

Cantonese II

Lesson 7 – Post Office



Tone check

Si 師si1 屎si2 嗜si3 匙si4 市si5 是si6 識sek7 錫sek8 食sek9

Gei 機gei1 幾gei2 寄gei3 gei4 gei5 技gei6

Gong 江gong1 港gong2 鋼gong3 gong4 gong5 槓gong6

Cin 千cin1 錢cin2 cin3 前cin4 踐cin5 cin6

Man 攞man1 攪man2 □□man3 民man4 敏man5 問man6

Gan 跟gan1 緊gan2 艮gan3 gan4 gan5 近gan6

Zung 中zung1 總zung2 眾zung3 zung4 zung5 仲zung6

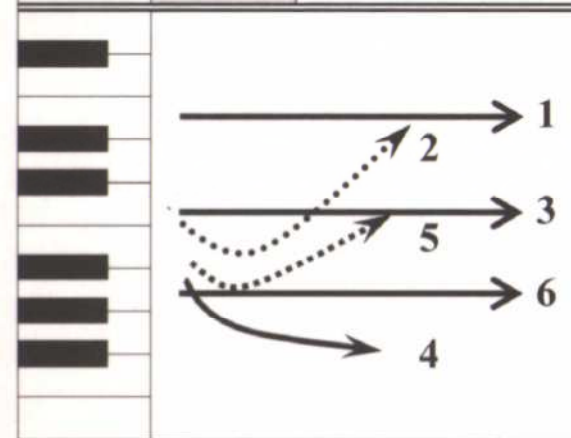
Hei 希hei1 起hei2 戲hei3 hei4 hei5 hei6

Jau 休jau1 柚jau2 幼jau3 郵jau4 有jau5 右jau6

Maai maai1 maai2 maai3 埋maai4 買maai5 賣maai6

Ho 苛ho1 可ho2 ho3 河ho4 ho5 賀ho6

Six Tones	bc ^① Marks	Pitch
1	—	high level
2	´	high rising
3	°	mid level
4	\	low falling
5	∨	low rising
6	˘	low level



① The diacritics are devised by the author, Chow Bun Ching

4. Money

The currency in Hong Kong is the HK\$, which is pegged to the US\$ at a fixed rate of HK\$7.80=US\$1. The bank notes in circulation are in the following denominations: \$1,000, \$500, \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10. Coins can be found in units of \$10, \$5, \$2, \$1, 50¢, 20¢ and 10¢. Several local banks have the authority to issue bank notes so there are more than one design for each denomination. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority issues the HK\$10 note, while all the other notes are issued either by HSBC, Bank of China or Standard Chartered Bank. (also see p.83)

1. Dollars ☉ CD-T32

In Hong Kong currency, the basic unit of money “cín² 錢” is “mān¹ 蚊 (dollars)”. This unit is also used as a measure word, so when you want to say an amount of money, just include “mān¹ 蚊” after the numerical value.

numerical value + mān¹蚊

For example: ☉

兩

1)	jāt ¹ mān ¹	\$1
2)	lǒeng ⁵ mān ¹ ①	\$2
3)	sāp ⁶ mān ¹	\$10
4)	sāp ⁶ jī ⁶ mān ¹	\$12
5)	jāt ¹ bāk ³ mān ¹	\$100
6)	jāt ¹ cīn ¹ mān ¹	\$1,000
7)	jāt ¹ māan ⁶ mān ¹	\$10,000
8)	sāp ⁶ māan ⁶ mān ¹	\$100,000
9)	jāt ¹ bāk ³ māan ⁶ mān ¹	\$1,000,000

100 10,000

Key for tones

sāam¹ wún² sǎi³ ngàu⁴ nǎam⁵ mǐn⁶

The use of the character 蚊 (*mān*) originate from the tone change of the currency denomination used in China in imperial times 文 (*màn*), which was the chief denomination until the introduction of the yuan in the late 19th century.

Key for tones

sāam¹ wún² sǎi³ ngàu⁴ nǎam⁵ mǐn⁶

LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES

A. To say an amount of money

1) Dollars (Track 167)

In the Hong Kong currency, the basic unit of money (cín 錢) is 'mān 蚊 (dollar)'. This unit is also used as a measure word, so if you want to express an amount of money, add 'mān 蚊' after the numerical value:

<u>Numerical Value</u>	mān 蚊 (dollar)
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1. jāt mān	一蚊	(\$1)
2. lǒeng* mān	兩蚊	(\$2)
3. sāam mān	三蚊	(\$3)
4. nǚ mān	五蚊	(\$5)
5. sǎp jī mān	十二蚊	(\$12)
6. jī sǎp jī mān	二十二蚊	(\$22)
7. gáu sǎp gáu mān	九十九蚊	(\$99)
8. jāt bàak mān	一百蚊	(\$100)
9. jāt cīn mān	一千蚊	(\$1000)

2) Ten-cent units (Track 168)

In the Hong Kong currency, a unit of money smaller than the dollar 'mān 蚊' is 'hòu zí 毫子', which is a ten-cent unit (similar to the US 'dime'). One 'mān 蚊' is equal to ten 'hòu zí 毫子'. In colloquial speech, the shortened form 'hòu 毫' is commonly used. This unit is also a measure word by itself:

<u>1-9</u>	hòu 毫 10-cent
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1. jāt hòu	一毫	(ten cents 10 ¢)
2. lǒeng* hòu	兩毫	(twenty cents 20 ¢)
3. sèi hòu	四毫	(forty cents 40 ¢)
4. nǚ hòu	五毫	(fifty cents 50 ¢)
5. cāt hòu	七毫	(seventy cents 70 ¢)

3) Dollars and ten-cent units (Track 169)

i. Using 'gò 個' instead of 'mān 蚊'

In spoken Cantonese, when an amount involves both dollars and ten-cent units, 'gò 個' is used instead of 'mān 蚊' for dollars and 'hòu 毫' may be omitted. Also 'jī 二' is used for 2 ten-cent units and 'bùn 半' is used for 5 ten-cent units.

<u>Figure of dollar</u>	gò 個 [MW]	<u>Figure of ten-cent</u>
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piece

1. <u>b</u> aat gò jāt hòu	八個一毫	(\$8.10)
2. nǎ sǎp gáu gò sāam hòu	五十九個三毫	(\$59.30)
3. jāt bǎak lìng sèi gò lūk hòu	一百零四個六毫	(\$104.60)
4. lūk gò <u>b</u> ùn	六個半	(\$6.50)
5. lǒeng gò jī	兩個二	(\$2.20)

bùn ≠ half

ii. Omission of 'jāt 一' in One dollar plus Ten-cent units

It is usual for local speakers to drop the 'jāt 一' for the case when ten-cent units follow a single dollar:

jāt 一 (one)	gò 個 [MW]	<u>Figure of ten-cent</u>
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1. jāt gò jāt	一 個 一	(\$1.10)
2. jāt gò jī	一 個 二	(\$1.20)
3. jāt gò sèi	一 個 四	(\$1.40)
4. jāt gò <u>b</u> ùn	一 個 半	(\$1.50)
5. jāt gò cāt	一 個 七	(\$1.70)

half dollars

Key for tones

sāam¹ wún² sǎi³ ngàu⁴ nǎam⁵ mǐn⁶

啲 di1

Comparative:

呢個靚啲。 ni1 go3 leng3 di1. (this one is more beautiful.)

呢個貴啲。 ni1 go3 gwai3 di1. (this one is more expensive.)

procession:

嗰間餐廳啲嘢好好食□！

Go2 gaan1 caan1 teng1 di1 je5 hou2 hou2 sik6 gaa3!

(that restaurant's thing go go eat gaa! → The food in that restaurant tastes very good.)

A bit, little:

一啲都唔熱嘅！

Jat1 di1 dou1 m4 jit6 ge3!

(a bit not hot ge! → It's not hot at all!)

最 zeoi3 / 至 zi3

superlatives:

最平 zeoi3 peng4, the cheapest in price

最貴 zeoi3 gwai3, the most expensive

Attributively, with 嘅 ge3

最平嘅機票 zeoi3 peng4 ge3 gei1 piu3, the cheapest flight ticket

Predicates:

咁樣最方便 gam2 joeng2 zeoi3 fong1 bin6, this way is the most convenient.

至 zi3 --- meaning

1. the most, eg: 至平

2. from ... to...eg: 二至六 2 to 6

但係 daan6 hai6

But, however

Example:

我琴日睇咗一套戲，但係一啲都唔好睇。

“I yesterday watched a movie, but little bit not good watch”

→ I watched a movie yesterday but it wasn't good at all.

Ngo5 kam4 jat6 tai2 zo2 jat1 tou3 hei3, daan6 hai6 jat1 di1 dou1 m4
hou2 tai2.

Post office glossary

產品類型 Type of products:

信 seon3, letter

明信片 ming4 seon3 pin2, postcard

郵包 jau4 baau1, packet

包裹 baau1 gwo2, parcel

快遞 faai3 dai6, express delivery

掛號 gwaa3 hou6, registered

追蹤 zeoi1 zung1, tracking

保險 bou2 him2, insurance

空郵 hung1 jau4, airmail

平郵 ping4 jau4, surface mail (by car/ferry)

目的地 Destination:

捷克 zit6 hak1, Czech Republic

斯洛伐克 si1 lok6 fat6 hak1, Slovakia

台灣 toi4 waan1, Taiwan

中國內地 zung1 gwok3 noi6 dei6,
Mainland China

日本 jat6 bun2, Japan

美國 mei5 gwok3, USA

Post office glossary

報關 bou3 gwaan1, declare at customs

快 faai3, fast

慢 maan6, slow

貴 gwai3, expensive

平 peng4, cheap in price

公斤 gung1 gan1, kilogram

克 hak1, gram

長 coeng4, length/long

米 mai5, meter

磅 bong6, to weigh

工作天 gung1 zok3 tin1, working day

送 sung3, deliver

填 tin4, fill up

付款方法 Payment methods:

畀錢 bei2 cin2, pay/give money

八達通 baat3 daat6 tung1, octopus card

現金 jin6 gam1, cash

信用卡 seon3 jung6 kaat1, credit card

碌咭 luk1 kaat1, pay using a credit card

嘟咭 dut1 kaat1, tap a card with a “do” sound

Conversation Practice – Post Office

Officer: 你好。你想寄啲咩? (you good. You want send D what?)

Nei5 hou2. nei5 soeng2 gei3 di1 me1?

Customer: 我想寄呢個包裹去捷克。(I want sent this parcel to Czech Republic.)

Ngo5 soeng2 gei3 ni1 go3 baau1 gwo2 heoi3 zit6 hak1.

Officer: 你想點寄? (you want how send? → how do you want to send?)

Nei5 soeng2 dim2 gei3?

Customer: 可以點寄? (can how send? → what are the options?)

Ho2 ji5 dim2 gei3?

Officer: 你可以寄快遞、空郵或者平郵。(you can send express delivery, airmail or surface mail)

Nei5 ho2 ji5 gei3 faai3 dai6, hung1 jau4 waak6 ze2 ping4 jau4.

Underline words are for exchangeable options

Conversation Practice – Post Office

Customer: 有咩分別? (have what difference?)

Jau5 me1 fan1 bit6?

Officer: 你件包裹五公斤。寄去捷克。快遞一千三百七十二蚊，一個工作天送到。快遞最快但係最貴。

空郵八百三十一蚊，大約兩至三個星期送到。

平郵平啲但係慢啲，三百八十蚊，兩至三個月送到。

(your piece of parcel 5 kilograms. Send to Czech Republic. Express delivery \$1372, one working day delivered. Express delivery the fastest but is most expensive.

Airmail \$831. approximately 2-3 weeks delivered.

Surface mail cheaper but slower, \$380. 2-3 months delivered.)

Nei5 gin5 baau1 gwo2 ng5 gung1 gan1. gei3 heoi3 zit6 hak1. faai3 dai6 jat1 cin1 saam1 baak3 cat1 sap6 ji6 man1, jat1 go3 gung1 zok3 tin1 sung3 dou3. faai3 dai6 zeoi3 faai3 daan6 hai6 zeoi3 gwai3.

hung1 jau4 baat3 baak3 saam1 sap6 jat1 man1, daai6 joek3 loeng5 zi3 saam1 go3 sing1 kei4 sung3 dou3.

ping4 jau4 peng4 di1 daan6 hai6 maan6 di1, saam1 baak3 baat3 sap6 man1, loeng5 zi3 saam1 go3 jyut6 sung3 dou3

Customer: 咁樣我寄空郵啦。(this way, I send airmail la)

Gam2 joeng2 ngo5 gei3 hung1 jau4 laa3.

Underline words are for exchangeable options

Conversation Practice – Post Office

Officer: 麻煩你填咗呢張報關紙,用英文填就可以。(Trouble you, filled this piece of custom paper. Use English to fill, just ok)
maa4 faan4 nei5 tin4 ni1 zoeng1 bou3 gwaan1 zi2, jung6 jing1 man2 tin4 zau6 ho2 ji5.

Customer: 好嘅。(good ge)

Hou2 ge3

Officer: 你想點畀錢? 現金、嘟八達通定係信用咭? (you want how give money? Cash, “do” octopus card or credit card?)
Nei5 soeng2 dim2 bei2 cin2? jin6 gam1, dut1 baat3 daat6 tung1 ding6 hai6 seon3 jung6 kaat1?

Customer: 信用咭,唔該。(credit card. Please)

seon3 jung6 kaat1, m4 goi1.

Officer: 呢張係托運單,呢個係追蹤號碼。(this piece is airway bill. This one is tracking number.)
Ni1 zoeng1 hai6 tok3 wan6 daan1, ni1 go3 hai6 zeoi1 zung1 hou6 maa5.

Customer: 好嘅,唔該晒,拜拜 (good ge. Thank you all. Byebye)

Hou2 ge3. m4 goi1 saai3. baai1 baai3.

Officer: 再見。(again see → see you again)

Zoi3 gin3.

Underline words are for exchangeable options

Fun time

你想寄啲咩? → 你想寄啲咩□□?

你想點寄? → 你想點□□寄?

有咩分別? → 有咩□□分別?

咁樣我寄空郵啦。 → 咁□□樣我寄空郵啦。

麻煩你填咗呢張報關紙 → 麻□□煩你填□□咗呢□□張報關紙

唔該晒 → 唔□□該晒

拜拜 → 拜□□拜, 拜□□拜 (898)

再見 → 再□□見