

Sentence Patterns

Parts of speech (2)

Unit 1	Verbs.....	2
I.	Introduction.....	2
II.	Modal Verbs.....	2
III.	Some Verbs.....	12
IV.	Attentions	19
V.	Tense	20
Unit 2	Adjectives.....	33
I.	Introductions.....	33
II.	Attentions	33
III.	Negations and Questions.....	37
IV.	Comparison of Adjectives.....	39
Unit 3	Adverb.....	42
I.	Introduction.....	42
Unit 4	Preposition	49
I.	Introductions.....	49
II.	Some prepositions.....	49
Unit 5	Conjunctions	53
I.	Introductions.....	53
Unit 6	Interjections.....	55
I.	Introductions.....	55
II.	Some interjections	55
Unit 7	Onomatopoeias.....	56
I.	Introductions.....	56
Unit 8	Particles.....	57
I.	Introductions.....	57
II.	Structural Particles	57
III.	Aspect Particles.....	62
IV.	Modal Particles.....	62
The end of the book		64

Unit 1 Verbs

I. Introduction

A. Definition

Verbs are the words that express the action, behaviour or change of a person or a thing.

II. Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are used before verbs to express a desire, necessity or possibility.

Adding mh before the modal verb will form negative

Some of modal verbs are the main verbs when they are used alone.

	Cantonese	English	Remarks
1.	wúih	will	shows the willingness in doing something
2.	hó-yíh	may	being permitted or allowed
3.	sík	can	have the ability to do something – casual
4.	hó-nàhng	maybe	
5.	yāt-dihng	must	
6.	yāt-dihng yiu	must have to	
7.	yīng-gōi	should/ought	moral or factual necessity
8.	gám	dare	
9.	séung	want to do	indicate hope or intention
10.	yiu	have to/need	show one's desire or will
11.	háng	willing to	willing to do something

A.1 wúih (will)

(1) Positive

1) I will go _____
ngóh wúih heui

2) She will come _____
kéuih wúih làih

(2) Negative

1) They won't come _____
kéuih-deih m̀h-wúih làih

2) I won't believe him _____
ngóh m̀h-wúih seun kéuih

(3) Questions

1) Will he believe it? _____
kéuih wúih m̀h-wúih seun a?

2) Will he die? _____
kéuih wúih m̀h-wúih séi a?

A.2 hó-yíh (may/can - permitted to do something)

(1) Positive

1) I can/may go _____
ngóh hó-yíh heui

2) I can/may watch TV _____
ngóh hó-yíh tái dihn-sih

(2) Negative

1) You can't/may not go _____
néih m̀h-hó-yíh heui

2) You can't/may not watch TV _____
néih m̀h-hó-yíh tái dihn-sih

(3) Questions

1) Can/may I go out? _____
ngóh hó-m̀h-hó-yíh chēut-heui a?

2) Can /may I watch TV? _____
ngóh hó-m̀h-hó-yíh tái dihn-sih a?

A.3 sīk (can - capable of doing something)

1. As an a modal verb

Followed by a verb

(1) Positive

1) I can swim _____
ngóh sīk yàuh-séui

2) I can speak Cantonese _____
ngóh sīk góng Gwóng-dūng-wá

3) I can read Chinese _____
ngóh sīk tái Jūng-Mán

(2) Negative

1) I can't swim _____
ngóh m̀h-sīk yàuh-séui

2) I can't speak Cantonese _____
ngóh m̀h-sīk góng Gwóng-dūng-wá

(3) Questions

1) Can you speak Cantonese? _____
néih sīk-mh-sīk góng Gwóng-dūng-wá a?

2) Can you read Chinese? _____
néih sīk-mh-sīk tái Jūng-Mán a?

2. As an a main verb

Followed by a noun etc

(1) Positive

1) I know him _____
ngóh sīk kéuih

(2) Negative

1) They don't know me _____
kéuih-deih mh-sīk ngóh

(3) Questions

1) Do you know him? _____
néih sīk-mh-sīk kéuih a?

A.4 hó-nàhng (maybe)

(1) Positive

1) Maybe I will come _____
ngóh hó-nàhng (wúih) làih

2) Maybe they will leave _____
kéuih-deih hó-nàhng (wúih) jáu

3) Maybe I will go to market. _____
ngóh hói-nàhng (wúih) heui gāai-síh

(2) Negative

1) Maybe she won't come _____
kéuih hó-nàhng mh (wúih) làih

2) Maybe he is not an American _____
kéuih hó-nàhng mh haih Méih-gwok yàhn

(3) Questions

1) May he come? (does he possibly come) _____
kéuih haih-mh-haih hó-nàhng làih a?

2) May he come? (is he able to come) _____
kéuih hó-mh-hó-nàhng làih a?

3) May we go (do we possibly go)? _____
ngóh-deih haih-mh-haih hó-nàhng heui a?

4) May we go (are we able to go)? _____
ngóh-deih hó-mh-hó-nàhng heui a?

A.5 yāt-dihng (must - definitely will)

It's yāt-dihng-(wúih) and where the "wúih" is always kept

(1) Positive

1) He must come _____
kéuih yāt-dihng (wúih) làih

2) They definitely will help him _____
kéuih-deih yāt-dihng (wúih) bōng kéuih

3) He said he definitely will do homework _____
kéuih wah kéuih yāt-dihng (wúih) jouh gūng-fo

(2) Negative

1) He definitely won't come _____
kéuih yāt-dihng mh làih

- 2) He may not definitely come _____
 kéuih m̀h yāt-dihng làih
- 3) Hong Kong people may not definitely can play mah jong _____
 Hēung-góng yàhn m̀h yāt-dihng sīk dá m̀h-jéuk
- 4) British may not definitely like eating steaks _____
 Yīng-gwok yàhn m̀h yāt-dihng jūng-yi sikh ngàuh-pá

(3) Questions

- 1) Must Hong Kong people know English? _____
 Hēung-góng yàhn haih-m̀h-haih yāt-dihng sīk (góng) Yīng-mán ga?
- 2) Must he like it? _____
 kéuih haih-m̀h-haih yāt-dihng jūng-yi ga?

A.6 yāt-dihng yiu (must have to)

(1) Positive

- 1) You must have to help me _____
 néih yāt-dihng yiu bōng ngóh
- 2) I must have to do overtime _____
 ngóh yāt-dihng yiu gā-bāan
- 3) He must have to do homework _____
 kéuih yāt-dihng yiu jough gūng-fo

(2) Negative

- 1) You must not help him _____
 néih yāt-dihng m̀h-hóu bōng kéuih
- 2) You must not go (Don't go) _____
 néih yāt-dihng m̀h-hóu heui

(3) Questions

- 1) Must you believe him? _____
 néih haih-m̀h-haih yāt-dihng yiu seun kéuih a?
- 2) Must we go? _____
 ngóh-deih haih-m̀h-haih yāt-dihng yiu heui a?

A.7 yīng-gōi (should/ought to)

(1) Positive

- 1) You should do the homework _____
 (you should do homework)
 néih yīng-gōi jough gūng-fo
- 2) You should help them _____
 néih yīng-gōi bōng kéuih-deih

(2) Negative

- 1) You shouldn't cheat him _____
 néih m̀h yīng-gōi āak kéuih
- 2) They shouldn't beat you _____
 kéuih-deih m̀h yīng-gōi dá néih

(3) Questions

- 1) Should I help them? _____
 ngóh yīng m̀h yīng-gōi bōng kéuih-deih a?

A.8 gám (dare to)

(1) Positive

- 1) I dare to beat him _____
 ngóh gám dá kéuih
- 2) The student dare to beat the teacher _____
 go hohk-sāang gám dá go sīn-sāang

(2) Negative

- 1) They don't dare to rob _____
kéuih-deih m̀h-gám dá-gip

(3) Questions

- 1) Do you dare to steal his money? _____
néih gám-m̀h-gám tâu kéuih dī chín?

A.9 **séung (want to do)**

séung – modal verb – want to do... (followed by a verb but not a noun)

séung+yiou – modal verb+main verb = want (followed by a verb or a noun etc)

séung – main verb – miss somebody / think (followed by a noun etc)

In Cantonese, “séung: want” usually work as a modal verb but not a main verb.

(1) Positive

- 1) I want to buy apples _____
ngóh séung máaih p̀hng-gwó
- 2) I want to go travelling _____
ngóh séung heui léuih-hàhng
- 3) My mother want to buy beef _____
ngóh mā-m̀h séung máaih ngàuh-yuhk

(2) Negative

- 1) I don't want to apply for leave _____
ngóh m̀h-séung chéng-ga

(3) Questions

- 1) Do you want to eat steak? _____
néih séung-m̀h-séung sihk ngàuh-pá

A.10 **yiou (have to)**

1. As a modal verb

(1) Positive - yiou

Followed by a verb

- 1) I have to borrow money _____
ngóh yiou je-chín
- 2) I have to learn Chinese Kung Fu _____
ngóh yiou hohk Jūng-gwok gūng-fū
- 3) I have to do my homework _____
(I have to do homework)
ngóh yiou jough gūng-fo
- 4) I have to study _____
ngóh yiou duhk-syū
- 5) I have to do OT / work long hours _____
ngóh yiou gā-bāan

(2) Negative - m̀h sái

- 1) I don't have to do my homework _____
ngóh m̀h-sái jough gūng-fo
- 2) I don't have to do OT / work long hours _____
ngóh m̀h-sái gā-bāan

(3) Questions - sái m̀h sái

- 1) Do you have to do OT / work long hours? _____
néih sái-m̀h-sái gā-bāan a?
- 2) Do you have to go to work? _____
néih sái-m̀h-sái fāan-gūng a?

2. As a main verb

Followed by a noun etc

(1) Positive - yiu

1) I need a sum of money. _____

ngóh yiuh yāt bāt chín

I need a MW-amount of money

(2) Negative - m̀h sái yiu

1) He doesn't need this sum of money _____

kéuih m̀h-sái yiu nī bāt chín

(3) Questions - sái m̀h sái

1) Does he need this sum of money? _____

kéuih sái-m̀h-sái yiu nī bāt chín a?

A.11 háng (willing to)

(1) Positive - háng

1) He is willing to help us _____

kéuih háng bōng ngóh-deih

(2) Negative - m̀h háng

1) He is not willing to help us _____

kéuih m̀h háng bōng ngóh-deih

(3) Question - háng m̀h háng

1) Is he willing to help us? _____

kéuih háng m̀h háng bōng ngóh-deih a?

III. Some Verbs

A. haih – be

A.1 Be

(1) I am a ...

1) I am a Hongkonger _____

ngóh haih Hēung-góng yàhn

2) They are my friends _____

kéuih-deih haih ngóh pàhng-yáuh

3) She is my friend. _____

kéuih haih ngóh ge pàhng yáuh

4) She is my elder sister _____

kéuih haih ngóh gā-jē

5) He is an author _____

author: jok-gā

kéuih haih jok-gā

6) I am a foreigner _____

ngóh haih ngoih-gwok-yàhn

7) I am ten years old _____

ngóh (haih) sah p seui

(2) Today is ...

1) Today is Sunday _____

gām-yaht (haih) sīng-kèih-yaht

2) Tomorrow is Monday _____

tīng-yaht (haih) sīng-kèih-yāt

3) Yesterday was Saturday _____

chàhm-yaht (haih) Sīng-kèih-luhk

- 4) Next month is June _____
hah-go-yuht (**hah**) luhk-yuht
- (3) It's ...
- 1) It's September now _____
yìh-gā (**hah**) gáu-yuht
- 2) It's 2:30 now _____
yìh-gā (**hah**) léuhng-dím-bun
- 3) It's Hong Kong here _____
nī-douh (**hah**) Hēung-Góng
- 4) It's America there _____
gó-douh (**hah**) Méih-Gwok
- (4) Negations
- 1) I am not a dentist _____
ngóh **m̄h-haih** ngàh-yī
- 2) She is not a lawyer _____
kéuih **m̄h-haih** leuht-sī
- 3) She isn't British _____
kéuih **m̄h-haih** Yīng-gwok yàhn
- 4) It's not 8:10 now _____
yìh-gā **m̄h-haih** baat-dím-yih

B. yáuh – have

B.1 Introduction

yáuh essentially means 'have' or 'there is /there are'.

In negative sentences, “**móuh**” is used instead of “yáuh”

1. Possession

- (1) I have ...
- 1) He has three sons _____
kéuih **yáuh** sāam go jái
- 2) I have money _____
ngóh **yáuh** chín
- 3) I have a dog _____
ngóh **yáuh** yāt-jek gáu
- 4) I have a son _____
ngóh **yáuh** yāt-go jái
- 5) I have a daughter _____
ngóh **yáuh** yāt-go néui
- 6) She has two kids _____
kéuih **yáuh** léuhng-go sai-mān-jái
- 7) I have many friends _____
ngóh **yáuh** hóu-dō pàhng-yáuh
- 8) He has a lot of colleagues _____
kéuih **yáuh** hóu-dō tùhng-sih
- 9) She has lots of very beautiful dresses _____
kéuih **yáuh** hóu-dō hóu-leng ge kwàhn
- (2) I don't have...
- 1) I don't have money _____
ngóh **móuh** chín
I not have money
- 2) I don't have any book _____
ngóh **móuh** syū
- 3) I don't have time _____
ngóh **móuh** sìh-gaan

4) He has lots of money, I don't have _____
kéuih yáuh hóu-dō chín, ngóh móuh

2. Existential

(1) There is...

1) There is a dog _____
gó douh yáuh yāt jek gáu

2) There is a pen _____
gó douh yáuh yāt jī bāt

3) There are some boys _____
gó douh yáuh dī nàahm-jái

4) There are many cockroaches _____
gó-douh yáuh hóu-dō gaah-jáat

5) There are lots of people here _____
nī-douh yáuh hóu-dō yàhn

6) There are many people in Hong Kong _____
Hēung-Góng yáuh hóu-dō yàhn

7) There are many students in the school _____
gāan hohk-haauh yáuh hóu-dō hohk-sāang

8) There are many people at the bus stops waiting for the bus _____
bā-sí-jaahm yáuh hóu-dō yàhn dáng-gán bā-sí

9) There are many colleagues in my company _____
ngóh gūng-sī yáuh hóu-dō tūhng sih

10) There is something wrong (hint) _____
(have some problems)
yáuh (dī) mahn-tàih
have (some) problems

(2) There isn't any...

1) There isn't any water _____
gó-douh móuh séui

2) There aren't any people _____
gó-douh móuh yàhn

3) There aren't any people here _____
nī-douh móuh yàhn

4) There aren't any students here _____
nī-douh móuh hohk-sāang

5) There's nothing to buy here _____
nī-douh móuh yéh máaih

6) There isn't any tea at my home _____
ngóh ūk-kéi móuh chàh

B.2 yáuh + verb

1. A past action exists

(1) Positive - yáuh + verb

1) I did do my homework (explain it to one's mum) _____
ngóh yáuh jough gūng fo

2) Peter did come, David didn't. _____
Peter yáuh làih, David móuh làih

3) I did have lunch, but I'm still very hungry. _____
ngóh yáuh sihk-faahn, daahn-haih juhng-haih hóu tóuh ngoh

(2) Negative - móuh + verb

1) I didn't buy the watch _____
ngóh móuh máaih jek sáu bīu

2) He didn't help us _____
kéuih móuh bōng ngóh-deih

(3) Questions: yáuh móuh

1) Did you buy the table? _____
néih yáuh-móuh máaih jéung tóí a?

2. A present and habitual action exists

(1) Positive

1) I go to the market every day
ngóh múih-yaht dōu yáuh heui gāai-síh
I every day also have go wet market

2) He does physical exercises ordinarily

kéuih pihng-síh yáuh jough wahn-duhng

3) He does part-time job _____
kéuih yáuh jough gīm-jík

4) He does smoke _____
kéuih yáuh síhk-yīn

5) They do learn French _____
kéuih-deih yáuh hohk-faat-mán

(2) Negative - móuh + verb

1) I don't exercise ordinarily (general habit) _____
ngóh pihng-síh móuh/mh jough wahn-duhng

(3) Questions: yáuh móuh

A kind of A-not-A question

1) Do you do exercise ordinarily? _____
néih pihng-síh yáuh-móuh jough wahn-dung ga?

C. hái - at/ in/ on

1. “hái” as a main verb

(1) Positive

1) She is at home
kéuih hái ūk-kéi

2) They are in the sitting room _____
kéuih-deih hái tēng

3) My elder brother is in Canada now _____
Canada: Gā Nàh Daaih
now: yìh-gā
ngóh daaih-lóuh/áh-gō yìh-gā hái Gā-nàh-daaih

(2) Negative

1) He is not in the office _____
It's more common to say "He is not in the company"
kéuih mh-hái gūng-sī

2) They are not on the 3rd floor _____
floor: láu
kéuih-deih mh-hái sām-láu

(3) Questions

1) Is he in the office? _____
kéuih hái-mh-hái gūng-sī a?

2. “hái” as a preposition

1) He works in Central _____
kéuih hái Jūng-wàahn fān-gūng

2) He studies in England _____
kéuih hái Yīng-gwok duhk-syū

- 3) He studies in the University of Hong Kong _____
kéuih hái Hēung-góng daaih-hohk duhk-syū

IV. Attentions

A. Verb-Object compounds

1. Notes

Many “verb” are actually verb object compound, aspect particle has to be place between them when it is required.

- 1) drive _____
jā chē
 drive car

- 2) driving _____
jā gán chē
 drive ing car

- 3) She is driving _____
kéuih jā gán chē

- 4) sleep _____
fan gaau
 sleep(verb) the noun of a sleep

- 5) The baby is sleeping _____
go bīh-bī fan-gán gaau

- 6) The baby has slept _____
go bīh-bī fan-jó gaau

- 7) bath _____
chūng lèuhng
 bath(verb) a bath

- 8) He is bathing _____
kéuih chūng-gán lèuhng

- 9) He has taken the bath _____
kéuih chūng-jó lèuhng

V. Tense

A. Time & Aspects

Tenses compose of “time” and “aspect”.

B. Time

Examples of time: yesterday, now, tomorrow, now, ...

In Cantonese, the time of an action is mainly expressed by time words instead of the verb itself

- 1) I always go to Central _____
ngóh sìhng-yaht heui Jūng-Wàahn
 I always go Central

- 2) Yesterday, I went to Central _____
chàhm yaht, ngóh heui Jūng-Wàahn
 yesterday, I go Central

- 3) Tomorrow, I will go to Central _____
tīng-yàht, ngóh (wúih) heui Jūng Wàahn
 tomorrow, I (will) go Central

wúih can be added before the verb to shows the willingness of the action rather than show it’s a future tense.

wúih helps with the “modal” rather than the “tense” of a sentence.

wúih is somehow similar to “would” in “I would ...”

Actually people use **tīng-yaht** to show its future tense instead.

- 4) I always watch TV _____
ngóh sìhng-yaht tái dihn-sih

- 5) I watched TV _____
ngóh tái dihn-sih

- 6) I will watch TV _____
ngóh (wúih) tái dihn-sih

- 7) I swim everyday _____
ngóh yaht-yaht (dōu) yàuh-séui
- 8) I swam yesterday _____
ngóh chàhm-yaht yàuh-séui
- 9) I will swim tomorrow _____
ngóh tīng-yaht (wúih) yàuh-séui

C. Aspects

An action may be in stage of progression, continuation or completion, and these different stages of an action are known as “aspects”.

The aspect and the time of an action are separately shown.

Cantonese add an additional “aspect particle” to show the aspect – the state of the action.

There are 4 aspect particles

Name	Indicate	Eng	Cant	Examples
Perfective (PFV)	the completion of an action	ed	jó	have eaten sihk-jó
Experiential (EXP)	a certain experience in the past	ed	gwo	have been to ...before heui-gwo
Progressive (PROG)	the progressive aspect	ing	gán	walking hàahng-gán
Continuous (CONT)	the continuous aspect	ing	jyuh	looking mohng-jyuh

C.1 The perfect aspect

To express an action was completed in the past.

When people just state an action happen in the past, don't use “jó”.

When people want to indicate the completion of an action, “jó” is used.

Usually it is used to emphasis of the action or the effects of the action still there. Moreover, in English, if it uses perfect tense, then usually in

Cantonese, people use the aspect particle “jó” as well. Sometimes in English, people used simple past tense, Cantonese still use the “jó”.

1. Positive Statements

(1) Completed actions

- 1) He died _____
kéuih séi-jó
he die PFV(ed)
- 2) I bought a pen _____
ngóh máaih-jó yāt-jī bāt
I buy PFV(ed) one MW pen
- 3) Yesterday, I bought a book _____
kàhm yaht, ngóh máaih-jó yāt bún syū

(2) “have + verb” in English

- 1) I have eaten _____
ngóh sihk-jó faahn
I eat PFV (ed) rice
- 2) She has come _____
kéuih làih-jó
- 3) They has gone out _____
kéuih-deih chēut-jó heui
- 4) He has seen the doctor _____
kéuih tái-jó yī-sāng
- 5) They has gone there _____
kéuih-deih heui-jó gó-douh
- 6) I've eaten a lot, so I'm very full _____
a lot hóu dō yéh
so só yíh
full báau
ngóh sihk-jó hóu-dō yéh, só-yíh ngóh hóu báau

2. Negative statements:

- 1) I haven't eaten yet _____
ngóh meih sihk faahn
I not yet eat rice
- 2) He hasn't died yet _____
kéuih meih séi
he not yet die
- 3) I haven't bought it yet _____
ngóh meih máaih
- 4) I haven't done it yet _____
ngóh meih jough
- 5) I haven't read it yet _____
ngóh meih tái
- 6) He hasn't seen the doctor yet _____
kéuih meih tái yī-sāng
- 7) He hasn't taken the medicine yet. _____
kéuih meih sihk yeuk
- 8) She hasn't cook the dinner yet _____
cook the dinner **jyú faahn**
kéuih meih jyú-faahn

3. Questions:

Again, it is in A-not-A format

- 1) Have you eaten yet _____
néih sihk jó faahn meih a?
you eat PFV (ed) rice not yet PM?
- 2) Have you bought it yet? _____
néih máaih-jó meih a?
- 3) Has he come yet? _____
kéuih làih-jó meih a?

- 4) Have they left yet? _____
kéuih-deih jáu-jó meih a?
- 5) Have you read it yet? _____
néih tái-jó meih a?
- 6) Have you read that book yet? _____
néih tái-jó gó bún syū meih a?
- 7) Have you drunk it yet? _____
néih yám-jó meih a?
- 8) Have you drunk the soup yet? _____
néih yám-jó (dī) tōng meih a?
- 9) Has he seen the doctor yet? _____
kéuih tái-jó yī-sāng meih a?
- 10) Have you taken the medicine yet? _____
néih sihk-jó yeuhk meih a?

C.2 The experiential aspect

It's used to express a certain experience in the past.

1. Positive statements

- 1) I have been to England before _____
ngóh heui gwo Yīng Gwok
I go EXP (ed) England
- 2) I have been to Japan before _____
ngóh heui-gwo yaht-bún
- 3) I have been there before _____
ngóh heui-gwo gó-douh
- 4) I've learnt driving before _____
néih hohk-gwo jā-chē
- 5) I've learnt Japanese before _____
néih hohk-gwo Yaht-màhn*

- 6) I've learnt French before _____
néih hohk-gwo Faat-mán
- 7) I've learnt Yoga before _____
néih hohk-gwo Yùh-gā
- 8) I have been to this restaurant (non Chinese) before _____
ngóh heui-gwo nī-gāan chāan-tēng
 non Chinese restaurant: chāan-tēng
- 9) I have been to China before _____
 China: Jūng-Gwok
ngóh heui gwo Jūng-gwok
- 10) I have been to the mainland before _____
 mainland: daaih-luhk
ngóh heui gwo daaih-luhk

2. Negative statements:

- 1) I have never been to England before _____
ngóh móuh heui gwo Yīng Gwok
 I not have go EXP (ed) England
ngóh meih heui gwo Yīng Gwok
 I not yet go EXP (ed) England
 The first option “móuh...gwo” is more common
- 2) I've never been to Japan before _____
ngóh móuh heui-gwo yaht-bún
- 3) I've never gone there before _____
ngóh móuh heui-gwo gó-douh
- 4) I've never been to this restaurant(non Chinese) before _____
ngóh móuh heui-gwo nī-gāan chāan-tēng
- 5) I've never learnt driving before _____
néih móuh hohk-gwo jā-chē
- 6) I've never learnt Japanese before _____
néih móuh hohk-gwo Yaht-mán

- 7) I've never learnt French before _____
néih móuh hohk-gwo Faat-mán
- 8) I've never learnt Yoga before _____
néih móuh hohk-gwo Yùh-gā
- 9) I have never been to Europe _____
 Europe Āu Jāu
ngóh móuh heui-gwo Āu-jāu

3. Questions:

- 1) Have you been to England? _____
néih yáuh móuh heui gwo Yīng Gwok a?
 you have not have go EXP (ed) England PM
néih heui gwo Yīng Gwok meih a?
 you go EXP (ed) England not yet PM
 The first option “yáuh móuh...gwo” is more common
- 2) Have you been to Japan before ? _____
ngóh yáuh móuh heui-gwo yaht-bún a?
- 3) Have you gone there before ? _____
ngóh yáuh móuh heui-gwo gó-douh a?
- 4) Have you been to this restaurant (non Chinese) before ? _____
ngóh yáuh móuh heui-gwo nī-gāan chāan-tēng a?
- 5) Have you learnt driving before ? _____
néih yáuh móuh hohk-gwo jā-chē a?
- 6) Have you learnt Japanese before ? _____
néih yáuh móuh hohk-gwo Yaht-mán a?
- 7) Have you learnt French before ? _____
néih yáuh móuh hohk-gwo Faat-mán a?
- 8) Have you learnt Yoga before ? _____
néih yáuh móuh hohk-gwo Yùh-gā a?
- 9) Have you been to Lan Kwai Fong? _____
 Lan Kwai Fong Lāahn Gwai Fōng

néih yáuh móuh heui gwo Làahn-gwai-fōng a?

C.3 The progressive aspect

It's very similar to the continuous tense in English.

1. Positive statements

- 1) I'm watching TV _____
ngóh tái gán dihn-sih
I watch PROG (ing) TV
- 2) I am walking _____
ngóh hàahng gán
I walk PROG (ing)
- 3) I'm having my meal _____
ngóh sihk-gán faahn
- 4) I'm singing _____
ngóh cheung-gán gō
- 5) I'm doing my homework _____
ngóh jough-gán gūng-fo
- 6) I'm learning Mandarin _____
ngóh hohk-gán Gwok-yúh
- 7) I am writing. _____
ngóh sé gán jih
- 8) Yesterday 3:00, I was watching TV. _____
kàhm yaht sām dím, ngóh tái gán dihn sih

2. Negative statements:

- 1) I'm not watching TV _____
ngóh m̀h haih tái gán dihn-sih
I not be watch PROG (ing) TV
- 2) I'm not having my meal _____
ngóh m̀h-haih sihk-gán faahn

- 3) I'm not singing _____
ngóh m̀h-haih cheung-gán gō
- 4) I'm not doing my homework _____
ngóh m̀h-haih jough-gán gūng-fo
- 5) I'm not learning Mandarin _____
ngóh m̀h-haih hohk-gán Gwok-yúh
- 6) I am not writing. _____
ngóh m̀h-haih sé gán jih

3. Questions:

- 1) Are you watching TV? _____
néih haih m̀h-haih tái gán dihn-sih a?
you be not be watch PROG (ing) TV PM?
- 2) Are you having the meal? _____
néih haih m̀h-haih sihk-gán faahn a?
- 3) Are you singing? _____
néih haih m̀h-haih cheung-gán gō a?
- 4) Are you doing the homework? _____
néih haih m̀h-haih jough-gán gūng-fo a?
- 5) Are you learning Mandarin? _____
néih haih m̀h-haih hohk-gán Gwok-yúh a?
- 6) Are you writing. _____
néih haih m̀h-haih sé gán jih a?
- 7) Are you singing now? _____
sing cheung gō (lit.: sing song)
néih ỳh-gā haih m̀h-haih cheung-gán-gō a?
- 8) He is not doing homework, he is playing. _____
play: wáan
kéuih m̀h-haih jough-gán gūng-fo, kéuih haih wáan-gán
When one wants to emphasis, "haih" can be added before the verb

C.4 The continuous aspect

It help to indicate the continuation either of an action or of a state as the result of an action.

1. Positive statements

- 1) Please help me to hold the bag _____

m̄h-gōi bōng ngóh līng jyuh go dói
please help me hold CONT(ing) MW bag

The action is continuous, but no progression. Actually you are asking people to “holding” the bag instead of just “hold” and then “drop” it.

- 2) He’s looking at the window _____

kéuih mohng jyuh go chēung
he look CONT (ing) MW window

- 3) I am looking at the TV _____

ngóh mohng jyuh go dihn-sih
I look CONT(ing) MW TV

The action is continuous, but no progression.

The action of watching has progression as the person watch some programs and get some information etc.

The action of looking has no progression as the TV is turn off and the person just look at a stand still object.

- 4) Watch out!

tái jyuh a!
watch CONT(ing) PM

The action of “watch” is continuous

- 5) They tie the cow.

kéuih deih bóng jyuh jek ngàuh
they tie CONT(ing) MW cow

The action of “tie” has been completed but the state of the result of “tie” continues

- 6) She is looking at the sky _____

kéuih mohng-jyuh go tīn

- 7) She is holding a handbag _____

kéuih līng-jyuh go sáu-dói

- 8) She is keeping an eye on the children _____

kéuih tái-jyuh dī sai-mān-jái

- 9) She ties the dog _____

kéuih bóng-jyuh jek gáu

- 10) The student is carrying his schoolbag _____

go hohk-sāang līng-jyuh go syū-bāau
schoolbag syū bāau

2. Negative statements:

- 1) He is not looking at the window. _____

kéuih m̄h-haih mohng jyuh go chēung
he not be look CONT(ing) MW window

kéuih móuh mohng jyuh go chēung
he not have look CONT(ing) MW window

- 2) They don’t tie the cow. _____

kéuih deih m̄h-haih bóng jyuh jek ngàuh
they not be tie CONT(ing) MW cow

kéuih deih móuh bóng jyuh jek ngàuh
they not have tie CONT(ing) MW cow

- 3) She isn’t looking at the sky _____

kéuih m̄h-haih mohng-jyuh go tīn

- 4) She isn’t holding a handbag _____

kéuih m̄h-haih līng-jyuh go sáu-dói

- 5) She isn’t keeping an eye on the children _____

kéuih m̄h-haih tái-jyuh dī sai-mān-jái

- 6) She doesn’t tie the dog _____

kéuih m̄h-haih bóng-jyuh jek gáu

- 7) The student isn’t carrying the schoolbag _____

go hohk-sāang m̄h-haih līng-jyuh go syū-bāau

3. Questions:

1) Is he looking at the window? _____

kéuih haih m̀h haih mohng-jyuh go chēung a?
he be not be look CONT(ing) MW window PM?

kéuih yáuh móuh mohng-jyuh go chēung a?
he have not have look CONT(ing) MW window PM?

2) Do they tie the cow? _____

kéuih deih haih m̀h haih bóng-jyuh jek ngàuh a?
they be not be tie CONT(ing) MW cow PM?

kéuih deih yáuh móuh bóng-jyuh jek ngàuh a?
they have not have tie CONT(ing) MW cow PM?

3) Is she looking at the sky? _____

kéuih haih m̀h haih mohng-jyuh go tīn a?

4) Is she holding a handbag? _____

kéuih haih m̀h haih līng-jyuh go sáu-dóí a?

5) Is she keeping an eye on the children? _____

kéuih haih m̀h haih tái-jyuh dī sai-mān-jái a?

6) Does she tie the dog? _____

kéuih haih m̀h haih bóng-jyuh jek gáu a?

7) The student isn't carrying his schoolbag _____

go hohk-sāang haih m̀h haih līng-jyuh go syū-bāau a?

4. Mixed

1) Have they tied the cat? _____

kéuih-deih yáuh móuh bóng-jyuh jek māau a?

2) No, they haven't tied the cat? _____

móuh, kéuih-deih móuh bóng-jyuh jek māau

3) Does Peter look at Mary? _____

Peter haih m̀h haih mohng-jyuh Mary a?

4) No, Peter doesn't look at Mary, he looks at Kitty. _____

m̀h haih, Peter m̀h haih mohng-jyuh Mary, kéuih haih mohng-jyuh Kitty

D. Miscellaneous exercises

1) I swim everyday. _____

(I everyday also swim)

ngóh múih-yaht dōu yàuh-séui

2) I swam yesterday _____

ngóh chàhm-yaht yàuh-séui

3) I will swim _____

ngóh wúih yàuh-séui

4) I am swimming _____

ngóh yàuh gán séui

5) I have lived in Hong Kong for ten years _____

ngóh hái Hēung-Góng jyuh jó sahng nīhn

6) Did he take any medicine? _____

kéuih yáuh móuh sihk yeuk a?

7) I am looking at the TV _____

ngóh mohng jyuh go dihn-sih

8) I am watching TV _____

ngóh tái-gán dihn sih

Unit 2 Adjectives

I. Introductions

A. Definition:

Adjectives are words that describe the shape, quality or state of a person or a thing.

II. Attentions

A. Do not need “is: haih”

- 1) He is very tall _____
kéuih hóu gōu
- 2) This book very cheap _____
nī-bún syū hóu pèhng

B. A modifier is required

B.1 A modifier is used before an adjective

A predicative adjective is usually preceded by a modifier.
subject + modifier + adjective

B.2 hóu - “very” is always used

- 1) She is pretty _____
kéuih hóu leng
- 2) They are stupid _____
kéuih-deih hóu chéun
- 3) You are smart! _____
néih hóu lēk

- 4) This table is expensive _____
nī jēung tóí hóu gwai
- 5) I am fat _____
ngóh hóu fèih
- 6) My father is tall _____
ngóh dē-dìh hóu gōu

B.3 Other modifiers

If there is another modifier before the adjective, such as “quite”, “too”, “so”, and “not”, there is no need to add the modifier “very: hóu” before the adjectives.

- 1) This clothing is too expensive _____
nī-gihn-sāam taai gwai
- 2) He is quite/rather tall _____
kéuih géi gōu
- 3) He is so tall _____
kéuih gam gōu
- 4) He is too tall _____
kéuih taai gōu
- 5) He is the tallest one _____
kéuih jeui gōu
- 6) This item of clothing is the most expensive _____
nī-gihn-sāam jeui gwai
- 7) This item of clothing is quite nice _____
nī-gihn-sāam géi hóu
- 8) This pencil case is too expensive _____
bāt háap (M: go)
nī-go bāt-háap taai gwai
- 9) Diamonds are really very expensive! _____
jyun-sehk jān-haih hóu gwai

- 10) He is rather tall _____
kéuih béi-gaau gōu
- 11) He is extremely tall _____
kéuih fēng-sèuhng-jī gōu
- 12) He is incredibly tall _____
kéuih m̀h jī géi gōu

C. Using “ge”

1. Using “ge”

- 1) very big apple(s) _____
hóu daaih ge p̀hng gwó
 very big PS apple
 The “whole set” of the modifier is “hóu daaih” here is not monosyllabic, the structural particle is used.
- 2) very delicious food _____
hóu hóu sihk ge yéh
 very good eat PS things
- 3) very expensive pen(s) _____
hóu gwai ge bāt
 very expensive PS pen
- 4) cute baby _____
hóu dāk-yi ge b̀h-bī
- 5) different people _____
m̀h-t̀hng ge yàhn
- 6) very hot coffee _____
hóu yiht ge ga-fē
- 7) very long holiday _____
hóu ch̀uhng ge ga-k̀èih
- 8) very white socks _____
hóu baahk ge maht

- 9) a very big orange _____
yāt go hóu daaih ge cháang
- 10) the most beautiful house _____
juei leng ge ūk
- 11) He is a hardworking student _____
kéuih haih yāt-go k̀ahn-lihk ge hohk-sāang

2. Don’t use “ge”

(1) The modifier is a single syllable

When the modifier is a single syllable, “ge” is skipped

- 1) big apple _____
daaih p̀hng gwó
 big apple
 However, if the “whole set” of the modifier, eg. here is “daaih” is monosyllabic, the structural particle is skipped.
- 2) white socks _____
baak maht
- 3) old clothes _____
gauh sām
- 4) beautiful house _____
leng ūk
- 5) a big orange _____
 MW for orange go
 orange cháang
yāt go daaih cháang
- (2) Possessive case
- In possessive case, the modifier is a noun instead of an adjective. Even if the noun is a single syllable, “ge” isn’t skipped.
- 1) my pen(s) _____
ngóh ge bāt
 my PS pen

- 2) his book(s) _____
 kéuih ge syū

III. Negations and Questions

A. Negation

A.1 Without modifier

m̄h + adj

For negatives, use “m̄h” before the adjectives. However if there is a modifier before it, “m̄h haih” is used instead.

When there is an adverb “not: m̄h”, there is no need to add “very: hóu” before the adjective

- 1) not pretty _____
 m̄h leng
- 2) She is not pretty _____
 kéuih m̄h leng
 she not beautiful
- 3) They are not tall _____
 kéuih-deih m̄h gōu
- 4) I am not happy _____
 ngóh m̄h hōi-sām
- 5) You are not fat _____
 néih m̄h fèih

A.2 With modifier

m̄h-haih + modifier+adj

When “very” or another modifier is used in a negative form, “haih” has to be used as well.

- 1) not very pretty (there is a modifier “very” here) _____
 m̄h-haih hóu leng

- 2) She is not very pretty _____
 kéuih m̄h-haih hóu leng
 she not be very beautiful

- 3) They are not really greedy _____
 greedy: tām sām

kéuih-deih m̄h-haih jān-haih tām-sām

- 4) He is very stern , I’m not so stern _____
 kéuih hóu ok, ngóh m̄h-haih gam ok

- 5) This watch is not too expensive _____
 nī-jek sáu-bīu m̄h-haih taai gwai

- 6) She is not very thin _____
 kéuih m̄h haih hóu sau

B. Questions – Yes / No

B.1 Without Modifier

adj + m̄h + adj + a?

or “haih m̄h haih + modifier + adj”.

- 1) Is she tall? _____
 kéuih gōu m̄h gōu a?

- 2) Are you hot? _____
 néih yiht m̄h yiht a?

B.2 With Modifier

haih m̄h haih + modifier + adj + a?

- 1) Are you very cold? _____
 cold dung

néih haih m̄h haih hóu dung a?

- 2) Is she very tall? _____
 kéuih haih m̄h haih hóu gōu a?

C. Open questions – How...?

- 1) How fat is he? _____
kéuih géi fèih a?
- 2) How heavy is it? _____
géi chúhng a?
- 3) How large is the apartment? _____
gāan ūk géi daaih a?
- 4) How large is your home? _____
néih ūk-kéi géi daaih a?

IV. Comparison of Adjectives

A. Comparative

1. taller (adj + dī)

- 1) taller _____
gōu dī
- 2) He is taller _____
kéuih gōu-dī
- 3) This table is better _____
nī-jēung tóih hóu-dī
- 4) Today is hotter _____
gām-yaht yiht-dī
- 5) This one (referring to a pen) is better _____
nī-jī hóu-dī

2. taller than (adj + gwo)

- 1) taller than _____
gōu gwo

- 2) He is taller than me _____
kéuih gōu-gwo ngóh
- 3) He is fatter than you _____
kéuih fèih-gwo néih
- 4) This one is better than that one (referring to pens) _____
nī-jī hóu-gwo gó-jī
- 5) Today is hotter than yesterday _____
gām-yaht yiht-gwo kàhm-yaht
- 6) Today is far more hotter than yesterday _____
gām-yaht yiht-gwo kàhm-yaht hóu-dō
- 7) Today is slightly hotter than yesterday _____
gām-yaht yiht-gwo kàhm-yaht síu-síu
- 8) Today is a bit hotter than yesterday _____
gām-yaht yiht-gwo kàhm-yaht dī-dī
- 9) He is taller than his younger brother. _____
kéuih gōu gwo kéuih sai-lóu hóu-dō
- 10) He is far taller than his younger brother. _____
kéuih gōu gwo kéuih sai-lóu hóu-dō
- 11) He is a slightly taller than his younger brother. _____
kéuih gōu gwo kéuih sai-lóu síu-síu
- 12) He is a bit taller than his younger brother. _____
kéuih gōu gwo kéuih sai-lóu dī-dī

B. Superlatives

- 1) tallest _____
jeui gōu
most tall
- 2) He is the tallest _____
kéuih jeui gōu

- 3) happiest _____
jeui hōi-sām
- 4) They are the richest _____
 kéuih deih jeui yáuh-chín
- 5) This one is the best _____
 nī go jeui hóu
- 6) This one is the worst _____
 nī go jeui chā
- 7) This one is the cheapest _____
 nī go jeui pèhng
- 8) That one is the most expensive _____
 gó go jeui gwai
- 9) My wife is the best _____
 ngóh taai-tái jeui-hóu
- 10) You are the laziest student _____
 lazy láahn-(doh)
 néih haih jeui-láahn ge hohk-sāang
- 11) I'm the smartest _____
 ngóh jeui lēk
- 12) This one is the cheapest (referring to a pen) _____
 nī-jī jeui pèhng

Unit 3 Adverb

I. Introduction

A. Definition

They modify verbs or adjectives by expressing time, scope, quality, state or degree.

B. Kinds of Adverbs

B.1 Adverbs of degree

They are put after the subject but before the words they modified

1. Vocab

- 1) very _____
hóu
- 2) quite _____
géi
- 3) too _____
 taai
- 4) most _____
 jeui

2. Phrases / Sentences

- 1) Those children very cute _____
 gó-dī sai-mān-jái hóu leng
- 2) quite beautiful _____
géi leng

3) most beautiful _____
jeui leng

4) You are very silly _____
néih hóu sòh

B.2 Adverbs of time

Usually they are put after the subject but before the words they modified. However sometimes, they can also be put before the subject.

1. Vocab

1) now _____
yìh gā

2) always _____
sìhng yaht
whole day

3) sometimes _____
yáuh sǐh
have time

4) still _____
juhng

5) then (soon) _____
jauh

6) already _____
yíh-gīng

2. Phrases / Sentences

1) I am studying now. _____
ngóh yìh-gā duhk-gán syū

2) They always laugh _____
kéuih-deih sìhng-yaht siu

3) He always plays football
kéuih sìhng-yaht tek bō/jūk-kàuh

4) Sometimes I'm not free _____
yáuh-sìh ngóh m̀h-dāk-hàahn

5) Go straight, then you will see it (asking for direction) _____
jìhk-heui, (néih) jauh wúih gin-dóu

6) You always shopping around _____
shopping around h̀ahng-gāi máaih-yéh (lit.: walk streets buy things)
néih sìhng-yaht h̀ahng-gāi máaih-yéh

7) I'm sorry, I'm not free now _____
m̀h-hóu yi-si, ngóh yìh-gā m̀h-dāk-hàahn

8) What are you doing now? _____
néih yìh-gā jòuh-gán māt-yéh a?

B.3 Adverbs expressing tone of speech

1. Vocab

1) however _____
yauh

2) rather _____
nìhng-yún

3) surprisingly, unexpectedly _____
gíng-yìhn / gēui-yìhn

2. Phrases / Sentences

1) You don't know however you said you know! _____
néih m̀h-jī jauh wah jī!

2) I rather take medicine but not do an injection _____
ngóh nìhng-yún sìhk-yeuhk dōu m̀h dá-jām

3) He surprisingly beat his mum _____
kéuih gíng-yìhn dá kéuih mā-mìh

B.4 Adverbs of state/manner 情貌

1. Vocab

- 1) fortunately, luckily _____
hóu chóí
- 2) even _____
juhng
- 3) still _____
juhng-haih
- 4) both ...and ... _____
yauh ... yauh ...
(can repeat more than two times)

2. Phrases / Sentences

- 1) Fortunately, I haven't been late. _____
hóu chóí, ngóh móuh chǐh dou
- 2) Fortunately, I didn't lost my wallet _____
hóu-chóí, ngóh móuh m̄h-gin-(jǒ) go ngàahn bāu
- 3) Peter is even naughtier than David _____
Peter juhng yáih- gwo David
- 4) He is lazy, you are even more lazy _____
kéuih láahn, néih juhng láahn
- 5) It's still very cold now. _____
yǐh-gā juhng-haih hóu dung
- 6) It's still very hot yesterday _____
chàhm-yaht juhng-haih hóu yiht
- 7) He is foolish and lazy _____
kéuih yauh chéun yauh láahn
he both foolish and lazy

- 8) She is both pretty and smart, of course she won't love you _____
kéuih yauh leng yauh lēk, gáng-haih m̄h-wúih jūng-yi néih lā

B.5 Adverbs of scope

It means “all”, “in all case”, “with no exception”. What is modified by “dōu” must be in the plural and placed before “dōu”.

1. Vocab

- 1) also, all _____
dōu
- 2) in total _____
yāt-guhng
- 3) together _____
yāt-chàih
- 4) only _____
jihng-haih
only be

2. Phrases / Sentences

- 1) He is a student, I am also a student _____
kéuih haih hohk-sāang, ngóh dōu haih hohk-sāang
- 2) We all are students _____
ngóh-deih dōu haih hohk-sāang
- 3) He likes coke, I also like coke _____
kéuih jūng-yi yám hó-lohk, ngóh dōu jūng-yi yám hó-lohk
- 4) We all like coke _____
ngóh-deih dōu jūng-yi yám hó-lohk
- 5) \$38.5 in total _____
yāt-guhng sāam-sahp-baat go bun
- 6) We went to watch a movie together _____
ngóh-deih yāt-chàih heui tái-hei

7) He only plays but not doing homework _____
kéuih jihng-haih wáan, m̀h jòuh gūng-fo
he only play, not do homework

8) He has only eaten a little bit food _____
a bit síu síu
kéuih jihng-haih sihk-jó síu síu yéh

B.6 Adverbs expressing repetition/continuous

1. Vocab

1) again (in the past) _____
yauh

2) again (in the future) _____
joi

2. Phrases / Sentences

1) He came again yesterday (in the past) _____
kéuih chàhm-yaht yauh làih

2) He will come again tomorrow (in the future) _____
kéuih tīng-yaht wúih joi làih

B.7 Adverbs expressing estimation

1. Vocab

1) about _____
daaih-yeuk/daaih-koi

2) seems _____
hóu-chíh / chíh-fùh

2. Phrases / Sentences

1) I roughly know how to do it _____
ngóh daaih-yeuk jī-(dou) dím-(yéung) jòuh

2) He seems forget who am I _____
kéuih hóu-chíh m̀h-gei-dāk ngóh haih bīn-go

B.8 Adverbs expressing certainty

1. Vocab

1) of course _____
gáng-haih

2. Phrases / Sentences

1) Of course I know him _____
ngóh gáng-haih sīk kéuih lā!

B.9 Adverbs expressing negation

1. Vocab

1) no _____
m̀h

2) don't have _____
móuh

3) not yet _____
meih

4) no need _____
m̀h sái

Unit 4 Preposition

I. Introductions

A. Definition

Prepositions are words that are placed before nouns, pronouns or phrase to form a prepositional phrase and are used together to express the direction, object, time, place, etc. of an action.

Many prepositional phrase works as adverbials and is placed before the action

Prepositional phrase = Preposition + noun

II. Some prepositions

A. Indicating time, place and direction

A.1 hái – on/in/at

hái = at, in, on

hái combines with a noun or pronoun denoting time, place or direction to form a prepositional phrase which is used as an adverbial modifier to express the time or place of an action.

1. Positive

- 1) She works in Central _____
kéuih hái Jūng-Wàahn fāan-gūng
she in Central back work
- 2) I work in Sheung Wan _____
ngóh hái Seuhng-Wàahn fāan-gūng
- 3) I work in a school _____
ngóh haih hái hohk-haauh jough-yéh ge

I be at school do thing PM

- 4) The children are playing outside _____
dī sai-mān-jái hái chēut-bihn wáan-gán
- 5) I live in TST _____
ngóh jyuh hái Jīm-Sā-Jéui
- 6) He works in Wanchai _____
kéuih hái Wāan-Jái fāan-gūng
- 7) I do my homework at school _____
school: hohk haauh
ngóh hái hohk-haauh jough gūng-fo

2. Negations

- 1) She does not work in Central. _____
kéuih m̄h-haih hái Jūng-Wàahn fāan-gūng

3. Questions

- 1) Does she work in Central ? _____
kéuih haih-m̄h-haih hái Jūng-Wàahn fāan-gūng a?

B. Indicating object

B.1 tūhng – with

“tūhng” combine with a noun or pronoun to modify verbs as adverbial modifiers. It is used to indicate the object of an action

1. Positive

- 1) I told her _____
ngóh tūhng kéuih góng
I with she tell
- 2) I went with my friends _____
ngóh tūhng pàhng yáuh heui
I with friend go

- 3) He told me _____
 kéuih tùhng ngóh góng
 he with me speak
- 4) My friend told me she is unhappy _____
 ngóh pàhng-yáuh tùhng ngóh góng kéuih hóu m̀h hōi-sām
 my friend with me speak she very not happy
- 5) She told me that she lose lots of money in horse racing _____
 kéuih tùhng ngóh góng kéuih dóu-máh syū-jó hóu-dō chín
 she with me speak she gamble horse lose ed much money
- 6) I told them _____
 ngóh tùhng kéuih-deih góng
 I with them speak
- 7) He told his mother he wanted to buy that toy bear _____
 (he with mother speak he want buy that toy bear)
 toy wuhn geuih
 bear hùhng (M: jek)
 kéuih tùhng mā-mìh góng kéuih séung máaih gó-jek wuhn-geuih hùhng
- 8) Mum always plays with us together _____
 (Mum always with us together play)
 mā-mìh s̀hng-yaht tùhng ngóh-deih yāt-chàih wáan

2. Negations

- 1) I didn't told her _____
 ngóh móuh tùhng kéuih góng
- 2) I won't told her _____
 ngóh m̀h-wúih tùhng kéuih góng

C. Indicating the passive

C.1 béi 被 - by

- 1) I am beat by my mum _____
 ngóh béi mā-mìh dá
 I by mother beat

- 2) My money was being stolen _____
 ngóh dī chín béi yàhn tāu-jó
 my MW money by people steal ed
- 3) He was being played practical jokes _____
 kéuih béi yàhn jing gú
 he by people play practical joke
- 4) The dog is stolen by him _____
 jek gáu béi kéuih tāu-jó
 MW (the) dog by him steal ed

Unit 5 Conjunctions

I. Introductions

A. Definition

Conjunctions are used to connect words, phrases or clauses.

B. Kinds of Conjunctions

- 1) and _____
tùhng/tùhng-màaih
- 2) because _____
yān-waih
- 3) therefore _____
só-yíh
- 4) if _____
yùh-gwo
- 5) If this is \$60, I will then buy _____
yùh-gwó luhk-sahp mǎn, ngóh jauh (wúih) máaih
- 6) otherwise _____
yùh-gwó mǎh haih (more casual)
if not
- 7) since _____
gei-yíhn
- 8) although, though _____
sēui-yíhn
- 9) however, but _____
daahn-haih / bāt-gwo

- 10) or _____
waahk-jé/dihng
- 11) for example _____
pei-yùh / làih-yùh
- 12) then _____
gān-jyuh
- 13) How about having meal, then go to watch a movie? _____
(eat finish rice, then watch movie, good not good?)
sihk-yùhn-faahn, gān-jyuh heui tái-hei, hóu mǎh hóu a?
- 14) moreover _____
yíh-ché

Unit 6 Interjections

I. Introductions

A. Definition

An interjection is an exclamation, a crying out or a response.

II. Some interjections

A.1 gám = 'well'

It may serve to fill a pause or transition, often together with a particle.

- 1) Well... let me think about it _____

gám , **dáng** **ngóh** **nám** **nám** **sīn**
well , let me think think first
Here "nám nám" means "think a while"

A.2 āi ya! = 'oh'

It is a negatively charged exclamation, expressing shock or disapproval.

- 1) Oh no, I've forgotten to bring my key!

āi ya! **ngóh** **m̀h** **gei** **dāk** **daai** **só** **sìh** **a!**
oh dear ! I forget bring key PM!

A.3 séi la!

Expresses panic or despair in an emergency.

- 1) I'm dead! I forgot to tell him _____

séi la! **ngóh** **m̀h** **gei** **dāk** **t̀hng** **kéuih** **góng**
dead PM, I not remember with him speak

- 2) Oh I'm dead, I lost the money. _____

séi la, **ngóh** **m̀h-gin-jó** **dī** **chín** **a!**

Unit 7 Onomatopoeias

I. Introductions

A. Definition

An onomatopoeic word is one that imitates the sound of a thing or an action.

- 1) He laughs in the sound 'ha ha'. _____

kéuih **hā** **hā** **gám** **daaih** **siu**
he so great laugh

- 2) The chair down in the sound 'pak' _____

jēung **dang** **'pàahk'** **yāt** **sēng** **dit** **dāi** **jó**
MW chair 'pak' one sound fall down ed

Unit 8 Particles

I. Introductions

A. Definition

Particles are words that are added to words, phrases or sentences to express some additional meanings.

B. Kinds of Particles

- 1) Structural Particles (Structural particle) – PS
- 2) Aspect Particles – PA
- 3) Modal Particles – PM

II. Structural Particles

A. Definition

Structural particles are words that connect words and make them into phrases with certain syntactic construction.

It is also called as structural particles.

B. Kinds of structural particles:

- 1) ge
- 2) gám
- 3) dák

C. ge

If there is a modifier comes before a noun or a noun equivalent, the structural particle “ge” has to be used

C.1 The modifier is a pronoun/proper noun - possessive

Refer to the unit “Nouns” for details

“ge” is also called as “possessive particle” when it is used in possessive case

- 1) his problems _____
kéuih **ge** mahn-tàih
- 2) Peter’s problems _____
Peter **ge** mahn-tàih

C.2 The modifier is an adjective

Refer to the unit “Adjectives” for details

- 1) very big watermelon _____
hóu-daaiah **ge** sāi-gwā
- 2) very pretty and very expensive dress _____
hóu leng, hóu gwai **ge** kwàhn
- 3) very long and very loose trousers _____
hóu chéuhng, hóu fut **ge** fu
- 4) very thick, very heavy and very large winter clothes _____
hóu háuh, hóu chúhng tùhng hóu daaih-gihn **ge** dūng-tīn sām

D. gám

“gám” is used when the Adverbial modifier is adjective

- 1) study quietly _____
hóu jihng **gám** wān jaahp
very quiet PS(ly) study
- 2) eating happily _____
hóu hōi sām **gám** sihk yéh
very happy PS(ly) eating matter
- 3) run quickly _____
hóu faai **gám** jáu

very quick PS(ly) ran

- 4) He study hardly _____
kéuih hóu kàhn-lihk gám wān-jaahp
- 5) He walked carefully _____
kéuih hóu síu-sām gám hàahng
- 6) The child eat quietly _____
go sai-mān-jái hóu jihng gám sihk-yéh
- 7) They sang loudly _____
kéuih-deih hóu daaih-sēng gám cheung-gō
- 8) We read quietly _____
ngóh-deih hóu jihng gám tái-syū
- 9) The old lady crossed the road carefully _____
 old lady pòh pó
 cross the road gwo máh-mouh
go pòh-pó hóu síu-sām gám gwo máh-louh

E. **dāk**

E.1 Degree complement

A degree complement indicates the degree or extent of an action or a thing.

- 1) He walks fast _____
kéuih hàahng dāk faai
- 2) He walks slowly _____
kéuih hàahng dāk maahn
- 3) He can walk very long _____
kéuih hó-yíh hàahng dāk hóu noih
- 4) He can't walk too long _____
kéuih mh-hó-yíh hàahng dāk taai noih

- 5) They did it well _____
kéuih-deih jough dāk hóu
- 6) They didn't do it well _____
kéuih-deih jough dāk mh-hóu
- 7) My elder sister run very quickly _____
ngóh gā-jē jáu dāk hóu faai
- 8) My younger sister walks very slowly _____
ngóh sai-múi hàahng dāk hóu maahn
- 9) He eats fast _____
kéuih sihk dāk faai
- 10) He speaks very loud _____
kéuih góng dāk taai daaih-sēng
- 11) You speak too fast _____
néih góng dāk taai faai
- 12) I learn too slowly _____
ngóh hohk dāk taai maahn
- 13) He walked too fast, I can't follow him _____
 can't follow gān mh dóu (follow not successfully)
kéuih hàahng dāk taai faai, ngóh gān-mh-dóu kéuih

E.2 Potential complement

A potential complement tells the possibility of an action taking place or being realized.

1. **Positive**

- 1) can listen clearly _____
tēng dāk chīng chó
 listen PS(can, possible) clear
- 2) can read _____
tái dāk mīhng
 read PS(can, possible) understand

3) The child can read this letter _____
letter seun (MW: fūng)

go sai-mān-jái tái-dāk-mìhng nī-fūng-seun

4) I can understand his Cantonese _____

ngó tēng dāk mìhng kéuih dī Gwoóng-dūng-wá

5) I can go out _____

ngóh chēut dāk heui

6) You can come in _____

néih yahp dāk làih

7) I can read what he wrote _____

(I read PS understand his write what)

ngó tái dāk mìhng kéuih sé māt-yéh

2. Negations – negate the compliment only

1) I can't understand his Cantonese _____

ngó tēng m̀h mìhng kéuih dī Gwoóng-dūng-wá

2) I can't read his handwriting _____

ngó tái m̀h mìhng kéuih dī jih

3) I can't hear it clearly _____

ngó tēng m̀h chīng-chó

4) I can't read it clearly _____

ngó tái m̀h chīng-chó

3. Negations – negate the verb

1) I can't go out _____

ngóh m̀h chēut dāk heui

2) You can't come in _____

néih m̀h yahp dāk làih

III. Aspect Particles

A.1 Definition

For the details of aspect particles: **jó**, **gwo**, **gán** and **jyuh**, refer to the units of “Verbs”.

IV. Modal Particles

A. Introduction

A.1 Definition

Modal particles help to add various moods such as imperative, exclamatory or declarative.

They are added at the end of sentences and that's why they are also called final particles.

A.2 Notes

There are more than forty different modal particles. Besides, different modal particles may be used at the same time, therefore the possible sets of modal particles are numerous.

All particles including modal particles don't have a concrete meaning. Therefore if you are not sure what modal particles should be used, it's better to just skip them. If you use them incorrectly, the mood of the sentence maybe very different from what you originally meant.

Here we just talk about some usages of a few widely used modal particles. There maybe many different usages of a single particle!

B. Examples

B.1 a

Soften the force of statements or confirmations

