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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 3: 'This Please' in Cantonese

唔該

LESSON NOTES

In Cantonese, the word 唔該 (m4 goi1) functions as "Please." As we learned in Survival Phrases lesson 1, this word also means "Thank you," it just depends on the context. The best way to use this word is to combine it with the word for "this one" (呢個, ni1 go3). Just as in English, Cantonese uses the same sentence construction for "This one, please." (嗰個唔該, ni1 go3 m4 goi1). It is crucial that you use 個, which is a general measure word in Cantonese. If you leave this character out, the sentence will sound strange and not make sense. The word for "this" is 呢個. Subsequently, the word for "that" is 嗰個 (go2 go3). You can use "that" in the same manner with 唔該: 嗰個唔該 (go2 go3 m4 goi1) "That one, please."

A final use for the word 唔該 is to gain attention, and it functions as "Excuse me."

VOCABULARY

Chinese Character	Jyutping	English
唔該	m4 goi1	please; thank you; excuse me
呢個	ni1 go3	this one
嗰個	go2 go3	that one

QUICK TIP

An extremely useful tactic for conveying what you want to a vender is by using body language to identify the item you want while saying 呢個, m4 goi1. ("This one.") This should be more than enough to convey your intention clearly.

當你向賣主講"呢個"再加上肢體語言,指出你想要買的東西,將會非常實用,這樣會很容易讓別人清楚明白你的意圖。

QUICK TIP 2

When asking for something or shopping at local stores where there are no price tags, be sure to haggle over the price! The quoted price is usually much higher than the price the vender would be willing to sell at.

當你在當地問價或買東西的時候,如果貨品在沒有標價,那就一定要講價,因為真實的價格可能是遠遠低於賣家告訴你的價格。