



# Cantonese I

## Week 2

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# 19 Initials

1. Non-aspirated Voiceless			2. Aspirated Voiceless			3. Voiced Nasals			4. Fricatives & Continuants			5. Semi-vowels		
b~	( <u>s</u> py)	波	p~	( <u>p</u> an)	婆	m~	( <u>m</u> y)	媽	f~	( <u>f</u> or)	花			
d~	( <u>s</u> ty)	多	t~	( <u>t</u> an)	拖	n~	( <u>n</u> o)	癩	l~	( <u>l</u> ine)	拉			
g~	( <u>s</u> ky)	哥	k~	( <u>k</u> it)	騎	ng~	( <u>h</u> ang)	牙	h~	( <u>h</u> all)	蝦			
gw~	( <u>s</u> quad)	瓜	kw~	( <u>q</u> uiet)	誇							w~	( <u>w</u> est)	蛙
z~	( <u>b</u> ids)	遮	c~	( <u>b</u> its)	車				s~	( <u>s</u> ee)	蛇	j~	( <u>y</u> es)	夜

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

	1. high level	2. high rising	3. mid level	4. low falling	5. low rising	6. low level	
							High Middle Low
<i>Jyutping</i>	saam <sup>1</sup>	wun <sup>2</sup>	sai <sup>3</sup>	ngau <sup>4</sup>	naam <sup>5</sup>	min <sup>6</sup>	
<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  v	6  ~	
<i>Diacritics</i>	sāam	wún	sǎi	ngàu	nǎam	mǐn	

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

## A. Common greetings 🎧 (Track 038)



### Personal Pronoun

nǐ  
你  
(you)

hǎo.  
好  
(good).

1. nǐ dēi 你哋 (you-plural)
2. dāi gā 大家 (everybody)
3. gòk wái 各位 (ladies and gentlemen)
4. lǎo sī 老師 (teacher)
5. tùng hǎk 同學 (classmate)



zǎo sǎn.  
早晨。  
(Good morning.)

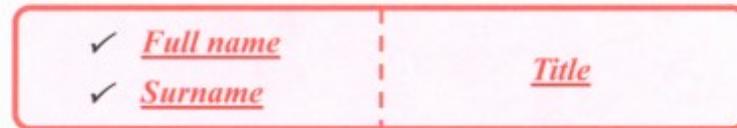


nǚ ān.  
午安。  
(Good afternoon.)



hā lóu.  
哈佬。  
(Hello.)

**B. To address someone with a title** 🎧 (Track 039)



- 1. Càn 陳 (Chan, Chen)
- 2. Lǎi 李 (Lee, Li)
- 3. Zōeng 張 (Cheung, Chang)
- 4. Wòng 王, 黃 (Wong)
- 5. Hò 何 (Ho)
- 6. Āu 歐, 區 (Au)
- 7. Zāu 周, 鄒 (Chow, Chau)

- 1. hǎu zóeng 校長 (school principal)
- 2. lǎu sī 老師 (teacher)
- 3. tùng hōk 同學 (classmate)
- 4. sīn sāang 先生 (Mr.)
- 5. tái tái 太太 (Mrs.)
- 6. síu zé 小姐 (Miss)
- 7. jī sāng 醫生 (doctor)

*Informally:*

- 1. ǎa sòe (Sir)
- 2. mīt sì (Miss)
- 3. Càn s̃h̃n sāang (Mr. Chan)
- 4. Càn tái tái (Mrs. Chan)

## Basic Greetings 🎧 (Track 015)

1. 🗨️ nǐ<sup>5</sup> hǎo<sup>2</sup>

你 好  
you/ good/

= Good day. Hello! (slightly formal)

= How do you do! Hello! (1<sup>st</sup> time meeting)

2. 🗨️ hā<sup>1</sup> lóu<sup>2</sup>!

哈 佬!

[sound transcription from English]

= Hello! (informal)

3. 🗨️ wài<sup>3</sup>!

喂!

hey/

= Hi! Hey! (between closer acquaintances)



## Greetings: How are you? 🎧 (Track 016)

1. 🗨️ nǐ<sup>5</sup> hǎo<sup>2</sup> mǎa<sup>3</sup>?

你 好 嗎?  
you/ good/ PT

= How do you do!

= How are you?



(Form a formal question: Statement + mǎa<sup>3</sup>?)

zeoi<sup>3</sup> gan<sup>6</sup> dim<sup>2</sup> aa<sup>3</sup>?

最近點呀?

How are you lately?

## Greetings: How are you? (Track 017)

### Answers:

1. ● géi<sup>2</sup> hóu<sup>2</sup>, jǎu<sup>5</sup> sān<sup>1</sup>.  
 幾好，有心。  
 quite/ good/ have/ heart  
 = Not bad. Thank you for asking.

2. ● hóu<sup>2</sup> hóu<sup>2</sup>.  
 好好。  
 very/ good  
 = I'm fine.

3. ● màa<sup>4</sup> máa<sup>2</sup> déi<sup>2</sup>.  
 麻麻地。  
 so-so  
 = Just so-so.

4. ● m<sup>4</sup> hǎi<sup>6</sup> géi<sup>2</sup> hóu<sup>2</sup>.  
 唔係幾好。  
 not/ be quite/ good  
 = Not so good.

5. ● m<sup>4</sup> hóu<sup>2</sup>.  
 唔好。  
 not/ good  
 = Not good.



## Introduce oneself (Track 018)

1. ● ngǒ<sup>5</sup> hǎi<sup>6</sup> Gwóng<sup>2</sup> Dūng<sup>1</sup> Wáa<sup>2</sup> lǒu<sup>5</sup> sī<sup>1</sup>.  
 我係廣東話老師。  
 I/ to be/ Cantonese/ teacher  
 = I am a Cantonese teacher.

2. ● ngǒ<sup>5</sup> giu<sup>3</sup> + Teacher's full name.  
 我叫 +  
 I/ be called/  
 = My name is... (e.g. Zōeng<sup>1</sup> síu<sup>2</sup> Pìng<sup>4</sup> 張小萍)

3. ● nǎi<sup>5</sup> giu<sup>3</sup> ngǒ<sup>5</sup> + Teacher's surname + lǒu<sup>5</sup> sī<sup>1</sup> lāa<sup>1</sup>.  
 你叫我 + 啦。  
 you/ call/ me/ PT/  
 = You can call me...  
 = (Just call me... (e.g. Zōeng<sup>1</sup> lǒu<sup>5</sup> sī<sup>1</sup> 張老師) !)



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 <sup>1</sup> ze <sup>6</sup>
Student	學生	hok <sup>6</sup> saang <sup>1</sup>

**D. To ask and tell one's name** 🎧 (Track 041)



**呀 (aa3)**

1. Sentence-final particle for softening statements or questions.

<u>Subject</u>	giu 叫 (call)	māt jě méng 乜 嘢 名 (what name)	aa? 呀? (Pt)
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- 1. nēi 你 (you)
- 2. kǎoi 佢 (he; she; it)
- 3. lǎu sī 老師 (teacher)

OR  
Nei5 giu3 me1 meng2 aa3?  
你叫咩名呀?

<u>Subject</u>	giu 叫 (call)	✓ <u>Name.</u> ✓ <u>Full Name.</u>
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kǎoi 佢 (he; she; it)

- 1. Fēi Lǐk Sī 菲力士 (Felix)
- 2. Wà Fū 華夫 (Rahul)
- 3. Oī Sāa 愛莎 (Aiza)
- 4. Jìng Jíng 盈盈 (Ying-ying)
- 5. Hǒu Jī 浩二 (Kouji)



## Saying 'Thank you' (1) 🎧 (Track 023)

1. 🗨️ m<sup>4</sup> gōi<sup>1</sup>.  
唔 該。  
not/ ought to/  
= Thank you (for a service).

2. 🗨️ m<sup>4</sup> sái<sup>2</sup> hǎak<sup>3</sup> hēi<sup>3</sup>.  
唔 使 客 氣。  
no/ need/ polite/  
= You are welcome.  
= Don't mention it.



## Saying 'Thank you' (2) 🎧 (Track 024)

1. 🗨️ dō<sup>1</sup> zǎ<sup>6</sup>.  
多 謝。  
many/ thanks/  
= Thank you.  
(for a gift, a compliment, etc.)

2. 🗨️ m<sup>4</sup> sái<sup>2</sup> hǎak<sup>3</sup> hēi<sup>3</sup>.  
唔 使 客 氣。  
no/ need/ polite/  
= You are welcome.  
= Don't mention it.

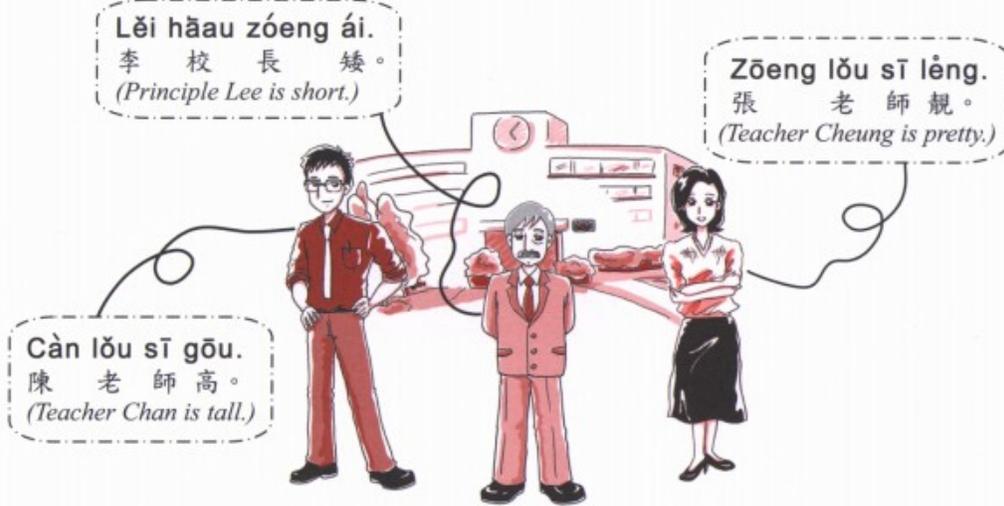


**C. A descriptive sentence (To describe how things are)** 🎧 (Track 040)

Subject/Topic

Adjective\*  
(Predicate)

\* Note that it is unnecessary to use the verb 'to be' when using an adjective to give description. An adjectival predicate without any adverb in front of it usually conveys a relative sense.



靚女 (pretty girl)  
leng<sup>3</sup> neoi<sup>2</sup>  
靚仔 (handsome guy)  
leng<sup>3</sup> zai<sup>2</sup>

Subject/Topic

(hóu)\*\*  
(好)  
(very)  
(Adverb)

Adjective.  
(Predicate)

1. Zūng Gwòk 中國 (China)
2. Hōeng Góng 香港 (Hong Kong)
3. hǒk hǎau 學校 (school)
4. hǒk sāang 學生 (students)
5. tòng hǒk 同學 (classmates)

1. dǎai 大 (big; large)
2. sǎi 細 (small)
3. hóu 好 (good)
4. dō 多 (a lot; many)
5. síu 少 (few; a little)

zit6 hak1 捷克 Czech Republic

si1 lok3 fat6 hak1 斯洛伐克 Slovakia

He/ she/ it  
佢  
keoi<sup>5</sup>

可愛 (cute)  
ho<sup>2</sup> oi<sup>3</sup>

得意 (cute)  
dak<sup>1</sup> ji<sup>3</sup>

靚 (beautiful)  
leng<sup>3</sup>

醜 (ugly)  
cau<sup>2</sup>



He/ she/ it  
佢  
keoi<sup>5</sup>

Young

細個

sai<sup>3</sup> go<sup>3</sup>

後生

hau<sup>6</sup> saang<sup>1</sup>

年青

nin<sup>4</sup> cing<sup>1</sup>

Old

成熟 (mature)

sing<sup>4</sup> suk<sup>6</sup>

老 (old)

lou<sup>5</sup>



He/ she/ it  
佢  
keoi<sup>5</sup>

高 (Tall)  
gou<sup>1</sup>

矮 (Short)  
ai<sup>2</sup>

肥 (Fat)  
fei<sup>4</sup>

瘦 (Thin)  
sau<sup>3</sup>



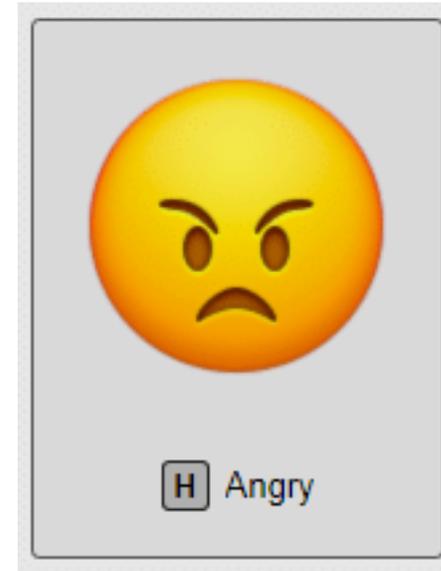
He/ she/ it  
佢  
keoi<sup>5</sup>

開心 (happy)  
hoi<sup>1</sup> sam<sup>1</sup>

唔開心 (sad)  
m<sup>4</sup> hoi<sup>1</sup> sam<sup>1</sup>

傷心 (heart broken)  
soeng<sup>1</sup> sam<sup>1</sup>

𩆃 (angry)  
nau<sup>1</sup>



He/ she/ it  
佢  
keoi<sup>5</sup>

聰明 (clever)  
cung<sup>1</sup> ming<sup>4</sup>

叻 (smart)  
lek<sup>1</sup>

蠢 (stupid / dumb)  
ceon<sup>2</sup>



Describe your favourite cartoon character/ animal/ anyone

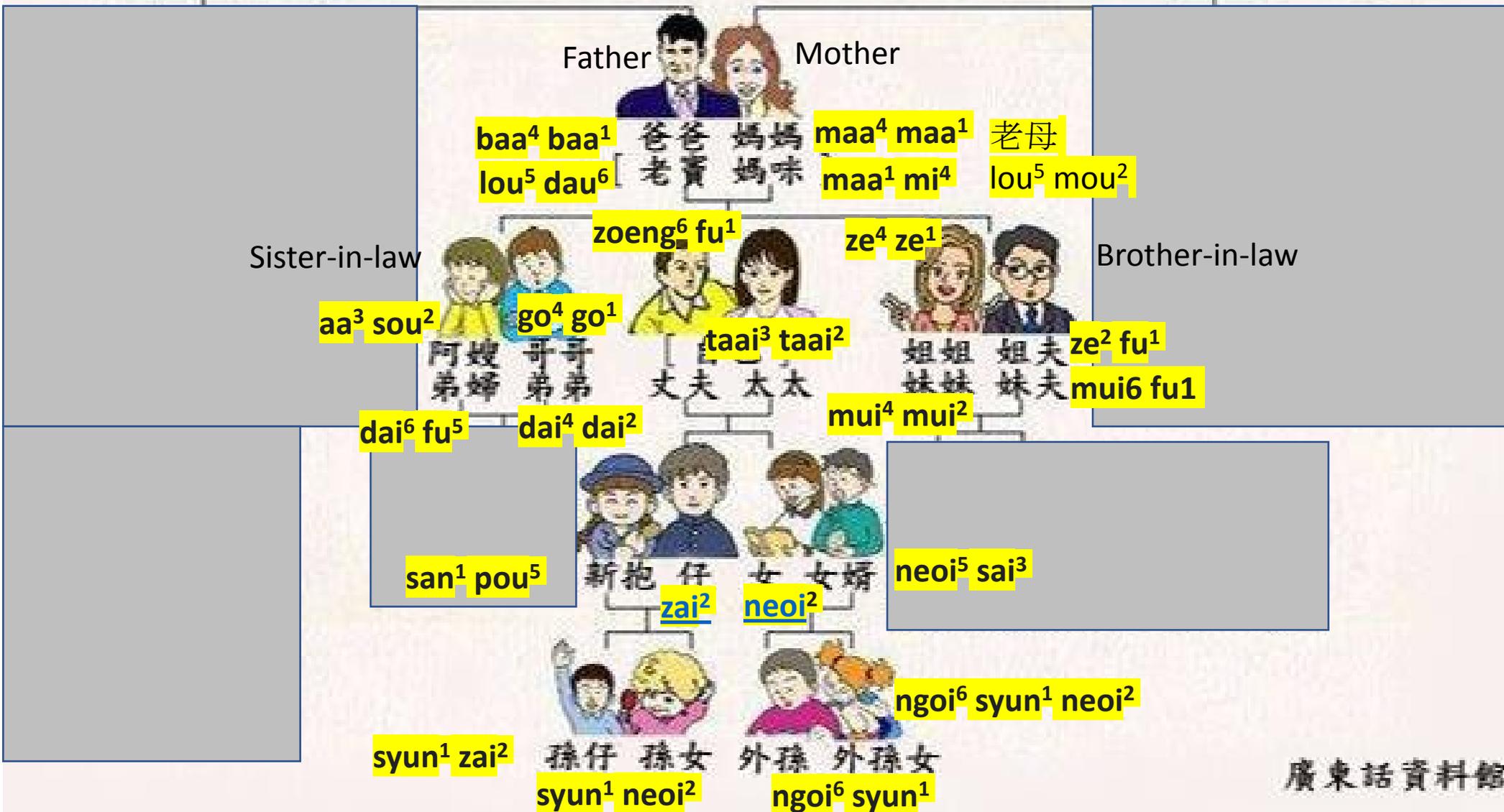
# 親戚關係表



je<sup>4</sup> je<sup>2</sup> 爺爺 嫲嫲 maa<sup>4</sup> maa<sup>4</sup>



gung<sup>1</sup> gung<sup>1</sup> 公公 婆婆 po<sup>4</sup> po<sup>2</sup>



# Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ch2BCGwDGs&t=1535s>
- 16:49



zung1 cau1 zit3 faai3  
lok6

中秋節快樂

Happy Mid-Autumn  
Festival

