')</i>
🎧 8	wán	搵	<i>look for; to find</i>
🎧 9	sih	事	<i>affair; things; matter</i>
🎧 10	fāan	返	<i>back</i>
🎧 11	dá-dihh-wá	打電話	<i>give a phone call</i>
🎧 12	houh-máh	號碼	<i>numbers</i>
🎧 13	aak	呃	<i>{Interjection} why..., well... (used as an exclamation)</i>
🎧 14	tēng-góng	聽講	<i>heard</i>
🎧 15	nī-páai	呢排	<i>recently</i>
🎧 16	hōi	開	<i>open</i>
🎧 17	gāan	間	<i>measure word for shop</i>
🎧 18	dím-sām	點心	<i>dim sum</i>
🎧 19	jyūn-mùhn-dim	專門店	<i>special store</i>
🎧 20	si-háh	試吓	<i>to try out</i>
🎧 21	géi-sih	幾時	<i>When?</i>
🎧 22	dāk-hàahn	得閒	<i>free time</i>

🎧	23	hauh-yaht	後日	<i>the day after tomorrow</i>
🎧	24	néih-nē?	你呢?	<i>How about you?</i>
🎧	25	dáng	等	<i>wait</i>
🎧	26	Wohng-gok	旺角	<i>Mong Kok (place name)</i>
🎧	27	dō	多	<i>more</i>
🎧	28	dī	啲	<i>a few</i>
🎧	29	hōi-sām	開心	<i>happy</i>
🎧	30	yeuk	約	<i>invite; make an appointment</i>
🎧	31	a	阿	<i>initial particle</i>
🎧	32	dou-sìh-gin	到時見	<i>see you then</i>



Dialog:

David gives Mary a phone call. 🎧

🎧 1 Wái! Mary?

David: 喂! Mary?

Hello! Is that Mary?

🎧 2 Néih dá-cho-la, nī-douh móuh nī-go-yàhn.

??: 你打錯喇，呢度冇呢個人。

You dial the wrong number, there is no such person here.

🎧 3 Òh, m4-hóu-yi-si.

David: 哦，唔好意思。

Oh, I am sorry.

🎧 4 M4-gán-yiu.

??: 唔緊要。

Never mind.

David makes a call again.

📞 5 M4-gōi, Mary hái-m4-hái-douh a?

David: 唔該, Mary 喺唔喺度呀?

Please, is Mary here?

📞 6 Chéng-mahn gwai-sing wán Wòhng-siú-jé?

??: 請問貴姓搵王小姐?

May I ask who is calling Miss Wong?

📞 7 Ngóh-haih David Chán/Chàhn.

David: 我係 David 陳。

This is David Chan.

📞 8 Chàhn-sāang, chéng-mahn yáuh-mē-sih wán Wòhng-siú-jé

??: 陳生, 請問有咩事搵王小姐?

Mr. Chan, may I ask what you would like to find her for?

📞 9 M4-gōi chéng-kéuih dá-fāan dihn-wá béi-ngóh.

David: 唔該請佢打返電話畀我。

Would you please ask her to call me back?

📞 10 Hóu-aak, néih-ge dihn-wá-houh-máh, m4-goi.

??: 好嘍, 你嘅電話號碼, 唔該。

Ok. Your number, please?

📞 11 Sām gáu sei lihng, ngh yih bāat bāat.

David: 3940 5288。

My number is 39405288

Later Mary calls David back.

📞 12 Wái! David néih-wán-ngóh àh?

Mary: 喂! David 你搵我啊?

Hi, David. You've looking for me?

📞 13 Haih-a, ngóh-dá-jó géi-chi dihn-wá béi-néih.

David: 係呀, 我打咗幾次電話畀妳。

Yes, I called you several times.

🎧 14 Wán-ngóh yáuh-mē gán-yiu-sih-a?

Mary: 搵我有咩緊要事呀?

Did you call me for anything important?

🎧 15 Tēng-góng nī-páai hōi-jó-gāan sīng-kāp ge dím-sām jyūn-mùhn-dim néih-séung-m4-séung heui-si-háh.

David: 聽講呢排開咗間星級嘅點心專門店妳想唔想去試吓?

I heard that there is a newly opened star-rated dim sum restaurant. Do you want to try it out?

🎧 16 Séung-a. Néih-géi-sih dāk-hàahn-a?

Mary: 想呀。你幾時得閒呀?

Yes, I do. When will you be free?

🎧 17 Ngóh hauh-yaht dāk-hàahn, néih-nē?

David: 我後日得閒，你呢?

I will be free the day after tomorrow. How about you?

🎧 18 Ngóh hauh-yaht dōu-dāk-hàahn.

Mary: 我後日都得閒。

I will be free the day after tomorrow, too.

🎧 19 Géi-dím-a?

David: 幾點呀?

What time?

🎧 20 Aan-jau yat-dím-lā.

Mary: 晏晝一點啦。

One o'clock in the afternoon.

🎧 21 Hóu-aak, hái-bīn-douh-dáng-a?

David: 好嘍，喺邊度等呀?

Sure. Where shall we meet?

🎧 22 Hái Wohng-gok deih-tit-jaahm Hàhng-sāng ngàhn-hòhng dáng, dāk-m4-dāk-a?

Mary: 喺旺角地鐵站恆生銀行等，得唔得呀?

Could we meet at Mong Kok MTR station, Hang Seng Bank?

🎧 23 Dāk.

David: 得。

Okay.

🎧 24 Dō-dī-yàhn sihk dím-sām hōi-sām-dī, néih-juhng-séung yeuk bīn-go-heui-a?

Mary: 多啲人食點心開心啲，你仲想約邊個去呀？

We'll have more fun if more people eat dim sum together. Who else would you like to invite?

🎧 25 Peter tùhng a-Ann, hóu-m4-hóu-a?

David: Peter 同 阿 Ann, 好唔好呀？

Shall we invite Peter and Ann?

🎧 26 Hóu-aak.

Mary: 好嘅。

Sure.

🎧 27 Gám, ngóh dá-dihh-wá-béi Peter, néih dá-béi a-Ann lā.

David: 咁，我打電話畀 Peter, 你打畀阿 Ann 啦。

Then I'll call Peter and you could call Ann.

🎧 28 Hóu-aak, dou-sìh-gin-lā.

Mary: 好嘅，到時見啦。

No problem. See you then.



Supplementary Vocabulary:

	拼音	繁體	英文
A. Looking for someone on the phone:			
🎧 1	M4-gōi-néih giu... tēng-dihh-wá.	唔該你叫...聽電話.	<i>May speak with..., please.</i>

- 🎧 2 Chíng-mahn...hái-m4-hái-douh-a? 請問...係唔係度呀? *Excuse me, is...in?*
- 🎧 3 M4-gōi...ā! 唔該...吖! *Can I speak with..., please!*
- 🎧 4 ...ā, m4-gōi. ...吖, 唔該! *Can I speak with..., please!*

B. Answering the phone:

- 🎧 1 Néih sīk-m4-sīk-góng Yīng-mán-a? 你識唔識講英文呀? *Can you speak English?*
- 🎧 2 Ngóh-haih. 我係. *This is s/he (speaking).*
- 🎧 3 M4-gōi dáng-dáng. 唔該等等. *Please hold on.*
- 🎧 4 Kéuih m4-hái-douh. 佢唔係度. *S/he is not in.*
- 🎧 5 Chíng-mahn bīn-wái-a? 請問邊位呀? *Who is calling, please?*

C. Dates: Cantonese year, month, & day always appears in this order

- 🎧 1 nìhn 年 *year*
- 🎧 2 yuht 月 *month*
- 🎧 3 houh / yaht 號 / 日 *day*
- 🎧 4 yāt-gáu-gáu-chāt-nìhn chāt-yuht yāt-houh
一九九七年 七月 一號
July 1, 1997.
- 🎧 5 yih-chīn-nìhn yāt-yuht yāt-houh
二千年 一月 一號
January 1, 2000.
- 🎧 6 yih-lìhng-yāt-gáu-nìhn yih-yuht chāt-houh
二零一九年 二月 七號
February 7, 2019.

D. MTR station in Hong Kong:

- 🎧 1 Jūng-wàahn 中環 *Central*

🎧	2	Gàm-jūng	金鐘	<i>Admiralty</i>
🎧	3	Wāan-jái	灣仔	<i>Wan Chai</i>
🎧	4	Tùhng-lòh-wāan	銅鑼灣	<i>Causeway Bay</i>
🎧	5	Jīm-sā-jéui	尖沙咀	<i>Tsim Sha Tsui</i>
🎧	6	Wohng-gok	旺角	<i>Mong Kok</i>
🎧	7	Gáu-lùhng-tòhng	九龍塘	<i>Kowloon Tong</i>
🎧	8	Gūn-tòhng	官塘	<i>Kwun Tong</i>



Rapid Route 1 R&R

Say it in Cantonese:

What do you say ...

1. Q. *May I speak with David, please*

A. ...

2. Q. *Can you speak Cantonese?*

A. ...

3. Q. *S/he is not in.*

A. ...

4. Q. *Who is calling, please?*

A. ...

5. Q. *You are not free right now; you will call him back later.*

A. ...

6. Q. *Where shall I meet you?*

A. ...

7. Q. *Could we meet at Central MTR Station?*

A. ...

8. Q. *You want to find a job in Hong Kong.*

A. ...

9. Q. *July 1, 2019.*

A. ...

10. Q. *December 25 is a public holiday.*

A. ...

<< End of Lesson 7 >>