

The Independent Learning Center

--- A resourceful place for students ---

Are you new to HK, want to learn some Cantonese?
Are you going to take IELTS, TOEFL or GRE, want some guidance?
Are you going to graduate and look for a job? Want some tips for interview?
Are you going to give a presentation?
Want to improve your language? Mandarin? Cantonese? English?

You can always find some courses that meet your needs in the Independent Learning Center. Just like its slogan -- be free. The courses are **FREE**. You have the freedom to choose your lessons and there are no tests or papers.

It's a very nice place. In the Independent Learning Center, we can learn a lot of very useful and practical things.

In the past three months, I have taken many courses there and benefited a lot from them. Since I joined the Cantonese workshops, I will focus on talking about my experience in the Cantonese lessons.

When I first came to Hong Kong, I was alone and do not have any friends. I have difficulties to understand the dialect here, for it is so different from Mandarin and my dialect. But only two weeks later, I began to understand what people were talking about and I could even have some simple conversations. About two months later, I had little problem in listening and speaking Cantonese. Almost everybody is surprised at my speed of learning this dialect.

Thanks to the Independent Learning Center, and special thanks to my teacher Dr. Angela C. F. Tam. Dr Tam is a senior instructor in Independent Learning Center who teaches Cantonese. She gave us three lessons per week. There are workshops for beginners, intermediate and advanced Cantonese learners. I often went to both the intermediate and advanced lessons. Her lesson was very interesting and we could learn a lot of useful things in her lesson. Each of her lessons has a focus. For example, one day we learnt something about money. So we began to recognize the Hong Kong currency and the four banks which issue the bills. One lesson was about hiking in Hong Kong. She introduced a lot of places where we could go hiking and their respective features. She also explained to us some history and stories behind the names of the hiking route.

I am lucky to have a chance to study at CUHK. There are a lot resources and opportunities for enhancing self-access learning. But one of the most interesting parts of the university is the Independent Learning Center. Thanks to ILC! Thanks to Dr. Tam!

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