

Elementary Cantonese

^{miu6 tseoy3}
妙趣

^{jyt6}
粵
^{jy5}
語



Where Cantonese is spoken

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第 1 堂

gaai3 siu6 dzi6 gei2

介紹自己

Introducing yourself

deoi3waa2

對話 Dialog

nei5hou2 ngo5giu3
Justin: 你好！我叫 Justin。

nei5hou2 ngo5giu3 nei5hai6bin1dou6lai4gaa3
Patrick: 你好！我叫 Patrick。你係邊度來㗎？

ngo5hai6 gwong2dzau1 lai4ge3 nei5le1 nei5hai6m4hai6gwong2
Justin: 我係廣州來嘅。你咧？你係唔係廣州來㗎？
dzau1lai4gaa3

m4hai6 ngo5hai6 hoeng1gong2 lai4ge3
Patrick: 唔係。我係香港來嘅。

dzou2san4aa3
Patrick: 早晨呀，Sandy！

dzou2san4aa3 keoy5hai6
Sandy: 早晨呀，Patrick！佢係……？

keoy5giu3 keoy5hai6 gwong2dzau1 lai4ge3
Patrick: 佢叫 Justin，佢係廣州來嘅。

nei5hou2
Sandy: Justin 你好！

nei5hou2nei5hai6m4hai6 gwong2dzau1 lai4gaa3
Justin: Sandy 你好，你係唔係廣州來㗎？

m4hai6ngo5hai6 ou3mun2 lai4ge3
Sandy: 唔係，我係澳門來嘅。

你好！

我叫

J: Hello! My name is Justin.

P: Hello! My name is Patrick.
Where are you from?

J: I am from Guangzhou. And you?
Are you from Guangzhou?

P: No. I am from Hong Kong.

Justin: 你好！我叫 Justin。

Patrick: 你好！我叫 Patrick。你係邊度來㗎？

Justin: 我係廣州來嘅。你咧？你係唔係廣州來㗎？

Patrick: 唔係。我係香港來嘅。

P: Good morning, Sandy!

S: Good morning, Patrick! He is...

P: He is Justin. He is from Guangzhou (Canton).

S: Hello, Justin!

J: Hello, Sandy! Are you from Guangzhou?

Sandy: No, I am from Macau.

Patrick: 早晨呀，Sandy！

Sandy: 早晨呀，Patrick！佢係……？

Patrick: 佢叫 Justin，佢係廣州來嘅。

Sandy: Justin 你好！

Justin: Sandy 你好，你係唔係廣州來㗎？

Sandy: 唔係，我係澳門來嘅。

man6man6tai4

問 問題 Asking Questions

dim2gaai2 hai6me1 ji3 si1
- “點解” 係咩意思?

dim2gaai2 dzik1hai6
- “點解” 即係“why”。

dim2gong2
- “where” 點 講 ?

hai6 bin1dou6
- “where” 係 “邊度”。

gam2 bin1go3 hai6me1 ji3 si1
- 噉 “邊個” 係咩意思?

bin1go3 hai6 waak6dze2
- “邊個” 係 “which” 或者 “who”。

- “点解” 系咩意思?
- “点解” 即系 “why”。
- “where” 点讲?
- “where” 系 “边度”。
- 噉 “边个” 系咩意思?
- “边个” 系 “which” 或者 “who”。

ping3jam1gaai3siu6

拼 音 介 紹 Phonetics Romanization of Cantonese

Pinyin Anatomy

韻母 韵母 Final
The final is comprised of a vowel and a coda. The vowels are *aa, a, e, i, o, u, y* and the codas *u, m, n, ng, p, t, k*.

韻尾 韵尾 Syllable Coda
There are 6 syllable codas in Cantonese, 3 nasally voiced and 3 unvoiced. The 3 unvoiced *p, t, k* are short, known as “checked tones” or 入聲 in Cantonese. Since 入聲 does not exist in Mandarin but in English, it is easier to treat these syllables as those in English words (such as the “p” in ship).

聲母 声母 Initial
An initial is a consonant. There are 19 different initials in Cantonese Pinyin.

聲調 声调 Tone
The tones are essential to the meaning of a word, as words that sound similar but with different tones would have totally different meanings. There are 6 tones in Cantonese, one more than in Mandarin.
Unlike in Mandarin, where tones are mostly rising or falling, most tones in Cantonese are flat.

粵

Initials

Unaspirated	Aspirated	Nasal	Fricative	Voiced
b [p]	p [p ^h]	m [m]	f [f]	
d [t]	t [t ^h]	n [n]		l [l]
g [k]	k [k ^h]	ng [ŋ]	h [h]	
gw [k ^w]	kw [k ^{wh}]			w [w]
dz [ts]	ts [ts ^h]		s [s]	j [j]

Note that the consonants in the first column are “voiceless”, meaning the vocal cords don’t vibrate when pronouncing these sounds unlike in English but as in Mandarin. For example, the “b” in Cantonese should be pronounced as the “p” in sport in English, and the “p” should be pronounced as the “p” in pen in English.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantonese_Pinyin

Finals

aa [a:]	aai [a:i]	aaü [a:u]	aam [a:m]	aan [a:n]	aang [a:ŋ]	aap [a:p]	aat [a:t]	aak [a:k]
	ai [ɛi]	au [ɛu]	am [ɛm]	an [ɛn]	ang [ɛŋ]	ap [ɛp]	at [ɛt]	ak [ɛk]
e [ɛ:]	ei [ɛi]	eu [ɛ:u]	em [ɛ:m]		eng [ɛ:ŋ]	ep [ɛ:p]		ek [ɛ:k]
i [i:]		iu [i:u]	im [i:m]	in [i:n]	ing [iŋ]	ip [i:p]	it [i:t]	ik [ik]
o [ɔ:]	oi [ɔ:i]	ou [ɔu]		on [ɔ:n]	ong [ɔ:ŋ]		ot [ɔ:t]	ok [ɔ:k]
u [u:]	ui [u:i]			un [u:n]	ung [ʊŋ]		ut [u:t]	uk [ʊk]
oe [œ:]	eoy [ɛy]			eon [ɛn]	oeng [œ:ŋ]		eot [ɛt]	oek [œ:k]
y [y:]				yn [y:n]			yt [y:t]	
			m [m]		ng [ŋ]			

The six tones¹

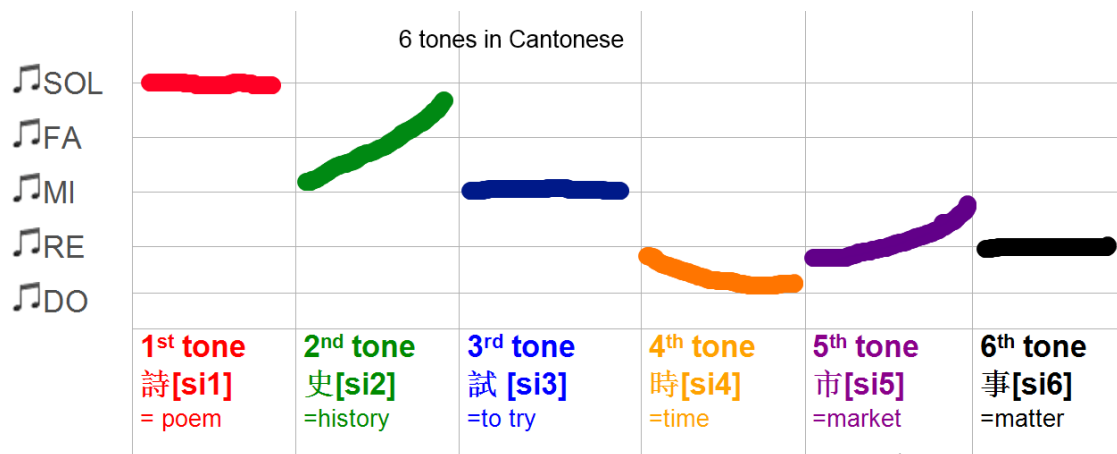
Generally speaking, Cantonese is a tonal language with six phonetic tones.

Historically, finals that end in a stop consonant were considered as “checked tones” and treated separately by diachronic convention, identifying Cantonese with nine tones. However, phonetically these are now considered a conflation of tone and final consonant and are seldom counted as individual tones in modern linguistics.

Tone name	dark flat (陰平)	dark rising (陰上)	dark departing (陰去)	light flat (陽平)	light rising (陽上)	light departing (陽去)
Description	high level, high falling	medium rising	medium level	low falling, very low level	low rising	low level
tone number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Example	詩	史	試	時	市	是
Tone letter	siː˧, siː˨˩	siː˨˩˨˩	siː˨˩	siː˨˩˨˩, siː˨˩	siː˨˩˨˩	siː˨˩
IPA diacritic	síː, sîː	sǐː	sīː	siː˨˩, siː˨˩	siː˨˩	siː˨˩

¹ Cantonese. (2017, January 14). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 06:37, January 14, 2017, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cantonese&oldid=759981841Cantonese#Tones>

Visualizing the six tones



<https://clevercantonese.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/6-tones-in-cantonese.png>

luk6jam1dzip3lung4

六音接龍 Tone Solitaire

dung1gwaa1 jam1ngok6
冬 瓜, 音 樂,

tsaa1 siu1 baan1 maa5
叉 燒, 斑 馬,

hoeng1 dziu1 baa1 si2
香 蕉, 巴 士,

faan1sy2 gung1fo3
番 薯, 功 課

sek6 tau4 mat6 tong4 din6
石 頭, 蜜 糖, 電

nou5 din6si6 sik6faan6 lok6
腦, 電 視, 食 飯, 落

syt3 hok6 dzaap6 haa6 tin1
雪, 學 習, 夏 天,

kek6jyn2 waat6syt3
劇 院, 滑 雪

dzou2 san4 jam2 tsaa4
早 晨, 飲 茶,

tsing2man6 sau2gei1
請 問, 手 機

ngaan5 geng3
眼 鏡,

ji5 dzai2 ngo5
耳 仔, 我

dei6 kei5jip6
哋, 企 業

tsoeng4 geng2 luk2 m4 goi1
長 頸 鹿, 唔 該,

sing4 si5 ping4 gwo2 nai4
城 市, 苹 果, 泥

tou2 tsam4jat6 mun4 hau2
土, 尋 日, 門 口,

jau4seoy2
游 水

kau3juk6 fong3hok6 aat3lik6
扣 肉, 放 學, 壓 力,

sam3seoy2 tau3ming4
滲 水, 透 明,

syt3lei4
雪 梨

tsi3wui6

词汇 Vocabulary

係	hai6	是	be/yes
唔係	m4 hai6	不是	be not/no
係唔係	hai6 m4 hai6	是不是	
你係唔係 ...		你是不是 ...	Are you...?
早晨	zou2 san3	早上好	good morning
邊度	bin1 dou6	哪裏	where
點	dim2	如何	how
點解	dim2 gaai2	爲什麼	why
你	nei5		you
我	ngo5		I/me
佢	keoi5	他 / 她 / 它	he/she/it/him/her
嘅	ge3	的	of
㗎	gaa3		