



**Cantonese I
Week 1**

Cantonese I assessments

- Jyutping (initial + final + tone)
- Listening (quiz)
- Conversation (final exam)

What is Cantonese 廣東話

- Originates from Canton 廣東 region (Guangzhou 廣州) and its surrounding area in Southeastern China
- Also known as Yue 粵語
- Spoken in Canton region, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Chinese communities all over the world
- Estimated about 70 million Cantonese speakers around the globe
- Cantonese varies in different places
- This course focuses on Cantonese spoken in Hong Kong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGJCa12IxeU>

YOU ALREADY KNOW



SOME CANTONESE

memegenerator.net

English

Cantonese

Jyutping

Dim sum

點心

Dim² sam¹



English	Cantonese	Jyutping
Bok Choy	白菜	baak ⁶ choi ³



English	Cantonese	Jyutping
lychee	荔枝	lai6 zi1



English

Char siu

Cantonese

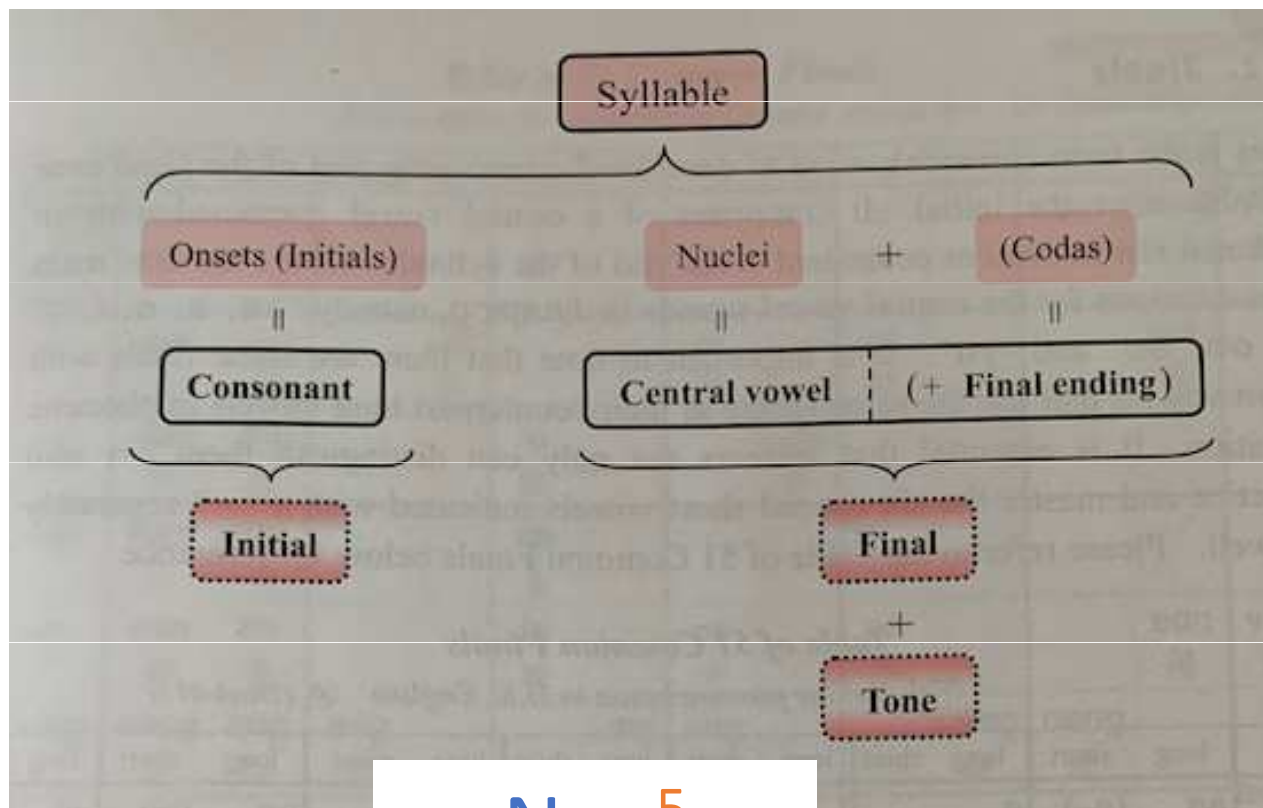
叉燒

Jyutping

Cha¹ siu¹



Jyutping



Ngo⁵

我

Jyutping or Yale?

Yale romanization of Cantonese

Limitation: unable to describe all vowels being used in Cantonese

Difference between Jyutping and Yale in initial consonants

Jyutping	Yale
z	j
c	ch
j	y

Difference between Jyutping and modified Yale in vowels

Jyutping	Yale
aa	a
oe	eu
oeng	eung
oek	euk
eoi	eui
eon	eun
eot	eut
eu	/
em	/
en	/
ep	/
et	/

https://hongkongvision.com/tool/cc_py_conv_zh

19 Initials

1. Non-aspirated Voiceless			2. Aspirated Voiceless			3. Voiced Nasals			4. Fricatives & Continuants			5. Semi-vowels		
b~	(<u>spy</u>)	波	p~	(<u>pan</u>)	婆	m~	(<u>my</u>)	媽	f~	(<u>for</u>)	花			
d~	(<u>sty</u>)	多	t~	(<u>tan</u>)	拖	n~	(<u>no</u>)	孀	l~	(<u>line</u>)	拉			
g~	(<u>sky</u>)	哥	k~	(<u>kit</u>)	騎	ng~	(<u>hang</u>)	牙	h~	(<u>hall</u>)	蝦			
gw~	(<u>squad</u>)	瓜	kw~	(<u>quiet</u>)	誇							w~	(<u>west</u>)	蛙
z~	(<u>bids</u>)	遮	c~	(<u>bits</u>)	車				s~	(<u>see</u>)	蛇	j~	(<u>yes</u>)	夜

51 Finals

Table of 51 Common Finals
With similar pronunciation in U.K. English 🎧 (Track 012)

	long	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	long
Central vowel	aa	(a~)	e		i		o		u		oe	(eo~)	yu
Final ending	father		cherry		see		law		meat		her		(deer)
~i	aai	ai		>ei			oi		ui				eoi
	aisle	fight		day			boy		ruin				(deal)
~u	aa <u>u</u>	au			iu			>ou					
	now	shout			few			go					
~m	aam	am			im								
	arm	sum			seen								
~n	aan	an			in		on		un				eon yun
	aunt	sun			seen		lawn		soon				London (ane)
~ng	aang	ang	eng			>ing	ong			>ung	oeng		
	[a:n]	rung	length			sing	long			(achtung)	(learning)		
~p	aap	ap			ip								
	sharper*	supper*			deeper*								
~t	aat	at			it		ot		ut				eot yut
	starter*	butler*			eater*		sorter*		footer*				[et] (chate)
~k	aak	ak	ek			>ik	ok			>uk	oek		
	marker	tracker*	checker*			thicker*	locker*			cooker*	jerk*		

6 Tones

	1. high level	2. high rising	3. mid level	4. low falling	5. low rising	6. low level
<i>Jyutping</i>	saam ¹	wun ²	sai ³	ngau ⁴	naam ⁵	min ⁶
<i>Meaning</i>	三 three	碗 bowl	細 small	牛 beef	腩 brisket	麵 noodle
<i>Tone no. Mnemonics</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Diacritics</i>	sāam	wún	sai	ngàu	nǎam	mīn

Note: The keyboard-like column on above left gives learners an idea of the relative pitch levels in Cantonese.

Basic Greetings 🎧 (Track 015)

1. 🎧 nǐ⁵ hǎo²

你 好
you/ good/

= Good day. Hello! (slightly formal)
= How do you do! Hello! (1st time meeting)

2. 🎧 hā¹ lǎo²!

哈 佬!

[sound transcription from English]
= Hello! (informal)

3. 🎧 wāi³!

喂!

hey/

= Hi! Hey! (between closer acquaintances)



Greetings: How are you? 🎧 (Track 016)

1. 🎧 nǐ⁵ hǎo² mǎa³?

你 好 嗎?
you/ good/ PT

= How do you do!
= How are you?



(Form a formal question: Statement + mǎa³?)

zeoi³ gan⁶ dim² aa³?
最近點呀?
How are you lately?

Greetings: How are you? (Track 017)

Answers:

1. ● géi² hóu², jǎu⁵ sām¹.
幾 好，有 心。
quite/ good/ have/ heart
= Not bad. Thank you for asking.

2. ● hóu² hóu².
好 好。
very/ good
= I'm fine.

3. ● mǎa⁴ mǎa² déi².
麻 麻 咁。
so-so
= Just so-so.

4. ● m̄⁴ hǎi⁶ géi² hóu².
唔 係 幾 好。
not/ be quite/ good
= Not so good.



5. ● m̄⁴ hóu².
唔 好。
not/ good
= Not good.

Introduce oneself (Track 018)

1. ● ngǎ⁵ hǎi⁶ Gwóng² Dūng¹ Wáa² lǎu⁵ sī¹.
我 係 廣 東 話 老師。
I/ to be/ Cantonese/ teacher
= I am a Cantonese teacher.

2. ● ngǎ⁵ giu³ + Teacher's full name.
我 叫 +
I/ be called/
= My name is... (e.g. Zōeng¹ síu² Pìng⁴ 張小萍)

3. ● nǎi⁵ giu³ ngǎ⁵ + lāa¹.
你 叫 我 + 嘍。
you/ call/ me/ PT/
= You can call me... (e.g. Zōeng¹ lǎu⁵ sī¹ 張老師) !
= (Just call me...)



Nei5 ne1 ?

你呢？

And you?

Nei5 giu3 me1 meng2

你叫咩名

What is your name?

English	Cantonese	Jyutping
Thank you	多謝	Do ¹ ze ⁶
Student	學生	hok ⁶ saang ¹

Greetings around mealtimes
(afternoon or evening) (Track 021)

Q: 1. sīk⁶ zó² fāan⁶ mēi⁶ āa³?
食 咗 飯 未 呀?
eat/ done/ rice/ yet/ PT/
= Have you eaten yet?
(How's it going?).



Answers:

1. sīk⁶ zó² lāa³.
食 咗 喇。
eat/ done/ PT/
= Yes, I've eaten.

2. mēi⁶ āa³.
未 呀。
not yet/ PT/
= Not yet.

Saying Good-bye (Track 022)

1. zó³ gín³. (slightly formal) 再 見。
again/ see/
= See you! Goodbye.

2. bāai¹ bāai³. 拜 拜。
[sound transcription from English]
= Bye-bye.

3. tīng¹ jāt⁶ gín³.
聽 日 見。
tomorrow/ see/
= See you tomorrow.

4. jāt¹ zān⁶ gín³.
一 陣 見。
one moment/ see/
= See you later.

5. māan⁶ máan² hàang⁴.
慢 慢 行。
slowly/ walk/
= Mind your step. Take care.



English	Cantonese	Jyutping
Good morning	早晨	zou ² san ⁴
Good afternoon	午安	ng ⁵ on ¹
Good evening	晚安	maan ⁵ on ¹

Homework

- Listen to audio and practise 6 tones

011 Intro.mp3

012 Intro.mp3

013 Intro.mp3

- Practise greetings