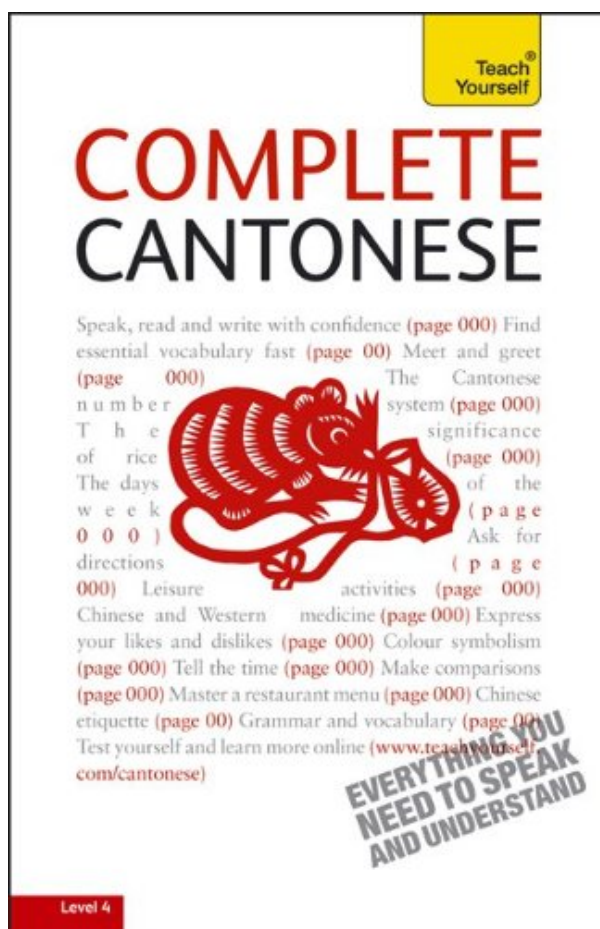


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**Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) By Hugh Baker, Pui-Kei Ho** How can you change your mind to be much more open? There numerous sources that could aid you to boost your ideas. It can be from the other encounters and also story from some individuals. Reserve Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) By Hugh Baker, Pui-Kei Ho is among the trusted sources to get. You could locate so many books that we discuss right here in this internet site. And now, we show you one of the best, the Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) By Hugh Baker, Pui-Kei Ho

## **Review**

"The living language of Hong Kong leaps from every page in a way I have not seen in any other textbook of Cantonese... the new Teach yourself Cantonese is unsurpassed." Daniel Kane, review in Bulletin of the School of Oriental & African Studies

## **About the Author**

Hugh Baker taught Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, for 36 years. Ho Pui Kei teaches Cantonese as a foreign language in Hong Kong

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# **COMPLETE CANTONESE: A TEACH YOURSELF GUIDE (TEACH YOURSELF LANGUAGE) BY HUGH BAKER, PUI-KEI HO PDF**

It's easy to teach yourself Cantonese!

Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide provides you with a clear and comprehensive approach to Cantonese, so you can progress quickly from the basics to understanding, speaking, and writing Cantonese with confidence.

Within each of the 24 thematic chapters, important language structures are introduced through life-like dialogues. You'll learn grammar in a gradual manner so you won't be overwhelmed by this tricky subject. Exercises accompany the texts and reinforce learning in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This program also features current cultural information boxes that reflect recent changes in society.

Features:

Review

"The living language of Hong Kong leaps from every page in a way I have not seen in any other textbook of Cantonese... the new Teach yourself Cantonese is unsurpassed." Daniel Kane, review in Bulletin of the School of Oriental & African Studies About the Author

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Dale Hayes

By Roderick Dale Hayes

I think this is a great book for learning cantonese. It uses the Yale system of romanization so you will need to get the hang of that first. Once you do it will become much easier to pronounce what you read. With no background in this language I've been studying cantonese for about three years and have found that for me the Yale system is the best. Having said that I must add that this book is great for learning to read and write chinese characters. If I had to do it over I would start out learning to read the dialogues in the characters rather than any romanized system. This will slow you down some but you will find that as you progress you will understand new words better when you see characters used that you already recognize. As far as pronunciation is concerned I had a lot of help from cantonese speaking friends. Also I used the Pimsleur 30 CD audio course which is excellent for learning pronouciation. I wish Pimsleur had additional more advanced courses available for additional study. I personally feel that once you have a basic familiarization with this book, say 8 to 10 chapters, you would then have great success with the Pemsleur course. After that finnish up with this book.Pimsleur reccomends that you use no other course with their's but I think getting the basics with this book first would be better. That's my opinion anyway. The only down side of this book is in each chapter there is no english translation for the dilogue. You must rely on vocabulary that you have built as you've progressed. Also I am now ordering my third copy of the book because they just fall apart with use. I'll admit I can be a little hard on study books.

The bottom line is you can't go wrong with this book and I absolutely love studying cantonese. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A awesome book to get started in Cantonese but it's far from perfect...

By Frankie

Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide by Hugh Baker is a great book to get started with when you want to learn Cantonese. This book uses Yale Cantonese Romanization which is the most intuitive Romanization system for native English speakers. The book is broken up into 26 different chapters with two dialogues and sets of vocabulary each. There are also short exercises at the end of each chapter to back up what you have learned. Furthermore, there are grammatical explanation sections as well as cultural insight sections throughout the chapters to ensure that you not only learn the grammatical mechanics of Cantonese, but the culture behind it as well. There is also a Cantonese to English dictionary in the back of the book that you can use to look up the specific meanings of words you have covered, and what chapter in the book the word first appeared. There is also a grammatical summary section in the back of the book that summarizes all of the Cantonese grammar taught throughout the book. Finally, there are four revision sections that use all of the vocabulary and grammar up until that point in the book. By mastering these revision sections you can ensure that you have not missed much in the past chapters of the book. The only downside is that there are not Cantonese characters for these revision sections. therefore, you have to depend on your Cantonese knowledge up until that point to figure out what is being said(99% of native Cantonese speakers cannot read Cantonese Romanization and will be unable to help you).

I really like this book and use it when I conduct my Cantonese lessons, but there are several things about this book that need to be fixed in future revisions. First, my biggest gripe with Complete Cantonese is that it still uses a seventh "high falling tone" in Cantonese. While this is great for reference, the truth is that the "high falling tone" has become combined with the "high tone" in modern Cantonese, and is rarely distinguished anymore except in a few rare cases. Therefore, you will need to go through the entire book and change all of the "high falling tones" into "high tones" which can be troublesome and annoying. Second, the recordings do not match the dialogues in the lessons. This is because the book has been revised several times and the publisher never bothered to update the recordings to reflect these changes. Third, many of the Cantonese characters used in the book are not standard. I suppose you can argue that there is no standard set of characters for Cantonese, but there is an unofficial set used by native Cantonese speakers, and book does not use them. Fourth, some of the phrasing in this book are rather outdated and awkward in 2014. There is nothing worse than wasting your time learning something archaic that will result in a native speaker laughing at you when you say it. Fifth, the binding of this book is rather cheap. I treat my books with care, but this book has fallen apart on me a few different times(I'm on my third copy). Sixth, the book uses "lak" an awful lot when a simple "la" would do just fine. Seventh, this books mixes up the 一 and 二 characters constantly. The Romanization is always correct, but the characters are constantly switching around(一 is typically "tone one" while 二 is typically "tone 3"). Finally, the book progresses at a fast pace for many learners. I've had several students complain to me that this book moves along too fast. Therefore, I have to frequently supplement the material in this book with Colloquial Cantonese, so that my students are more comfortable with the combined grammar and vocabulary of both books to move along in this book.

In any case, despite these shortcomings, I think this book is the best readily available Cantonese book on the market today. It's very consistent and seriously challenges the learner to improve their Cantonese at a rapid rate. Once you master the Yale system and are familiar with the tones in Cantonese, you will have a strong enough foundation to take full advantage of this book. After you have mastered this book, you will possess the skills to move on to the intermediate level in Cantonese and beyond. If Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide is your first step in your Cantonese journey, it's a step well placed.

PROS:

- \* Detailed introduction to the Yale Cantonese Romanization system.
- \* Detailed description of the Cantonese tonal system.
- \* Yale Romanization most intuitive Cantonese Romanization system for native English speakers.
- \* 26 uniquely different chapters each with two dialogues and sets of vocabulary.
- \* The dialogues and vocabulary are interesting and practical.
- \* Cultural insight sections that explain Hong Kong and Cantonese culture.
- \* Detailed grammatical explanations as well as a grammatical summary section in the back of the book.
- \* Recordings to accompany the dialogues(a bit inaccurate though).
- \* Four revision chapters that summarize everything you have learned up until that point.
- \* A Cantonese to English dictionary in the back of the book.
- \* Fairly inexpensive.

#### CONS:

- \* The seventh "high falling tone" in Cantonese is included which is not really distinguished anymore in modern Cantonese.
- \* Recordings don't match the dialogues.
- \* Cantonese characters are not standard and are at times awkward.
- \* Some outdated and awkward phrasing that is not used anymore in 2014.
- \* Binding is weak and the book will eventually fall apart with regular use.
- \* Some of the characters are outright incorrect, but the Romanization is always correct(stick with that when in doubt).

a pretty good book

By William A.

Overall, a pretty good book. In all honesty, this is probably as good as it gets when it comes to Cantonese textbooks. Your only other options are the Sydney Lau books from 1973, or the Yip Intermediate Cantonese text from 2000.

That being said, I have a few reservations.

First, this book has a terrible identity crisis. It cannot decide whether or not it wants to be beginner, intermediate, or advanced text. After the first few chapters, each successive chapter is littered with dozens of nouns and adjectives that are totally useless to a beginner who can still barely form sentences, let alone discuss the economy of Hong Kong. I understand that they want to go with the "complete" aspect and provide everything you need, but it seems haphazardly put together without much thought for what people might think. As someone who has studied Mandarin for 3 years, I strongly believe that introducing advanced vocabularies while still learning the basics doesn't do any good.

To add to this, this book seems to assume the reader has no underlying knowledge of Mandarin. I suppose this is fair, but I imagine the folks studying Cantonese who have no exposure to Mandarin are an incredibly small minority. The example sentences are written in the bizarre romanization system rather than Chinese characters, which is just appalling for a Chinese textbook.

Secondly, for Christ's sake, please update the audio materials. It starts out as a mere annoyance to here the speakers say ??syu instead of ??By the time you reach chapter 19, the audio track is completely different from what they have written down in the book. The audio is over a decade old, it is time to update it. The more they keep updating the text while letting the audio fester, the less relevant this book will become.

Small tidbit - I agree with others. The binding is cheap and falls apart easily. See all 7 customer reviews...

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Spending the extra time by checking out **Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) By Hugh Baker, Pui-Kei Ho** can provide such excellent experience also you are simply seating on your chair in the workplace or in your bed. It will not curse your time. This Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) By Hugh Baker, Pui-Kei Ho will assist you to have even more priceless time while taking rest. It is very delightful when at the twelve noon, with a cup of coffee or tea as well as a book Complete Cantonese: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) By Hugh Baker, Pui-Kei Ho in your gizmo or computer system display. By enjoying the views around, right here you could begin checking out. Review

"The living language of Hong Kong leaps from every page in a way I have not seen in any other textbook of Cantonese... the new Teach yourself Cantonese is unsurpassed." Daniel Kane, review in Bulletin of the School of Oriental & African Studies About the Author

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