

Eating Out 出外飲食 Chut Ngoi Yam Sik

This lesson introduces you to eating out in a restaurant in Hong Kong. The lesson includes reading a simple menu and learning various menu items, ordering menu items, and learning the different service items.



Cantonese cuisines consist of various styles of cooking from different regions. The two main ones are Chiu Chow (潮州) and Hakka (客家). Chiu Chow cuisine, also known as Swatow food, originated from the city of Swatow in the coastal region of Guangdong. Seafood, goose, and duck are eminent features of this cuisine. Sauces are often sweet, using tangerine or sweet beans for flavor. Chiu Chow chefs are particularly skilled in carving raw vegetables into floral designs, thus bringing forth Hong Kong's most artistic dishes. Two of the most expensive Chinese delicacies – shark's fin and bird's nest – are the pride of Chiu Chow cuisine. A Chiu Chow meal ends with desserts made from taro, water chestnuts, and sugar-syrup, which are then washed down with cups of strong “kungfu” (功夫) tea.

Hakka settlers mainly dwell in Hong Kong's New Territories. When they emigrated from the northern regions of China to Hong Kong, they brought along their own traditional cooking. Their signature dishes are stuffed duck and salt-baked chicken. Hakka cooking also makes do with unusual food sources, such as braised chicken blood or pig brains stewed in Chinese wine.



The most popular cuisine in Hong Kong is certainly 點心 Dim Sum, commonly known as 飲茶 Yum Cha, “Tea drinking”. Dim Sums are snacks of freshly steamed or fried Chinese delicacies, which are enjoyed alongside a pot of fragrant Chinese tea. Large dim sum restaurants offer scores of different varieties but the daily selections will always include steamed shrimp dumplings (蝦餃 har gow), steamed pork and shrimp dumplings (燒賣 siu mai), deep-fried spring rolls

(春卷 tsun quen) and steamed barbecued pork buns (叉燒包 cha siu bao). Dim Sum ladies wheel their trolleys through the bustling teahouses and customers pick the bamboo baskets with the dim sum of their choice. Dim Sum is a specialty of the Cantonese people, and the cooks are highly-regarded as specialists.



1. Look at the sample dim sum menu below. Listen to the speaker and follow along as they read through the menu.

香港點心大酒樓

Heung kong dim sum dai jau lau

HONG KONG DIM SUM RESTAURANT

點心餐牌

dim sum chant pai

Dim Sum Menu

蝦餃	Har Gow	Shrimp Dumpling
燒賣	Siu Mai	Pork Dumpling
春卷	Tsun Quen	Fried Egg Roll
咸水角	Ham Sui Gok	Fried Pork Dumpling
叉燒包	Char Siu Bau	B.B.Q. Pork Bun
芋角	Wu Kok	Taro Cake
山竹牛肉	San Juk Au Yuk	Steamed Beef Meat Ball
排骨	Pie Gwat	Spareribs
鳳爪	Fung Jaau	Chicken Feet

Dining in a Chinese Restaurant

- When going to Chinese restaurants, it is more enjoyable to invite a large group of people so as to sample more dishes. Most Chinese restaurants cater to groups of at least four or more, although tables for two can be found.
- To get into the spirit of Chinese dining, let loose and just enjoy the food. Chinese people are inclined to eat with extreme zest, plenty of soup slurping, and talking. Eating is considered to be a form of celebration.
- The Asian style of eating is to order several dishes of food, which are served in the middle of the table and shared by all. It is different from the Western style of an a-la-carte menu with individual servings. Each diner is served a bowl of rice to complement the dishes on the table. The rice is topped up when finished if desired. When ready to order, simply flag down a waiter by calling out “唔該!” Ng goi (Please!).
- Taking food from the center of the table and putting it directly into your mouth is regarded as impolite. Normally, Chinese people pick the food, put it into their bowls first as a transit, and then into their mouths.
- It is also customary for a guest of a formal or traditional dinner to not finish all the food in the dishes. This is to avoid embarrassing your host who may feel that he or she has not offered enough food. You may only finish the dish if the host offers.
- Drinks always accompany food. Chinese tea is the main drink served in restaurants. Other types of drinks are available, but tea is considered to be the most popular and refreshing, especially after the consumption of oily food. Each table would have a teapot or two, which is constantly refilled. To ask for a refill, simply remove the pot cover and place it at the top of the pot's opening. As a matter of courtesy, refill the cups of your fellow diners first before turning to yours, even when theirs is not empty.
- When dining with the Chinese, try to learn how to use chopsticks. You should only ask for a fork and spoon when all else fails. It is perfectly acceptable for you to lift up your bowl and shovel the tiny grains of rice into your mouth using the chopsticks. Scraping and slurping are not considered a gaffe among the Chinese. The correct method for using chopsticks would be to point together the thin ends of the stick towards the food. One chopstick is held firmly between the joint of your thumb and the inside tip of your index finger. The other stick is held between the tip of your thumb and the tip of your first finger. The first chopstick remains static while you move the second stick in a pincer motion to pick up the food.



2. “I would like a coffee, please.” Listen as you hear patrons place an order or request service.

想點乜嘢呢？

Seung dim mat yeah lei?

What would you like?

我想點杯咖啡，唔該。

Ngo seung dim bui ga fe, ng goi.

I want some coffee, please.

請問想點啲乜呢？

Ching mahn seung dim di mat lei?
Can I help you?

請問點得未呢？

Ching mahn dim duk mei lei?
Are you ready to order?

小姐,唔該俾杯水我。

Siu je, ng goi bei bui seui ngo.
Excuse me, Miss, I would like some water please.

我要汽水, 唔該。

Ngo yiu hai seui, ng goi.
I would like a soda, please.

點得, 唔該一杯熱茶。

Dim duk, ng goi yat bui yi cha.
Yes, we'd like some hot tea.



3. Study the vocabulary list below. Listen to the speaker as you follow along.

Waiter	侍應 / 伙記	si ying / fo gei
Waitress	小姐	siu je
Please	唔該	ng goi
Glass/Cup	杯	bui
Bottle	樽	jeun
Small	細	sai
Medium	中	chung
Large	大	dai
Ice	冰	bing
Fruit Juice	果汁	gwor jap
Cola	可樂	ho lok
Water	水	seui
Coffee	咖啡	ga fe
Beer	啤酒	be jau
Tea	茶	cha
Hot	熱	yi
Cold	凍	dung
Order	點	dim
Get the check	埋單	mai dan



4. Listen to a short dialogue between a waiter and a café patron. Read along and repeat after each speaker.

客人: 伙記, 唔該!

Hak yan: Fo gei, ng goi!

Patron: Excuse me, waiter?

伙記,: 請問想點啲乜呢?

Fo gei : Ching mun seung dim di mat lei?

Waiter: What would you like?

客人: 我想點杯橙汁。

Hak yan: Ngo seung dim bui chang jap.

Patron: I would like an orange soda.

伙記,: 唔好意思,我哋冇橙汁。

Fo gei : Ng ho yi si, ngo dei mo chang jap.

Waiter: I'm sorry. We don't have orange soda.

客人: 口甘有冇可口可樂呀?

Hak yan: Gam yau mo hor hau hor lok ah?

Patron: Well, do you have coca cola?

伙記,: 有, 要大杯, 中杯, 定細杯?

Fo gei : Yau, yiu dai bui, chung bui, ding sai bui.

Waiter: Yes! Large, medium, or small?

客人: 大杯, 唔該, 加冰。

Hak yan: Dai bui, ng goi, gar bing.

Patron: Large, please. With ice.



5. Now, listen to two short dialogues, and fill in the missing information from the list of vocabulary words below. Not all of the words will be used!

Apple 蘋果 ping gwor

Water 水 seui

Coffee 咖啡 ga fe

Cola 可樂 hor lok

Fruit Juice 果汁 gwor jap

Glass 杯 bui

Hot Tea 熱茶 yit cha

Milk Tea 奶茶 nai cha

Large 大 dai
Medium 中 chung
Small 細 sai

Miss 小姐 siu je
Orange 橙 chang

Dialogue Number 1

Patron: Excuse me, _____, I would like some _____.

Waitress: _____.?

Patron: _____, please.

Dialogue Number 2

Waiter: Can I help you?

Patron: Do you have _____?

Waiter: No, we only have _____.

Patron: Do you have _____?

Waiter: Yes we do.

Patron: I would like a(n) _____ please.



6. Look at the restaurant menu below. Repeat the words after the speaker then pause the audio and practice ordering the items.

新世界快餐店
Sun site guy fi chant dim
New World Restaurant

小菜	siu choi	Appetizers	\$10.00
湯	tong	Soup 杯 bui	cup \$10.00
		碗 wun	bowl \$15.00
沙律	sa leut	Salad	\$20.00
薯條	syu tiu	French Fries	\$15.00
漢堡包	hon bou bau	Hamburger	\$35.00
意大利粉	yi dai lei fun	Spaghetti	\$40.00
炸雞	ja gai	Fried Chicken	\$45.00
牛扒	ngau pa	Steak	\$80.00
焗石班	guk sek ban	Baked Rock Cod	\$85.00
焗龍蝦	guk lung ha	Baked Lobster Tail	\$95.00
蛋糕	dan gou	Cake (slice)	\$20.00
雪糕	syut gou	Ice Cream (cup)	\$15.00



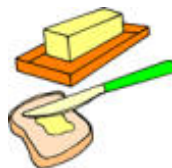
7. Listen and follow along as the speaker reads the names of each food item below.



蘋果
ping gwor



香蕉
heung jiu



牛油
ngau yau



椰菜
yeh choi



蛋糕
dan gou



紅蘿蔔
hung loh bak



車厘子
che lei ji



炸雞
ja gai



餅乾
beng gon



魚
yu



萄提子
pouh taih ji



蜜糖
mat tong



雪糕
syut gou



茄汁
ke jap



西生菜
sai san choi



牛奶
ngau nai



洋葱
yeung chung



橙
chang



粉/麵
fun / min



啤梨
be lei



豬肉
jyu yuk



薯仔
syu jai



沙律
sa leut



胡椒粉, 鹽
wu jiu fun, yim



蝦
ha



湯
tong



牛肉
ngau yuk



士多啤梨
si do be lei



糖
tong



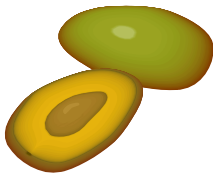
蕃茄
fan ke



米/飯
mai / fan



芝士
ji si



芒果
mong gwor



波蘿
bor loh



西瓜
sai gwa



荔枝
lai ji

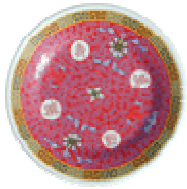
8. Cooking methods. When ordering food in a restaurant, the waiter or waitress may ask you how you would like your meal prepared. Here is a list of options.

Baked	焗	guk
Deep Fried	炸	ja
Fried/Sauté	煎	jin
Steamed	蒸	jing

Boiled	煲	bo
Grilled	燒	siu
Stir Fry	炒	chow



9. Below are some service items you might need when eating out. Click on each picture to listen to each word. Repeat after the speaker. Practice requesting items that you might need. Ex. "I don't have a spoon. May I please have a spoon?"



碟
dip



碗
wun



豉油碟
si yau dip



瓷羹
chi gung



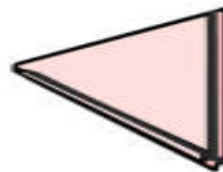
茶杯
cha bui



茶壺
cha wu



杯
bui



餐巾
chaun gun



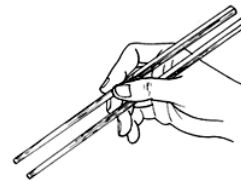
刀
dou



叉
cha



羹
gung



筷子
fai ji



煙灰缸
yin fui gong



飲筒
yum tun

10. What items would you need to eat or drink the following?

沙律 sa leut	
湯 tong	
牛扒 ngau pa	
水 seui	
咖啡 ga fe	
啤酒 be jau	



End-of-Lesson Tasks



1. You overhear several restaurant patrons ordering and requesting various items. Listen closely to each request and fill out the chart with the information. (Note, not all items are requested by each person.) Check the answer key for a Cantonese transcript and the English translation.

Beverage	Food	Service Item
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

2. Create a simple menu with your favorite food items in Hong Kong. Include prices. Then write a short dialogue between a patron and the waiting staff, as the patron orders, from drinks to dessert.

Vocabulary List

Appetizer	小菜	siu choi
Apple	蘋果	ping gwor
Ashtray	煙灰缸	yin fui gong
Baked	焗	guk
Banana	香蕉	heung jiu
Boiled	煲	bo
Bottle	樽	jeun
Bowl	碗	wun
Bread	麵包	min bau
Butter	牛油	ngau yau
Cabbage	椰菜	yeh choi
Cake	蛋糕	dan gou
Carrots	紅蘿蔔	hung loh bak
Cheese	芝士	ji si
Cherries	車厘子	che lei ji
Chicken	雞	gai
Chopsticks	筷子	fai ji
Coffee	咖啡	ga fe
Cola	可樂	hor lok
Cold	凍	dung
Cooked Rice	飯	fan
Cookies	餅乾	beng gon
Cream	花奶	fa nai
Cup	杯	bui
Deep Fried	炸	ja
Drinking Straw	飲筒	yum tung
Fish	魚	yu
Fork	叉	cha
French Fries	薯條	syu tiu

Fried	煎	jin
Fruit Juice	果汁	gwor jap
Get the check	埋單	mai dan
Glass	杯	bui
Grapes	萄提子	pouh taih ji
Grilled	燒	siu
Hamburger	漢堡包	hon bou bau
Honey	蜜糖	mut tong
Hot	熱	yit
Ice	冰	bing
Ice cream	雪糕	syut gou
Ketchup	茄汁	ke jap
Knife	刀	do
Large	大	dai
Lettuce	西生菜	sai san choi
Lychee	荔枝	lai ji
Mango	芒果	mong gwor
Medium	中	chung
Milk	牛奶	ngau nai
Mustard	芥辣	gai lat
Napkin	餐巾	chang gun
Noodles	粉/麵	fun / min
Onions	洋葱	yeung chung
Orange	橙	chang
Order	點	dim
Pear	啤梨	be lei
Pepper	胡椒粉	wu jiu fun
Pineapple	波蘿	bor loh
Plate	碟	dip
Please	唔該	ng goi

Pork	豬肉	jyu yuk
Potatoes	薯仔	syu jai
Rice	米	mai
Salad	沙律	sa leut
Salt	鹽	yim
Shrimp	蝦	ha
Small	細	sai
Soup	湯	tong
Soup Spoon	瓷羹	chi gung
Soy Sauce Dish	豉油碟	si yau dip
Spaghetti	意大利粉	yi dai lai fun
Steak	牛扒	ngau pa
Steamed	蒸	jing
Stir Fry	炒	chow
Strawberries	士多啤梨	si do be lai
Sugar	糖	tong
Tea	茶	cha
Tea Cup	茶杯	cha bui
Tea Pot	茶壺	cha wu
Tea Spoon	羹	gung
Tomatoes	蕃茄	fan ke
Waiter	侍應 / 伙記	si ying / fo gei
Waitress	小姐	siu je
Water	水	seui
Watermelon	西瓜	sai gwar

Answer Key

5.

對話一 Dui wa yat:

Dialogue Number 1:

客人: 唔該, 小姐, 我想點杯可樂。

Hak yun: Ng goi, siu je, ngo seung dim biu hor lok.

Patron: Excuse me, Miss, I would like a Cola.

侍應: 要大杯定細杯?

Si ying: Yiu dai biu ding sai biu?

Waitress: Would you like a large or small?

客人: 大杯, 唔該。

Hak yun: Dai biu, ng goi.

Patron: Large, please.

對話二 Dui wa yi:

Dialogue Number 2:

伙記: 請問想點啲乜呢?

Fo gei: Ching mun seung dim di mut lei?

Waiter: Can I help you?

客人: 請問你哋有冇咖啡?

Hak yun: Ching mun nei dei yau mo ga fe?

Patron: Do you have coffee?

伙記: 唔好意思, 冇。我哋淨係有果汁。

Fo gei: Ng ho yi si, mo. Ngo dei jing hai yau gwor jap.

Waiter: Sorry, no, we only have fruit juice.

客人: 你哋有冇蘋果?

Hak yun: Nei dei yau mo ping gwor?

Patron: Do you have apple?

伙記: 有。

Fo gei: Yau

Waiter: Yes we do.

客人: 我要一杯蘋果汁

Hak yun: Ngo yiu yat biu ping gwor jap.

Patron: I would like an apple juice please.

End of Task

1.

- A. 我要一杯咖啡同埋一件蛋糕。

Ngo yiu yat biu ga fe tung mai yat gin dan go.
I would like a cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

- B. 小姐，我要一碗湯。同埋唔該俾多隻瓷羹同碗我。

Siu je, ngo yiu yat wun tong. Tung mai ng goi bei dor jak chi gang tung wun ngo.
Miss, I would like a bowl of soup. Please give me an extra spoon and bowl as well.

- C. 你食牛扒要用刀叉。

Nei sik ngau pa yiu yung do cha.
You use a knife and fork to eat steak.

- D. 佢要一杯橙汁加冰,同要一枝飲筒。

Kui yiu yat biu chang jup ga bing, tung yiu yat ji yum tung.
She would like a glass of orange juice with ice and a straw.

- E. 我要一份炸雞,一杯可樂,同要茄汁,唔該。

Ngo yiu yat fun ja gai, yat biu ho lok, tung yiu ke jup, ng goi.
I would like some fried chicken, a coke and ketchup, please.

- F. 佢要食煙。唔該俾個煙灰缸佢。

Kui yiu sik yin. Ng goi bei gor yin fui gong kui.
He wants to smoke. Please give him an ashtray.