

歡迎你來學廣東話! Welcome to Cantonese class!

Ever wondered why English is not quite sticking to your students? Perhaps it's your accent or you. Actually, that's not really the reason. Japanese students are constantly immersed in the Japanese language, in their daily lives, in school and classes outside of English class and on the streets and on TV. It's only natural because this *is* Japan. However, during the time these students have with us in English class, they are exposed to English and given the opportunity to practice their English skills for an HOUR out of their entire schedule for the day or week. That is why this one hour in our English class is so important. As the native language teacher, it is our duty to create a classroom environment that maximizes their opportunities to read and write but more importantly allow them the creative freedom to speak and listen to English.

Through this workshop, I want you to consider these important things:

1.) You can learn and teach a foreign language using that language.

English in English, Chinese in Chinese, Japanese in Japanese.

We start out learning languages not by understanding but by mimicking and hearing strains of words form sentences to create meaning. We learn bits and pieces for that language and pick it up to form meaning and express ourselves. Chinese is a native language to me as I grew up speaking the language. My parents created an environment that promoted learning the language as they only spoke to me in that language and would only allow me to eat at dim sum if I could properly order the food myself. It was difficult at first because I grew up in an environment where I was surrounded by English and my only Chinese input was from my parents. However, my parents persisted with only Chinese input starting with instructions and gradually moving to more difficult topics and subjects. Overtime, I was able to gain more confidence in my understanding, as I was able to experiment more with Chinese to perform tasks such as ordering food or asking questions in the Chinese. It takes a good teacher to create the ample environment for their student and challenge and encourage them to become confident and more willing to experiment with the language.

2.) How do your students feel?

One of the major points of the Trading Places workshop is to allow teachers to feel what it's like to be a student in an immersive foreign language class. I'm sure many of your initial reactions to Cantonese were "what language is this?" "Why does it sound so funny?" "What are they saying?" However, I also encourage you to think about how you felt, did it make you uncomfortable? How much did you not understand? How confused were you when you realized it wasn't English we were speaking? These questions you asked yourself are exactly what your students have been through. However, this doesn't mean you should avoid using too much English to use English. Remember, you CAN teach a foreign language using that language. What you should do is be thoughtful of what English you use in the classroom. Use language that they know and use a loud clear voice; avoid speaking too slowly. You want to be more clear than loud.

3.) Be Patient with your Students

If my parents weren't patient with me, they would have ruined some good opportunities to learn how to order food for myself in Chinese. I remember often stumbling to form words to make meaning of a certain food dish I wanted, but thinking back to it, had I not struggled to form these words, I wouldn't know how to order anything when I go for Dim Sum nowadays. Think of a baby when you think of patience, they don't start walking until they fumble, fall and roll around before eventually after lots of practice and encouragement that they take their first steps. Learning is quite similar to this baby, in the beginning the students may not understand everything we say and they may get frustrated and sometimes throw a tantrum. It can be tiring for teachers and that leads them to take short cuts by using less English and more Japanese. Of course we all want our students to understand but this step is crucial to their language learning, they need to fail before they learn. Encourage them until they slowly build up a stronger language sense and eventually they will learn. If a student is having a hard time, be patient and if they don't understand one explanation, there's many other ways of explaining. Try explaining using parts of the English language they understand. Gradually it will become easier for them to understand.

Topic covered in Today's class: Good Morning, How are you? I'm fine~

Basic Greetings:

English	Chinese	Romanization	Jyutping
Good Morning	早晨	jou sun	<i>zou2 san4</i>
Hello	你好	nei hou	<i>nei5 hou3</i>
Goodbye	再見	joi geen	<i>zoi3 gin3</i>

Chinese Pronouns

I	我	ou	<i>ngo5</i>
You	你	nei	<i>nei5</i>

Question and Answer:

How are you?	你好嗎	nei ho ma	<i>nei5 hou3 ma</i>
(I'm) happy	開心	hoi sum	<i>hoi1 sam1</i>
(I'm) fine	好好	ho hou	<i>hou2 hou3</i>
(I'm) hungry	肚餓	tou ou	<i>tou5 ngo6</i>
(I'm) thirsty	口渴	hau hout	<i>hau2 hot3</i>
(I'm) hot	熱	yeet	<i>jit6</i>
(I'm) cold	凍	doung	<i>dung3</i>

About Us and Cantonese

Kevin was born into a Cantonese-speaking family and is his first language. He has no formal education in Cantonese, but speaks exclusively in Cantonese with his family members.

(Karen) I was born in Hong Kong and Cantonese was among my first languages. (Interchangeable with English and Tagalog (the latter in which I no longer speak)) Cantonese is the native language of Hong Kong as it is with the Canton region of Mainland China and Macau. I studied Cantonese under formal education in day care and primary school until the age of 6

before moving to the United States. My parents are both originally from Hong Kong as well and are also bilingual in English and Cantonese. At home, I speak only in Cantonese and even studied at the Chinese University of Hong Kong for a summer quarter during my time as a university student. I graduated from Seattle University, where I studied International Studies, Political Science and Asian Studies as well as Japanese. Language has always been a part that defined my cultural identity and when I took up Japanese in High School, I was surprised to find similarities between Cantonese and Japanese in certain vocabulary words. (For example: 圖書館 *tou4 syu1 gun2* which means library in Cantonese and 図書館 としょかん which means library in Japanese have very similar sounds).

Fun Facts about Cantonese

Among the different dialects of Chinese, Cantonese dates back to at least the Tang Dynasty, making it at least 1600 years old. By comparison, Mandarin, the official language of China is believed to have formed after the Northern Song dynasty, making it roughly 800 years old. Arguably Cantonese is one of the more tonally challenging languages to learn and also one of the more difficult of the Chinese dialects to learn as well. There are 6 tones to Cantonese but some also argue that there is up to 9 as well. When writing Cantonese in English, Cantonese has a form of Romanization called Jyutping but it follows the original tonal sounds rather than English tonal sounds. There is also a Pinyin (Mandarin) reading to each of the characters as well. Also, written Cantonese and spoken Cantonese are structurally different and the way you speak in Cantonese is very different from reading written Cantonese.

