

lonely planet

Cantonese

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY



Over
10 Million
Phrasebooks
Sold



Cantonese

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

Acknowledgments

Associate Publisher Mina Patria

Managing Editor Annelies Mertens

Editor Branislava Vladislavjevic

Series Designer Mark Adams

Managing Layout Designer Chris Girdler

Layout Designer Clara Monitto

Language Writers Chiu-yee Cheung, Tao Li

Thanks

Carol Jackson, Chris Love, Wayne Murphy, Piers Pickard, Jacqui Saunders

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

6th Edition – July 2013

ISBN 978 1 74220 183 2

Text © Lonely Planet 2013

Cover Image Sidewalk food vendor at night, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Rob Crandall / Alamy ©

Printed in China 0 987654321

Contact lonelyplanet.com/contact

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trade marks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: www.lonelyplanet.com/ip

Although the authors and Lonely Planet try to make the information as accurate as possible, we accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone using this book.

Paper in this book is certified against the Forest Stewardship Council™ standards. FSC™ promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC™ C021741

acknowledgments

This 6th edition of Lonely Planet's *Cantonese phrasebook* is based on the previous edition by the Lonely Planet Language Products team and translators Chiu-yee Cheung and Tao Li.

Chiu-yee Cheung was born in Hong Kong and studied Chinese language and literature at Jinan University, China. He completed his PhD at the University of Sydney and is currently lecturing in Chinese language and culture at the University of Queensland.

Tao Li was born in Guangzhou, China. She graduated from Zhongshan University, China, majoring in Chinese languages and literature.



make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside cover of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

finding things in this book

For easy navigation, this book is in sections. The Basics chapters are the ones you'll thumb through time and again. The Practical section covers basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. The Social section gives you conversational phrases, pick-up lines, the ability to express opinions – so you can get to know people. Food has a section all of its own: gourmets and vegetarians are covered and local dishes feature. Safe Travel equips you with health and police phrases, just in case. Sustainable Travel, finally, completes this book. Remember the colours of each section and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the two-way traveller's Dictionary for the word you need.

being understood

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language. You don't even need to look at the language itself, but you'll get used to the way we've represented particular sounds. The pronunciation chapter in Basics will explain more, but you can feel confident that if you read the coloured phrase slowly, you'll be understood.

communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. 'Local talk' boxes show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. 'Listen for ...' boxes supply the phrases you may hear. They start with the language (so local people can point out what they want to say to you) and then lead in to the pronunciation guide and the English translation.

aboutca ntonese.....8

map	8	introduction	9
-----------	---	--------------------	---

basics.....11

pronunciation	11	verbs.....	29
vowel sounds	11	word order	30
consonant sounds.....	12	glossary	32
tones	13	language difficulties	33
a-z phrasebuilder	15	numbers & amounts	35
contents.....	15	cardinal numbers.....	35
adjectives	17	ordinal numbers	36
adverbs	17	fractions	36
be.....	18	counters/classifiers	37
classifiers	19	useful amounts.....	38
demonstratives	20	time & dates	39
imperatives.....	21	telling the time	39
negation.....	22	the calendar.....	40
nouns	22	present	41
personal pronouns	23	past.....	42
possessive pronouns.....	24	future	42
prepositions.....	25	during the day	44
questions	27	money	45
requests	29		

practical47

transport	47	finding	
getting around	47	accommodation	69
tickets.....	48	booking ahead &	
luggage.....	51	checking in	70
plane	52	requests & queries.....	72
bus & coach	53	complaints	74
subway, train & tram	54	checking out.....	75
boat	55	camping.....	77
taxi	57	renting.....	77
car & motorbike	58	staying with locals.....	78
bicycle.....	62	shopping	79
local transport.....	64	looking for.....	79
border crossing	65	making a purchase.....	79
border crossing	65	bargaining.....	81
at customs.....	66	books & reading	81
directions	67	clothes	82
accommodation	69	electronic goods	83

hairdressing	83	getting in	96
music	84	tours	97
photography	84	business	99
repairs	86	looking for a job	99
communications	87	doing business	100
the internet	87	senior & disabled	
mobile/cell phone	89	travellers	103
phone	89	children	105
post office	91	travelling with children	105
banking	93	talking with children	107
sightseeing	95	talking about children	108

social 109

meeting people	109	pick-up lines	135
basics	109	rejections	136
greetings & goodbyes	110	getting closer	137
addressing people	112	sex	137
making conversation	113	love	139
nationalities	114	problems	140
age	114	leaving	140
occupations & studies	115	beliefs & cultural	
family	116	differences	141
farewells	118	religion	141
interests	119	cultural differences	142
common interests	119	art	143
music	120	sport	145
cinema & theatre	121	sporting interests	145
feelings & opinions	123	going to a game	147
feelings	123	playing sport	148
opinions	124	badminton, squash	
politics & social issues	125	table tennis & tennis	150
the environment	127	cycling	151
going out	129	extreme sports	151
where to go	129	golf	152
invitations	131	soccer/football	153
responding to		water sports	154
invitations	132	outdoors	155
arranging to meet	133	hiking	155
drugs	134	beach	158
romance	135	weather	159
asking someone out	135	flora & fauna	160

food161

eating out 161

- basics..... 161
- finding a place to eat 162
- restaurant 164
- at the table..... 166
- talking food 167
- methods of
preparation..... 168
- in the bar 169
- nonalcoholic drinks 170

- alcoholic drinks 172
- drinking up 173

self-catering 175

- buying food 175
- cooking utensils 178

vegetarian &

special meals..... 179

- ordering food..... 179
- special diets & allergies 180

menu decoder 181

safe travel.....189

essentials..... 189

- emergencies..... 189
- police 190

health..... 193

- doctor 193
- symptoms & conditions 196

- women's health..... 198

- allergies..... 199

- alternative treatments 200

- parts of the body 201

- pharmacist 202

- dentist..... 203

sustainable travel205

dictionaries209

- english–cantonese
dictionary..... 209

- cantonese–english
dictionary..... 237

index255

cantonese



- official language
- widely spoken



For more information, see the **introduction**.