

## Chapter 1 : Cantonese phonology - WikiVisually

*The standard pronunciation of Cantonese is that of Guangzhou, also known as Canton, the capital of Guangdong Province. Hong Kong Cantonese is related to the Guangzhou dialect, and the two diverge only slightly.*

Given the traditional predominance of Cantonese within Hong Kong, it is the de facto official spoken form of the Chinese language used in the Hong Kong Government and all courts and tribunals. It is also used as the medium of instruction in schools, alongside English. A similar situation also exists in neighboring Macau , where Chinese is an official language alongside Portuguese. As in Hong Kong, Cantonese is the predominant spoken variety of Chinese used in everyday life and is thus the official form of Chinese used in the government. The Cantonese spoken in Hong Kong and Macau is mutually intelligible with the Cantonese spoken in the mainland city of Guangzhou , although there exist some minor differences in accent, pronunciation and vocabulary. Standard Cantonese and closely related dialects are highlighted in pink. Cantonese first developed around the port city of Guangzhou in the Pearl River Delta region of southeastern China. On the mainland, Cantonese continued to serve as the lingua franca of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces even after Mandarin was made the official language of the government by the Qing dynasty in the early s. A proposal to switch some programming on Guangzhou television from Cantonese to Mandarin was abandoned following massive public protests, the largest since the Tiananmen Square protests of As a major economic center of China, there have been recent concerns that the use of Cantonese in Guangzhou is diminishing in favour of Mandarin, both through the continual influx of Mandarin-speaking migrants from impoverished areas and strict government policies. As a result, Cantonese is being given a more important status by the natives than ever before as a common identity of the local people. Hoa people In Vietnam , Cantonese is the dominant language of the ethnic Chinese community, usually referred to as Hoa , which numbers about one million people and constitutes one of the largest minority groups in the country. Many speakers reflect their exposure to Vietnamese with a Vietnamese accent or a tendency to code-switch between Cantonese and Vietnamese. The dialect is also widely spoken as well in the town of Sekinchan in the district of Sabak Bernam located in the northern part of Selangor state and also in the state of Perak , especially in the state capital city of Ipoh and its surrounding towns of Gopeng , Batu Gajah and Kampar of the Kinta Valley region plus the towns of Tapah and Bidor in the southern part of the Perak state, and also widely spoken in the eastern Sabahan town of Sandakan as well as the towns of Kuantan , Raub , Bentong and Mentakab in Pahang state and they are also found in other areas such as Sarikei , Sarawak and Mersing , Johor. Although Hokkien is the most spoken variety of Chinese and Mandarin is the medium of education at Chinese-language schools , Cantonese is largely influential in the local Chinese-language media and is used in commerce by Chinese Malaysians. Television networks in Malaysia regularly broadcast Hong Kong television programmes in their original Cantonese audio and soundtrack. Cantonese radio is also available in the nation and Cantonese is prevalent in locally produced Chinese television. Chinese Singaporeans and Languages of Singapore In Singapore , Mandarin is the official variety of the Chinese language used by the government, which has a Speak Mandarin Campaign SMC seeking to actively promote the use of Mandarin at the expense of other Chinese varieties. Cantonese drama series on terrestrial TV channels are instead dubbed in Mandarin and broadcast without the original Cantonese audio and soundtrack. However, originals may be available through other sources such as cable television and online videos. Furthermore, an offshoot of SMC is the translation to Hanyu Pinyin of certain terms which originated from southern Chinese varieties. Forms of popular culture from Hong Kong, such as television series , cinema and pop music have become popular in Singaporean society, and non-dubbed original versions of the media became widely available. Consequently, there has been a large number of non-Cantonese Chinese Singaporeans being able to understand or speak Cantonese to some varying extent, with a number of educational institutes offering Cantonese as an elective language course. While Teochew speakers form the majority of the Chinese population in Cambodia , Cantonese is often used as a vernacular in commerce and with other Chinese variant groups in the nation. Cantonese is the fourth most-spoken variety of Chinese in Thai Chinese households after Teochew , Hakka and Hainanese.

Chinese-language schools in Thailand have also traditionally been conducted in Cantonese. Furthermore, Cantonese serves as the lingua franca with other Chinese communities in the region. However, it has a relatively minor presence compared to other Southeast Asian nations, being the fourth most spoken Chinese variety after Hokkien, Hakka and Teochew. Cantonese has traditionally been the dominant Chinese variant among Chinese populations in the Western world. Chinese is the third most widely spoken non-English language in the United States when both Cantonese and Mandarin are combined, behind Spanish and French. The majority of Chinese emigrants have traditionally originated from Guangdong and Guangxi, as well as Hong Kong and Macao beginning in the latter half of the 20th century and before the Handover and Southeast Asia, with Cantonese as their native language. However, more recent immigrants are arriving from the rest of mainland China and Taiwan and most often speak Standard Mandarin Putonghua as their native language, [36] [37] although some may also speak their native local variety, such as Shanghainese, Hokkien, Fuzhounese, Hakka, etc. As a result, Mandarin is becoming more common among the Chinese American community. The increase of Mandarin-speaking communities has resulted in the rise of separate neighborhoods or enclaves segregated by the primary Chinese variety spoken. Socioeconomic statuses are also a factor as well. In contrast, Southern California hosts a much larger Mandarin-speaking population, with Cantonese found in more historical Chinese communities such as that of Chinatown, Los Angeles, and older Chinese ethnoburbs such as San Gabriel, Rosemead, and Temple City. This has led to a linguistic discrimination that has also contributed to social conflicts between the two sides, with a growing number of Chinese Americans including American-born Chinese of Cantonese background defending the historic Chinese-American culture against the impacts of increasing Mandarin-speaking new arrivals. According to the Canada Census, there were, Canadian residents who reported Cantonese as their native language. As in the United States, the Chinese Canadian community traces its roots to early immigrants from Guangdong during the latter half of the 19th century. Chinese-speaking immigrants from conflict zones in Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam, arrived as well, beginning in the mids and were also largely Cantonese-speaking. Unlike the United States, recent immigration from mainland China and Taiwan to Canada has been small, and Cantonese still remains the predominant Chinese variety in the country. France[ edit ] Among the Chinese community in France, Cantonese is spoken by immigrants who fled the former French Indochina Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos following the conflicts and communist takeovers in the region during the s. While a slight majority of ethnic Chinese from Indochina speak Teochew at home, knowledge of Cantonese is prevalent due to its historic prestige status in the region and is used for commercial and community purposes between the different Chinese variety groups. As in the United States, there is a divide between Cantonese-speakers and those speaking other mainland Chinese varieties. Since the late 20th century, however, Mandarin- and Wu-speaking migrants from mainland China have outnumbered those from Macau, although Cantonese is still retained among mainstream Chinese community associations. It maintained this status until the mids, when a heavy increase in immigration from Mandarin-speakers largely from Mainland China led to Mandarin surpassing Cantonese as the dominant Chinese dialect spoken. Cantonese is the third most-spoken language in Australia. In the census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics listed, and, speakers of Mandarin and Cantonese, respectively. Yue Chinese Chinese dictionary from the Tang dynasty. Modern Cantonese pronunciation preserves almost all terminal consonants -m -n -ng, -p -t -k from Middle Chinese. During the Southern Song period, Guangzhou became the cultural center of the region. Meanwhile, Cantonese has remained the official variety of Chinese in Hong Kong and Macau, both during and after the colonial period. Cantonese culture Spoken Chinese has numerous regional and local varieties, many of which are mutually unintelligible. Most of these are rare outside their native areas, though they may be spoken outside of China. Many varieties also has Literary and colloquial readings of Chinese characters for newer standard reading sounds. Since a Qing dynasty decree, China has promoted Mandarin for use in education, the media, and official communications. Nevertheless, there have been recent attempts to minimize the use of Cantonese in China. The most notable has been the proposal that Guangzhou Television increase its broadcast in Mandarin at the expense of Cantonese programs. This however led to protests in Guangzhou, which eventually dissuaded authorities from going forward with the proposal. Cantonese is the predominant Chinese variety spoken in Hong Kong and

Macau. In these areas, public discourse takes place almost exclusively in Cantonese, making it the only variety of Chinese other than Mandarin to be used as an official language in the world. Because of their dominance in Chinese diaspora overseas, standard Cantonese and its dialect Taishanese are among the most common Chinese languages that one may encounter in the West. Increasingly since the Handover, Cantonese has been used as a symbol of local identity in Hong Kong, largely through the development of democracy in the territory and desinicization practices to emphasise a separate Hong Kong identity. While older Taiwanese immigrants have learned Cantonese to foster integration within the traditional Chinese American populations, more recent arrivals from the Mainland continue to use Mandarin exclusively. This has contributed to a segregation of communities based on linguistic cleavage. In particular, some Chinese Americans including American-born Chinese of Cantonese background emphasise their non-Mainland origins e. Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam, etc. Many artists from the Mainland and Taiwan have learned Cantonese to break into the market.

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In connected speech, these words tend to be spoken in their weak forms. This phenomenon of reducing the pronunciations of function words to their weak forms in connected speech has no parallel in Cantonese.

**Linkage** In English connected speech, words are sometimes linked together. This often happens when two vowels occur next to each other across word boundaries. In contrast, neither of these linking phenomena is found in Cantonese.

**Learner Difficulties** The foregoing sections examine the major differences between the English and Cantonese phonological sub-systems. We have shown that English and Cantonese differ not only in their phoneme inventories, but also in the characteristics of the sounds, the distributions of phonemes, and the permissible syllable structures and rhythm. In this section we will explore common pronunciation problems and difficulties encountered by Cantonese speakers when learning English. Corder, ; Hung, , most of the English pronunciation problems encountered by native speakers of Cantonese may be attributed to systematic phonological differences between the two languages. Anderson, ; Avery et al. Below, we will briefly outline pronunciation problems and difficulties by taking each of the following in turn: Cantonese learners of English also have problems with English voiced plosives in the syllable-initial position.

**English and Cantonese Phonology 79 Fricatives** The gap between the inventories of English and Cantonese fricatives creates much difficulty for Cantonese learners of English. Substitution by a near sound in the native language seems to be the most common strategy used, especially when they come across a difficult or unfamiliar sound. The learning difficulty is further compounded by the defective distribution of this sound: This may help explain why Cantonese speakers tend to find it hard to distinguish the long and short vowel contrasts in English. Depending on individual learners, some may use a short vowel for a long one, others a long vowel for a short one; still English and Cantonese Phonology 81 others may produce a vowel sound which is somewhere in between the long and short vowels when pronouncing either one.

**Diphthongs** Cantonese speakers have problems in articulating certain diphthongs and tend to replace them by a similar pure short vowel. This problem is most marked when the diphthong is followed by a nasal or a lateral as shown in these examples. Still another problem is that some diphthongs in English are pronounced as a combination of two discrete vowels separated by a glottal stop.

**Consonant clusters** Unlike English, Cantonese has no consonant clusters. In trying to cope with consonant clusters, Cantonese learners will tend to use deletion or epenthesis. Deletion simplifies a consonant cluster by reducing the number of consonants which occur together, while epenthesis breaks up consonant clusters by the insertion of a vowel, thus creating an extra syllable in which the onset contains only one consonant Hung, Deletion is commonly found in both word-initial and word-final positions, but epenthesis is more often found in initial position or across word boundaries. It is probable that due to the avoidance of consonant clusters, Cantonese learners of English tend to have problems pronouncing the past tense marker. Apart from deletion, epenthesis is also used to overcome word-final consonant clusters, though sparingly. Deletion and epenthesis are both commonly used to simplify word-initial consonant clusters. Words in connected speech Since no Cantonese syllables are reduced to a weak form, Cantonese speakers of English tend to pronounce English function words in their strong forms even in connected speech, giving an unnatural and foreign-sounding impression. The phenomena of linkage are often ignored by Cantonese speakers. Cantonese students tend to separate words through the use of pauses instead of linking the sounds together, giving a very staccato rhythm to their speech Avery et al. Rhythm Because native speakers of Cantonese are accustomed to pitch changes within syllables only, whereas in English pitch changes are found over larger stretches such as phrases or clauses Tay, In contrast, the English equivalents, international airport and John has learnt French before, are usually spoken only with the underlined syllables stressed. The syllables that are not underlined are normally spoken with a much faster rhythm and a weaker intensity, resulting in a more or less equal interval between the stressed syllables. There is evidence that Cantonese learners of English often

transfer the Cantonese rhythm into English. Conclusion Based on a detailed comparison and contrast of the major differences between the English and Cantonese phonological sub-systems in this article, we have explored the main difficulties that Cantonese speakers may have when learning English pronunciation. This has clear implications for the teaching of English pronunciation to Cantonese speakers. A heightened awareness of the contrastive differences between the two phonological systems will be helpful at least to some extent in facilitating the overcoming of the pronunciation problems. To help learners overcome such difficulties, ESL teachers should be informed of the sources of the problems and design remedial teaching programmes accordingly. Teachers should also determine the relative gravity of various pronunciation errors and set up a system of teaching priorities. We believe that pronunciation errors which affect intelligibility or create communication problems should be given priority in remedial teaching. Correspondence Any correspondence should be directed to Alice Y. The description of the Cantonese phonological system in this paper is essentially based on norms of pronunciation in Hong Kong. Bauer and Benedict, , Lee, Put in another way, a Cantonese syllable has more than chance probability of being a word, but it may also be submorphemic. For the sake of convenience, in this paper we will give illustrations of Cantonese syllables which have morphemic status wherever possible cf. DeFrancis, , , Bauer, In this paper, they are treated as unitary consonants since they are coarticulated sounds with simultaneous Language, Culture and Curriculum.

## Chapter 3 : Talk:Cantonese phonology - Wikipedia

*Template:Cantonese language The standard pronunciation of the Cantonese language is that of Guangzhou, also known as Canton, the capital of Guangdong Province. Hong Kong Cantonese is related to the Guangzhou dialect, and the two diverge only slightly.*

## Chapter 4 : Cantonese - Wikipedia

*A Cantonese syllable usually consists of an initial (onset) and a final (rime). There are about syllables in the Cantonese syllabary. On the other hand, there are new words circulating in Hong Kong which use combinations of sounds which had not appeared in Cantonese before, such as get 1 (note).*

## Chapter 5 : Cantonese phonology - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

*Cantonese syllables []. A syllable generally corresponds to a word or character. Most syllables are etymologically associated with either standard Chinese characters or colloquial Cantonese characters.*

## Chapter 6 : Cantonese phonology | EX Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

*The Phonology of Guangzhou Cantonese [Ming Chao Gui] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Cantonese, also widely known as Yue Yu or Guangdong Hua in a much broader sense, is in fact one of the many varieties of the Yue Family of Chinese dialects.*

## Chapter 7 : Modern Cantonese phonology - Robert S. Bauer, Paul K. Benedict - Google Books

*Cantonese phonology. 1 Cantonese phonology This article is part of the series on Cantonese language Yue Chinese Grammar â,→ â,→ Measure words Pronouns Orthography.*

## Chapter 8 : Cantonese phonology | Revolv

*The present volume surveys the phonology of Cantonese; syntax and vocabulary are dealt with in subsequent studies. The series provides a systematic an detailed linguistic analysis of the Chinese languages.*

Chapter 9 : Cantonese phonology - Wikipedia

*Cantonese is a variety of Chinese spoken in the city of Guangzhou (also known as Canton) and its surrounding area in southeastern China. It is the traditional prestige variety and standard form of Yue Chinese, one of the major subgroups of Chinese.*