

Cantonese Lesson 5: Wh-questions
February 8, 2010

Review homework from lesson 2:

1. When are you coming to my house?

Nei5 gei2 si4 lei4 ngo5 uk1 kei1*5 aa3? 你幾時嚟我屋企啊? OR

Nei5 gei2 si3 lei4 taam1 ngo5 aa3? 你幾時嚟探我啊?

2. Why are they going to Alaska in January? (Alaska = aa3 laai1 si1 gaa1 阿拉斯加)
Keoi5 dei6 dim2 gaai2 jat1 jyut6 heoi3 Alaska aa3? 佢哋點解一月去阿拉斯加啊?

Ex 1: Ask the class "Who is going on vacation soon?" Start conversation with person.

Q: Nei5 heoi3 **bin1 dou6** aa3? 你去邊度啊?

Where are you going?

A: Ngo5 heoi3 ____ (place name). 我去____.
I'm going to ____.

Q. (Nei5) **gei2 si4** zau2 aa3? (你)幾時走啊?

When are you leaving?

A. (Ngo5) ____ (time) zau2. (我)____ 走.
I'm leaving ____.

Q. Nei5 **dim2 joeng2** heoi3 gei1 coeng4 aa3? 你點樣去機場啊?

How are you getting to the airport?

A. (Ngo5) daap6 baa1 si2 (heoi3 gei1 coeng4). (我)搭巴士(去機場).
I'm taking the bus.

Question phrase comes in the same place in the sentence as the answer. In English, question words usually come at the beginning of the sentence, but in China question phrases can come anywhere in the sentence. Question phrases usually end with a "aa3" 啊.

Follow the same syntax for questions phrases as you would for a statement:

who + when + where + what

or

when + who + where + what

Review vocabulary of wh-words - see vocab list

"bin1" 邊 = which

Ex 2: Identify correct sentence:

a. Nei5 soeng2 maai5 bin1 tiu4 jyu2 aa3? 你想買邊條魚啊?
Which fish would you like to buy?

b. *Nei5 bin1 soeng2 maai5 tiu4 jyu2 aa3? 你邊想買條魚啊?

(a) is correct because sentence pattern of statement is (subject) + verb + object

bin1 邊 is part of the "object phrase" and needs to be followed with a measure word:

bin1 fuk1 waa2 邊幅畫 - which painting

bin1 gaan1 hok6 haau6 邊間學校 - which school

gei2 幾 = how (many)

gei2 noi6 幾耐 = how long

gei2 do1 幾多 = how many, how much

Q: Jat1 bui1 caa4 gei2 do1 cin4*2 aa3? 一杯茶幾多錢啊?

How much is one cup of tea?

A: (Jat1) go3 bun3. (一)個半
\$1.50

Ex 3. Partner with the person next to you. Form questions by substituting a question word for the phrase in bold type.

a. **My friend** is waiting for us at the theatre.

Ngo5 pang4 jau5 hai2 hei3 jyun2 dang2 ngo5 dei6. 我朋友係戲院等我哋。

Bin1 go3 hai2 hei3 jyun2 dang2 ngo5 dei3 aa3? 邊個係戲院等我哋啊?

b. They are going to NJ **tomorrow**.

Keoi5 dei6 **ting1 jat6** heoi3 New Jersey (san1 zaak6 sai1 zau1 新澤西州). 佢哋聽日去 New Jersey.

Keoi5 dei6 gei2 si4 heoi3 New Jersey aa3? 佢哋幾時去 New Jersey 啊?

c. They are going to **NJ** tomorrow.

Keoi5 dei6 ting1 jat3 heoi3 **New Jersey**. 佢哋聽日去 New Jersey.

Keoi5 dei6 ting1 jat3 heoi3 bin1 dou6 aa3? 佢哋聽日去邊度啊?

Homework: Translate the following: How many times have you eaten sushi before?