

Pronunciation Lesson 6

In this lesson, you will learn the following new sounds:

Initials	gw, kw
Finals	m, ng
Tones	—

You will also practice saying and differentiating similar tones.

1 ~ The Initial Pair gw and kw

Cantonese Sound	Aspiration
Initial gw	Unaspirated
Initial kw	Aspirated ㄟ

The initials gw and kw are similar to the initials g and k combined with the initial w respectively.

The Initial gw



Step 1

㊦ 01 Listen to the initial gw.

gw - gw - gw - gw - gw

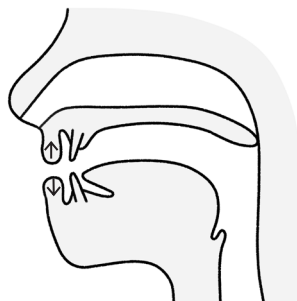


Step 2

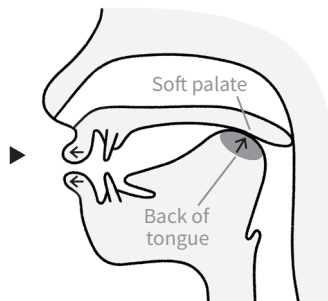
㊦ 02 Listen and repeat.

gw - gw - gw - gw - gw

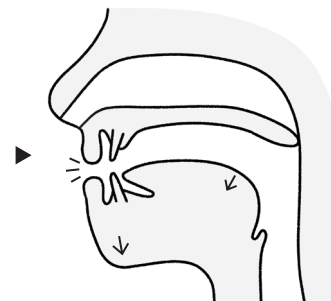
Soft palate
The back of the roof
of your mouth



Open your mouth a little.



Raise the back of your tongue to your soft palate quickly. You will feel your whole tongue move backward. While moving your tongue, round your lips. Your lips will move forward.



Immediately lower the back of your tongue by lowering your lower jaw a little and unround your lips. Avoid blowing out a large amount of air.

The Initial kw



Step 1

 03 Listen to the initial kw. Pay attention to the noticeable sound of breathing out.

kw – kw – kw – kw – kw

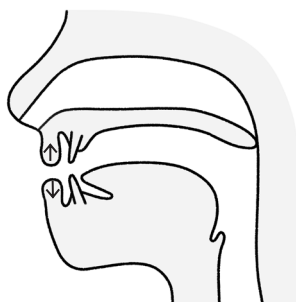


Step 2

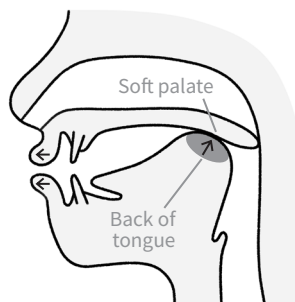
 04 Listen and repeat.

kw – kw – kw – kw – kw

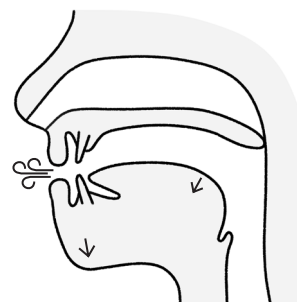
Soft palate
The back of the roof
of your mouth



Open your mouth a little.



Raise the back of your tongue to your soft palate quickly. You will feel your whole tongue move backward. While moving your tongue, round your lips. Your lips will move forward.



Immediately lower the back of your tongue by lowering your lower jaw a little and unround your lips. Blow out a large amount of air to create a noticeable sound of breathing out.



Practice



05 Practice saying the initials gw and kw with different finals. Listen and repeat.

1. gw – aa – gwaa1
kw – aa – kwaa1
gwaa1 kwaa1 – gwaa1 kwaa1 – gwaa1 kwaa1
2. gw – ai – gwai1
kw – ai – kwai1
gwai1 kwai1 – gwai1 kwai1 – gwai1 kwai1
3. gw – an – gwan2
kw – an – kwan2
gwan2 kwan2 – gwan2 kwan2 – gwan2 kwan2
4. gw – ok – gwok3
kw – ok – kwok3
gwok3 kwok3 – gwok3 kwok3 – gwok3 kwok3

TIPS!


Cantonese Sound	IPA
Initial gw	[k ^w]
Initial kw	[k ^{wh}]

2 ~ Tone 1 to Tone 6

Let's revise the six tones.

Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4	Tone 5	Tone 6
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level	Low falling	Low rising	Low level
Diagram						

Step 1

 06 Listen to the syllable si in Tone 1 to Tone 6 together. Pay attention to the pitch.

si1

si1 si2

si1 si2 si3


si1 si2 si3 si4

si1 si2 si3 si4 si5

si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 – si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 – si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 –

si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 – si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6

Step 2

 07 Practice saying the syllable si in Tone 1 to Tone 6. Listen and repeat.

si1

si1 si2

si1 si2 si3

si1 si2 si3 si4

si1 si2 si3 si4 si5

si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 – si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 – si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 –

si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6 – si1 si2 si3 si4 si5 si6



Practice



Say the following syllables from Tone 1 to Tone 6. Try it yourself before listening to the recording.

1. jan1 jan2 jan3 jan4 jan5 jan6 –
jan1 jan2 jan3 jan4 jan5 jan6 –
jan1 jan2 jan3 jan4 jan5 jan6
2. ze1 ze2 ze3 ze4 ze5 ze6 –
ze1 ze2 ze3 ze4 ze5 ze6 –
ze1 ze2 ze3 ze4 ze5 ze6
3. ji1 ji2 ji3 ji4 ji5 ji6 –
ji1 ji2 ji3 ji4 ji5 ji6 –
ji1 ji2 ji3 ji4 ji5 ji6
4. wai1 wai2 wai3 wai4 wai5 wai6 –
wai1 wai2 wai3 wai4 wai5 wai6 –
wai1 wai2 wai3 wai4 wai5 wai6
5. jyun1 jyun2 jyun3 jyun4 jyun5 jyun6 –
jyun1 jyun2 jyun3 jyun4 jyun5 jyun6 –
jyun1 jyun2 jyun3 jyun4 jyun5 jyun6

3 ~ Similar Tones

THINK!

Do some of the tones sound very similar to another tone to you?

This is an open-ended question.







We will practice saying and differentiating the following groups of similar tones:

1. Level tones (Tone 1, Tone 3 and Tone 6)
2. Rising tones (Tone 2 and Tone 5)
3. Tones at the high pitch (Tone 1 and Tone 2)
4. Tones at the low pitch (Tone 4, Tone 5 and Tone 6)

We will focus on the first group in this lesson and the other three groups in the next lesson.

4 ~ Level Tones

There are three level tones in Cantonese:

Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 3	Tone 6
Tone Name	High level	Mid level	Low level
Diagram	High  Mid  Low 	 	



Step 1

09 Listen to the syllable si in Tone 1, Tone 3 and Tone 6 together. Pay attention to the pitch.

si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6



Step 2

10 Practice saying the syllable si in Tone 1, Tone 3 and Tone 6. Listen and repeat.

si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6 – si1 si3 si6



Practice

①


11 Practice saying Tone 1, Tone 3 and Tone 6 with other syllables. Listen and repeat.

- fan1 fan3 fan6 – fan1 fan3 fan6 – fan1 fan3 fan6
- fu1 fu3 fu6 – fu1 fu3 fu6 – fu1 fu3 fu6
- bou1 bou3 bou6 – bou1 bou3 bou6 – bou1 bou3 bou6
- daan1 daan3 daan6 – daan1 daan3 daan6 – daan1 daan3 daan6
- gwai1 gwai3 gwai6 – gwai1 gwai3 gwai6 – gwai1 gwai3 gwai6

②

12 You will hear two syllables each time. Are their tones the same (S) or different (D)?

- S / D si1 si1
- S / D si1 si6
- S / D si3 si3
- S / D si6 si1
- S / D si3 si3
- S / D si1 si3
- S / D si3 si1
- S / D si1 si1
- S / D si6 si6
- S / D si3 si6
- S / D si6 si6
- S / D si6 si3

- ③  13 You will hear four syllables each time. The first three syllables are Tone 1, Tone 3 and Tone 6 respectively. Which tone is the last syllable?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. si <u>1</u> /3/6 | 2. si <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 3. si <u>1</u> /3/6 | 4. si <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> |
| 5. si <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> | 6. si <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 7. fan <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> | 8. fu <u>1</u> /3/6 |
| 9. bou <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> | 10. daan <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 11. gwai <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 12. fan <u>1</u> /3/6 |

- ④  14 You will hear one syllable each time. Which tone is the syllable?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. si <u>1</u> /3/6 | 2. si <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 3. si <u>1</u> /3/6 | 4. si <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> |
| 5. si <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> | 6. si <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 7. fan <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 | 8. fu <u>1</u> / <u>3</u> /6 |
| 9. bou <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> | 10. daan <u>1</u> /3/6 | 11. gwai <u>1</u> /3/6 | 12. fan <u>1</u> /3/ <u>6</u> |

5 ~ The Finals with Only a Consonant

There are two finals which are formed by only one consonant.

m ng

These two finals are never combined with an initial. They always form a syllable on their own. Also, both of them only appear in very few words.

6 ~ The Final m

The final m is formed by the consonant m alone.

 **Step 1**  15 Listen to the final m.



m - m - m - m - m

 **Step 2**  16 Listen and repeat.

m - m - m - m - m



Move your two lips toward each other quickly until your mouth is completely closed. Don't open your mouth immediately. Keep your mouth closed until the next syllable. The final m is a nasal sound. Let air pass through your nose and come out. You will feel the sound be produced inside your nose.

 **Practice**  17 Practice saying the syllables with the final m. Listen and repeat.

m4 - m4 - m4

 TIPS!

Cantonese Sound	IPA
Final m	[m]

7 ~ The Final ng

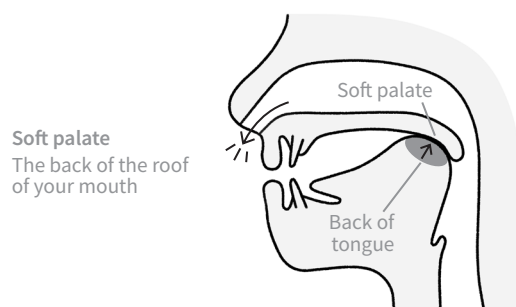
The final ng is formed by the consonant ng alone.

 **Step 1**  18 Listen to the final ng.



ng – ng – ng – ng – ng

 **Step 2**  19 Listen and repeat.

ng – ng – ng – ng – ng



Raise the back of your tongue to your soft palate quickly. You will feel your whole tongue move backward. Don't lower the back of your tongue immediately. Keep the back of your tongue at the same position until the next syllable. The final ng is a nasal sound. Let air pass through your nose and come out. You will feel the sound be produced inside your nose.

 **Practice**  20 Practice saying the syllables with the final ng. Listen and repeat.

1. ng4 – ng4 – ng4
2. ng5 – ng5 – ng5
3. ng6 – ng6 – ng6

 **TIPS!**

Cantonese Sound	IPA
Final ng	[ŋ]

8 ~ Revision Section A

- ① Recall the initials you have learned in this lesson. Write them below.

gw	kw
----	----

- ② Recall the finals you have learned in this lesson. Write them below.

m	ng
---	----

- ③ Recall all the tones. Write the tone numbers and tone names and draw the tones.

Tone Number		Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4	Tone 5	Tone 6
Tone Name		High level	Mid rising	Mid level	Low falling	Low rising	Low level
Diagram	High						
	Mid						
	Low						


Instructions for Questions ④ to ⑧

Follow the steps below to complete each question.

Step 1: Say the sound, syllable, word or sentence aloud yourself.

Step 2: Listen to the recording and compare your pronunciation to the recording.

Step 3: Follow the recording and say the sound, syllable, word or sentence again.

- ④  21 Say the sounds below. Note that the initials have been re-arranged here to present different pairs of initials more clearly.







Initials


Aspirated	Unaspirated			
1. b	2. p	3. m	4. f	
5. d	6. t	7. n		8. l
9. g	10. k	11. ng	12. h	
13. gw	14. kw			15. w
16. z	17. c		18. s	19. j

Finals


	1. aa	2. a	3. e	4. i	5. o	6. u	7. eo	8. oe	9. yu	
-i	10. aai	11. ai	12. ei		13. oi	14. ui	15. eoi			
-u	16. aau	17. au	18. eu	19. iu	20. ou					
-m	21. aam	22. am	23. em	24. im						25. m
-n	26. aan	27. an		28. in	29. on	30. un	31. eon		32. yun	
-ng	33. aang	34. ang	35. eng	36. ing	37. ong	38. ung		39. oeng		40. ng
-p	41. aap	42. ap	43. ep	44. ip						
-t	45. aat	46. at	47. et	48. it	49. ot	50. ut	51. eot	52. oet	53. yut	
-k	54. aak	55. ak	56. ek	57. ik	58. ok	59. uk		60. oek		

⑤  22 Say the syllable si with the tones below.


Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4	Tone 5	Tone 6
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level	Low falling	Low rising	Low level
Diagram						

⑥  23 Say the syllables below.


- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. jap6 | 2. got3 | 3. waan5 | 4. haam2 | 5. puk1 |
| 6. zek6 | 7. goet4 | 8. ng5 | 9. but6 | 10. gwo2 |
| 11. naai5 | 12. loi4 | 13. doek3 | 14. soeng1 | 15. cyu4 |
| 16. doe2 | 17. kwai5 | 18. meng2 | 19. deu6 | 20. kyut3 |
| 21. mung6 | 22. wu4 | 23. fan5 | 24. ngon6 | 25. zam3 |
| 26. jyun2 | 27. heoi1 | 28. teon5 | 29. kwik1 | 30. seot6 |
| 31. la3 | | | | |

 24 If you find this question challenging, practice with the additional recording. In the additional recording, you will hear:

Initial	Final	Syllable	Syllable in Tones	Answer
j	- ap	- jap	- jap1 jap2 jap3 jap4 jap5 jap6	- jap6
g	- ot	- got	- got1 got2 got3	- got3

⑦  25 Say the words below.

- 單車 daan1 ce1 *bicycle*
- 銀行 ngan4 hong4 *bank*
- 博物館 bok3 mat6 gun2 *museum*
- 牛油果 ngau4 jau4 gwo2 *avocado*
- 生菜 saang1 coi3 *lettuce*
- 蜜瓜 mat6 gwaa1 *melon*
- 麵包 min6 baau1 *bread*
- 熱狗 jit6 gau2 *hot dog*

⑧  26 Say the sentences below.

1. 我係法國人嚟嘅。
ngo5 hai6 faat3 gwok3 jan4 lai4 ge3.
I am French.
2. 我識講英文同德文。
ngo5 sik1 gong2 jing1 man2 tung4 dak1 man2.
I speak English and German.
3. 我宜家學緊廣東話。
ngo5 ji4 gaa1 hok6 gan2 gwong2 dung1 waa2.
I am learning Cantonese now.

9 ~ Revision Section B

- ① Recall the initials you have learned in this lesson. Write them below.

gw	kw
----	----

- ② Recall the finals you have learned in this lesson. Write them below.

m	ng
---	----

- ③ Recall all the tones. Write the tone numbers and tone names and draw the tones.

Tone Number		Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4	Tone 5	Tone 6
Tone Name		High level	Mid rising	Mid level	Low falling	Low rising	Low level
Diagram	High						
	Mid						
	Low						


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Step 3: Follow the recording and say the sound, syllable, word or sentence again.

④  27 Say the sounds below.

Initials

Aspirated	Unaspirated			
1. b	2. p	3. m	4. f	
5. d	6. t	7. n		8. l
9. g	10. k	11. ng	12. h	
13. gw	14. kw			15. w
16. z	17. c		18. s	19. j

Finals

	1. aa	2. a	3. e	4. i	5. o	6. u	7. eo	8. oe	9. yu	
-i	10. aai	11. ai	12. ei		13. oi	14. ui	15. eoi			
-u	16. aau	17. au	18. eu	19. iu	20. ou					
-m	21. aam	22. am	23. em	24. im						25. m
-n	26. aan	27. an		28. in	29. on	30. un	31. eon		32. yun	
-ng	33. aang	34. ang	35. eng	36. ing	37. ong	38. ung		39. oeng		40. ng
-p	41. aap	42. ap	43. ep	44. ip						
-t	45. aat	46. at	47. et	48. it	49. ot	50. ut	51. eot	52. oet	53. yut	
-k	54. aak	55. ak	56. ek	57. ik	58. ok	59. uk		60. oek		

⑤ **28** Say the syllable si with the tones below.

Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3	Tone 4	Tone 5	Tone 6
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level	Low falling	Low rising	Low level
Diagram						

⑥ **29** Say the syllables below.


1. tip3
2. lik6
3. siu3
4. ngaa5
5. ng6
6. kwaang1
7. jit6
8. lem2
9. je5
10. m4
11. waak6
12. mang4
13. kau3
14. tin1
15. nok6
16. fei1
17. gep6
18. fuk1
19. ning4
20. pun2
21. ngong4
22. zou2
23. ci5
24. bak1
25. gwat1
26. caap3
27. him2
28. gwaat3
29. wui5
30. paau4
31. pet6

30 If you find this question challenging, practice with the additional recording. In the additional recording, you will hear:

Initial	Final	Syllable	Syllable in Tones	Answer
t	- ip	- tip	- tip1 tip2 tip3	- tip3
l	- ik	- lik	- lik1 lik2 lik3 lik4 lik5 lik6	- lik6

⑦ **31** Say the words below.

1. 電車 din6 ce1 tram
2. 圖書館 tou4 syu1 gun2 library
3. 超級市場 ciu1 kap1 si5 coeng4 supermarket
4. 翠玉瓜 ceoi3 juk6 gwaa1 zucchini
5. 秋葵 cau1 kwai4 okra
6. 乳酪 jyu5 lok6 yogurt
7. 蛋糕 daan6 gou1 cake
8. 玫瑰 mui4 gwai3 rose

⑧  32 Say the sentences below.

1. 我十一月廿五號生日。
ngo5 sap6 jat1 jyut6 jaa6 ng5 hou6 saang1 jat6.
My birthday is 25th November.
2. 我結咗婚喇。
ngo5 git3 zo2 fan1 laa3.
I am married.
3. 我有一個仔同一個女。
ngo5 jau5 jat1 go3 zai2 tung4 jat1 go3 nei2.
I have a son and a daughter.

⑨ The word for *not* in Cantonese is 唔 m4. Listen to the following song. How many times 唔 m4 is sung in the first two verses (0:20 - 0:55)?



大懶堂 daai6 laan5 tong4

LMF

6 times

- 0:32 ○ ○○○○○○○○○○
- 0:35 ○○ 唔 m4 ○○ ○○○○○ 唔 m4 ○
- 0:37 ○○○○○ ○○○○○○
- 0:40 ○○○○○ ○○ 唔 m4 ○○○○○○
- 0:43 ○○○○○○○○○○
- 0:46 ○○ 唔 m4 ○○ ○○○○ 唔 m4 ○
- 0:49 ○○○○○ ○○○○○○
- 0:51 ○○○○○ ○○ 唔 m4 ○○○○○○