

# 有用

jau5 jung6

(meaning "have use")

## Some useful resources for Cantonese

### 1. Top Phrase

# 唔該同我講廣東話

m4 goi1 tung4 ngo5 gong2 gwong2 dung1 waa2

If you haven't done so already, print this out and keep it in your wallet. If people try to speak English to you, just keep showing them this phrase. Better still, as I did, you can put it on the front of a t-shirt or a face mask (it seems that Hong Kong will uphold the face mask rule forever, so at least you can use it to improve your language skills).



Yes, I did walk around HK in this mask!

### 2. Top Websites

- [www.cantonese.sheik.co.uk](http://www.cantonese.sheik.co.uk)

The person behind this website is a genius and all the people who help him are saints. The site contains a fabulous dictionary, with excellent colloquial examples, and a whole load of other resources including a Parser, a magical thing which lets you copy and paste Cantonese text into a box, click a button and get every word translated complete with jyutping.

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- [www.calhk.org](http://www.calhk.org)

The people behind this marvellous initiative are good friends. The main focus is on sharing resources to help families in Hong Kong who are in the local system and who are trying to learn Cantonese (or Mandarin) as an additional language. And that is what CAL stands for: Chinese as an Additional Language. Children from non Chinese-speaking families have been labelled NCS (non-Chinese speaking), when really some of them have learned to speak Chinese just fine, and may have one or two more languages as well.

You will find links to materials designed to support the textbooks (jyutping and meaning) and a wealth of other materials and articles to promote better teaching practices and outcomes. CALHK is run by volunteers and they are always looking for help to add jyutping to materials and create vocabulary lists to help parents with kids in local schools in Hong Kong. This is also a great way to practice Cantonese! Contact Maggie Holmes via the website for more information.

### 3. Top YouTubers

- **Uncle Calvin:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/UncleCalvin>廣東話教室

I love Uncle Calvin - put him on and just play along. Originally intended for toddlers for native Cantonese-speaking families, I find him great for learners of any age who want to get the basics. Not all his material has jyutping attached to it, but if you have engaged a tutor, it is a really useful exercise to ask them to produce a transcript. Then you can work on your best Uncle Calvin impression.

- **Big Circle Cantonese:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/CantoBigCircle>廣東話大圈子

Great series of short videos that help build language in a logical way and with useful contexts. Some videos also focus on particular language issues and all use jyutping and very kindly record both at natural speed and at a slower speed.

- **Hambaanglaang:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNKyBXronmLoYIja3VZG6AQ>

Last, but by no means least, Vivek has done a wonderful job in producing a graded series of stories, both in book form and as cartoon videos - a man after my own heart, though he is way more talented than me. This material is a perfect complement to the stories I have produced for Cantonese beginners with storylines and contexts that will soon have you fitting right into Cantonese speaking scenarios.

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### 4. Top App

- Pleco

An online dictionary for both Mandarin and Cantonese. Sometimes further cross-referencing is required as the dictionary mainly provides jyutping for standard written Chinese, so you may not find all of Cantonese's colourful spoken words. It's still a great resource, with animated characters showing the stroke order for those who also wish to learn to write Chinese.

There are way more resources that I haven't included here, as it can get overwhelming. Basically, for a learner, a good resource will provide the characters (the written word), the jyutping (the sound) and the English (the meaning).

Once you have these things, then learning Cantonese is certainly not impossible. Then, just make sure that your tutor understands that very few learners are able to remember long vocabulary lists and then magically deploy all those words in sentences. Less is most definitely more. Don't be afraid to ask for the language that you want, make sure you are given the character and jyutping, and ask them to record the sentence to your phone or WhatsApp, so that you can practice effectively between lessons.