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L11 – How much?

Géi chín? / 幾錢?

Learning Tasks:

- *To shop in store*
- *To know about the item price*
- *To change money into small money*
- *To know about grocery shopping*

Grammar & Culture Notes:**1. ‘dī’ ‘some,’ as general plural measure for individual nouns Expressions**

a. *Plurality unspecified in number is expressed by the plural measure ‘dī,’ ‘some.’*

1.	go-pìhng-gwó	個蘋果	<i>the apple, an apple</i>
	dī-pìhng-gwó	啲蘋果	<i>the apples, some apples</i>
2.	nī-go pìhng-gwó	呢個蘋果	<i>this apple</i>
	nī-dī pìhng-gwó	呢呢蘋果	<i>these apples</i>

b. *Individual nouns have different individual measures, but ‘dī’ serves as plural measure for all individual nouns.*

1.	bá-jē	把遮	<i>the umbrella, an umbrella</i>
	dī-jē	啲遮	<i>the umbrellas, some umbrellas</i>
2.	tìuh-tāai	條呔	<i>the tie, a tie</i>
	dī-tāai	啲呔	<i>the ties, some ties</i>
3.	go-cháang	個橙	<i>the orange, an orange</i>
	dī-cháang	啲橙	<i>the oranges, some oranges</i>

- c. In a follow sentence ‘dī’ substitutes for the noun it represents, serving in such position as an impersonal pronoun.

Béi gó-dī pìhng-gwó ngóh lā. 畀啲啲蘋果我啦 Give me those [M] apples.

Béi gó-dī ngóh-lā. 畀啲啲 我啦 Give me those. [distant ones]

- d. ‘dī’ is not used as Measure following a number. When number is specified, the individual measure follows the number.

SP	Num	Mw	+N		
nī		dī	jē	呢啲遮	these umbrellas
	sàam	bá	jē	三把遮	three umbrellas
nī	sàam	bá	jē	呢三把遮	these three umbrellas
	sàam	dī	jē	≠	doesn't occur
nī	sàam	dī	jē	≠	doesn't occur

2. Mass Nouns

- a. Mass nouns designate substances which are perceived in the mass rather than as discrete units.

‘tòhng’ 糖 Sugar

‘séui’ 水 Water

‘jyù-yuhk’ 豬肉 Pork

- b. When counted, mass nouns do not use individual measures. Instead they are counted in terms of their length, weight, or some other standard; or in terms of a container of their volume; or in terms of a segment of their whole.

Num	Mw	Noun		
sàam	bohng	tòhng	三磅糖	Three pounds of sugar
sàam	būi	chàh	三杯水	Three cups of tea

- c. Certain individual nouns may also be counted in terms of weight or other standard; but they are not limited to being counted this way:

<i>Num</i>	<i>Mw</i>	<i>Noun</i>	
sàam	go	cháang	三個橙 <i>Three oranges</i>
sàam	bohng	cháang	三磅橙 <i>Three pounds of oranges</i>

3. ‘dī,’ general measure for mass nouns.

When mass nouns are particularized but not counted by number, the plural measure ‘dī’ serves as general mass measure for all mass nouns. It is translated in English as ‘the’ in subject position, ‘some,’ ‘a little,’ in object position. Incorporated into a ‘nī’ or ‘gó’ compound, it translates as ‘this’ or ‘that’ in both subject and object positions.

Nī-dī ngàuh-yuhk yiu sahp-mān-gàn.	呢啲牛肉要十文斤	<i>This beef cost \$10 a catty.</i>
Dī-faahn dung-jó.	啲飯凍咗	<i>The rice has gotten cold.</i>
Ngóh séung máaih-dī ngàuh-yuhk.	我想買啲牛肉	<i>I’d like to buy some beef.</i>
Néih séung yám-dī mē-yéh-a?	你想要啲咩嘢呀?	<i>What would you like to drink?</i>

4. ‘-dò’ and ‘-síu’ phrases of indefinite amounts:

- a. ‘-dò, large amount’ and ‘-síu, small amount’ combine with preceding ‘hóu’ and others to form phrases of indefinite amounts.

hóu-dò	好多	<i>a lot, many, much</i>
géi-dò	幾多	<i>quite a lot</i>
móuh-géi-dò	冇幾多	<i>not very much</i>
hóu-síu	好少	<i>very little, very few</i>
sè-síu	些少	<i>a little</i>
síu-síu	少少	<i>just a little, just a few</i>

b. 'sè síu' and 'síu síu' modify mass nouns only, directly preceding the noun.

Béi sè-síu-tòhng ngóh 畀些少糖我啦 Please give me a little sugar.
lā.

Béi síu-síu-tòhng ngóh 畀少少糖我啦 Please give me just a tiny bit of
lā. sugar.

Sè-síu hóu-lā. 些少好啦 A little bit is fine.

Síu-síu hóu-lā. 少少好啦 Just a tiny bit is fine.

c. '-dò / -síu' phrases can modify individual and mass nouns directly:

Hóu dò-tòhng. 好多糖 Much sugar.

Géi-dò-tòhng. 幾多糖 Quite a bit of sugar.

Móuh-géi-dò tòhng. 冇幾多糖 Not much sugar.

Géi-dò-tòhng-a? 幾多糖呀? How much sugar?

Hóu-síu-tòhng. 好少糖 Very little sugar.

d. The following can precede a Measure (+ Noun):

-dò	Mw	Noun	
hóu-dò	gihn	sēut-sāam	Many shirts.
móuh-géi-dò	gihn	sēut-sāam	Not many shirts.
géi-dò	gihn	sēut-sāam	How many shirts?

5. 'dò' 'additional,' 'more':

'dò' in measure is bound to a following number measure phrase. When the number is 'yāt' 'one,' the number part may be omitted. Before mass nouns the measure 'dī' follow 'dò', with the number 'yāt' omitted.

Dò-(yāt)-jì.	多一支	<i>Another bottle, one more bottle, an additional bottle.</i>
Dò-léuhng-go	多兩個	<i>Two more, an additional two.</i>
Dò-dī-tōng	多啲糖	<i>More soup, additional soup</i>

6. 'cheung and Cheung-hòì' to change money into smaller value:

These both from VO phrases with a following money phrase. 'cheung' = change into 'cheung hòì' = change, i.e., break (a big bill) (followed by denomination held.)

Cheung yāt baak mǎn jí.	暢一百文紙	<i>Change into \$100 bills.</i>
Cheung hòì jèung yāt baak mǎn jí.	暢開張一百文紙	<i>Break a \$100 bill.</i>

7. 'haih làih ga?'

'haih làih ga 'or' ge?' is a phrase frame which has the effect of emphasizing the noun it envelopes.

Nī-dī haih mē-yéh a?	呢啲係咩嘢呀?	<i>What's this?</i>
Nī-dī haih-mē-yéh-làih ga?	呢啲係咩嘢嚟㗎?	<i>What in the world is this?</i>
Gó-go haih bīn-go-làih ga?	嗰個係邊個嚟㗎?	<i>Who in the world is that?</i>

8. 'yáuh, móuh'

Affirmative statement: yáuh + noun

Yáuh sèut-sāam.	有恤衫	<i>There is a shirt.</i>
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Negative statement: móuh + noun

Móuh sèut-sāam.	冇恤衫	<i>There is no shirt.</i>
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Question form: yáuh móuh + noun + a?

Yáuh-móuh sèut-sāam-a?	冇冇恤衫呀?	<i>Is there any shirt?</i>
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Answer: yáuh (yes) / móuh (no)

9. 'Jit – discount'

Affirmative statement: yáuh + jit

yáuh-jit	有折	<i>There is a discount</i>
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Negative statement: móuh + jit

móuh-jit	冇折	<i>There is no discount</i>
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Question form: yáuh móuh + jit + a?

Yáuh-móuh-jit-a?	有冇折呀?	<i>Is there any discount?</i>
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Answer: yáuh (yes) / móuh (no)

10. 'Yiu - need to' and 'm4-sái - no need'

Affirmative statement: yiu + verb/noun

Ngóh yiu cháh.	我要茶	<i>I want tea.</i>
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Ngóh yiu yám-cháh.	我要飲茶	<i>I need to drink tea.</i>
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Negative statement: m4 yiu + verb

Ngóh m4-yiu cháh.	我唔要茶	<i>I don't want tea.</i>
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Ngóh m4-sái yám-cháh.	我唔使飲茶	<i>I don't need to drink tea.</i>
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Question form: yiu m4 yiu + noun + a?

Néih yiu m4 yiu cháh a?	你要唔要茶呀?	<i>Do you want some tea?</i>
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Answer: yiu (yes) / m4-sái (no)

Question form: sái-m4-sái + verb + a?

Néih sái-m4-sái yám-cháh-a?	你使唔使飲茶呀?	<i>Do you need to drink tea?</i>
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Answer: yiu (yes) / m4-sái (no)

11. Money Measures.

The unit of currency in Hong Kong is the Hong Kong dollar. US\$1.00 = approximately HK\$7.8.

a) The money measures used in counting money are the following:

- ‘mān’ = measure for dollar, used when the figure is a round number. The word is derived from the first syllable of the English word money.
- ‘go ngàhn chín’ = measure + noun. The compound of the two is used to represent dollar when the figure is a round number. This form less common than the ‘mān’ form for round number dollar figures. The basic meaning of ‘ngàhn chín’ is money, [literally silver-money.]

Sàam-go ngàhn-chín.	三個銀錢	three dollars
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- ‘go’ = measure for dollar when the figure is not a round number.

Note (in #3 above) that when dimes are part of a money expression which is larger than a dollar the dime measure is not stated. That a number following the dollar measure would indicate the dime number is predictable based on the decimal system used in counting money.

sàam-go-yāt	三個一	three dollars one dime
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- ‘hòuh-(jī)’ = measure for dime, used when the amount is less than one dollar.

sàam-hòuh-(jī)	三毫子	three dimes, thirty cents
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- The penny measure is not used in Hong Kong, except perhaps in banking. 5¢ is expressed, however, thus:

sei-hòuh-bun	四毫半	45 cents, 4 dimes and half
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In fact, ‘bun’ following any measure is left-bound to that measure and means ‘plus half that measure.

sei-go-bun	四個半	4 dollars and a half
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b. In the Cantonese phrase, the last number of the money measure must not directly precede the noun measure.

Ex.	Num	Mw	Num	Mw	Num	Mw
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1. sei go sei ngàhn chín bá.

2. sei go sei yāt bá.

3. sei go sei ngàhn chín yāt bá.

Four dollars four dimes for one, or \$4.40 each.

c. *Omission of 'yāt'.*

When the dollar amount is one dollar and a fraction, the numeral 'yāt' preceding the dollar measure 'go' is ordinarily omitted in the spoken language.

go-yāt 個一 a dollar ten cents (\$1.10)

go-yāt yāt-bohng 個一一磅 a dollar ten cents a pound

'Yāt' is required, however, if the expression reaches a three-figure number.

yāt-go-baat-hòuh-bun 一個八毫半 \$1.85

Dialog Vocabulary:

	拼音	繁體	英文
🎧 1	cheung	暢	<i>change money into smaller denomination</i>
🎧 2	cheung-hòì	暢開	<i>split, break up a high value banknote or to ones of lesser value</i>
🎧 3	jáau-fàan	找返	<i>give back change</i>
🎧 4	mān	蚊	<i>dollar</i>
🎧 5	nàh	喺	<i>Here! (Expression accompanying giving something to someone)</i>
🎧 6	ngán	銀	<i>coin</i>
🎧 7	ńgh-baak-mān	五百蚊	<i>five-hundred-dollar bill</i>
🎧 8	sáan-jí	散紙	<i>small denomination</i>
🎧 9	syùh-pín	薯片	<i>potato chip</i>
🎧 10	yāt-baak-yih-sahp-sàam-go-yih	一百二十三個二	<i>\$123.20.</i>
🎧 11	yāt-mān-ngán	一蚊銀	<i>one dollar coin</i>



Dialog:

Customer and clerk in a grocery store. 🎧

🎧 1 Sei-jì bē-jáu, luhk-jì hei-séui, léuhng-bāau syùh-pín ... yāt-baak-yih-sahp-sàam-go-yih là.

Woman: 四支啤酒，六支汽水，兩包薯片 ... 一百二十三個二啦。

Four bottles of beer, six bottles of soda, and two bags of potato chip...\$123.20.

🎧 2 Nàh, nī-douh ígh-baak-mān.

Man: 喺，呢度五百蚊。

Here, here's five-hundred-dollar bill.

🎧 3 Hóu, dāng-ngóh jáau-fāan béi-néih lā. Àh! M4-hóu-yi-si, m4-gau sán-jí-tím, néih yáuh-móuh sán-jí-a?

Woman: 好，等我找返畀你啦。呀，唔好意思，唔夠散紙添，你有冇散紙呀？

Well, let me give your change to you. I'm sorry, I don't have enough change. Do you have any small denomination?

🎧 4 Ngóh-dōu-móuh-bo.

Man: 我都有番。

I also don't have.

🎧 5 Gám, m4-gòì-néih dāng-jahn, ngóh wán-yàhn Cheung-hòì kéuih-là.

Woman: 咁，唔該你等陣，我搵人暢開佢啦。

Well, please wait awhile, I'll find someone to break it up.

🎧 6 Hóu aak.

Man: 好嘍。

OK.

🎧 7 Nī-douh jáau-fāan sàam-baak-chāt-sahp-luhk-go-baat béi néih.

Woman: 呢度找返三百七十六個八畀你。

Here is your change of \$376.80.

🎧 8 Néih yáuh-móuh yāt-mān-ngán a?

Man: 你有冇一蚊銀呀？

Do you have any dollar coins?

🎧 9 Yáuh, néih-séung-cheung géi-dō-a?

Woman: 有，你想暢幾多呀？

Yes, how much do you need?

🎧 10 M4-gòì-néih cheung sahp-mān ngóh-là.

Man: 唔該你暢十蚊我啦。

Would you please change a ten-dollar bill for me?



Video

Say it in Cantonese:

1. **Q.** *What do you want to buy?*

A. ...

2. **Q.** *I want some beef, and some pork and milk.*

A. ...

3. **Q.** *How many packs of photo-chip do you want?*

A. ...

4. **Q.** *Two packs are enough.*

A. ...

5. **Q.** *How much does the beef sell for?*

A. ...

6. **Q.** *It's \$80 a catty.*

A. ...

7. **Q.** *What is (point to) this?*

A. ...

8. **Q.** *That's pork – would you like some?*

A. ...

9. **Q.** *How much does the live fish (lit. swimming fish) sell for?*

A. ...

10. **Q.** *It's \$200 for whole fish.*

A. ...

<< End of Lesson 11 >>

