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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 2: You're Welcome! in Cantonese 唔使

LESSON NOTES

唔使 (m4 sai2) is the standard word for "You are welcome" in Cantonese and literally means "no need." This is usually said after someone first tells you 唔該. 唔 is a low fourth tone, while 使 is a rising tone. Another variation in Cantonese is 唔使唔該 (m4 sai2 m4 goi1). In the first lesson, we covered 唔該 as "Thank you." Combined with 唔使, this turns into "No need to thank me."

唔使客氣 (m4 sai2 haak3 hei3) is another way to say "You are welcome" in Cantonese. The last two characters (客氣) mean "to be polite." All together, 唔使客氣 in English is "No need to be polite."

PHRASES

| Chinese Character | Jyutping | English |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 唔使唔該 | m4 sai2 m4 goi1 | You are welcome. |
| 唔使客氣 | m4 sai2 haak3 hei3 | You're welcome. |
| 唔使 | m4 sai2 | You are welcome. |

QUICK TIP

In general, 唔使唔該 (m4 sai2 m4 goi1) is not a formal phrase to use in response to "Thank You," but rather a casual way to respond. We use 唔使客氣 (m4 sai2 haak3 hei3) in formal occasions, especially to a person who has seniority over you.

一般正常來說,唔使唔該是比較非正式回應句子,一般是普通日常生活說的,但是唔使客氣則是比較正式的回應,尤其是對比自己輩份高的人

QUICK TIP 2

When using both 唔使唔該 (m4 sai2 m4 goi1) and 唔使客氣 (m4 sai2 haak3 hei3), we extend the last syllables, 該 (goi1) and 氣 (hei3), a bit longer.

兩句句子"唔使唔該"和"唔使客氣"的最後一個字"該"和"氣",在講的時候要稍稍拖長一點