

The Alternative Cantonese Dictionary

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a

ah si (verb, 1st-pers. sing.) † *I need to shit; I need to take a shit* NOTE Pronounced ah-see, with the "ah" nasalized and a singsong up and down. Just not very nice, especially in front of one's parents

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b

bat3 (v.t. & adj.) *v.t., to meddle with; adj., nosy* NOTE Lit., the number 'eight'; used to describe a nosy person who meddles with any affair from the eight directions; e.g. sei wei bat, meddle around; bat po, nosy woman (or a 'bitch' in a stronger sense).

d

dai7 gut1 le7 si7 (exclam.) ☺ *big kamquats and money pockets* NOTE Euphemism. Kamquats (a kind of citrus fruit) and money pockets are gifts of the Chinese New Year festival and hence means auspicious omen. This phrase is used immediately after someone speaks something ill or bad in order to counteract the curse; not a superstition but a cynical reply nowadays.

diu lay lo mo hail † *fuck your mother's hole* NOTE (adv.) + fuck your mother's hole! "diu" means "to fuck", "lay" means "your", "lo mo" means "mother", "hail" means "pussy".

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diu2 (v.t.) ‡ *to fuck* NOTE 1. To have sexual intercourse with; e.g. diu lei, fuck you; diu lei no mo, fuck your mother. 2. To mess up; e.g. diu gau kui, screw it up or fuck it.

diu2 (exclam.) † *Fuck!* NOTE Lit., to express anger or disappointment when something is screwed up.

g

gau1 (n. & adv.) † *shlong, dong* NOTE Same usage as leng2; slightly milder than leng2; cf. leng2 (n. & adv.); e.g. diu gau lei, fuck you.

gwai2 (n. & adv.) *n. foreigner; adv. strangely, exotically* NOTE Lit., ghost. 1. n., used in the old days to demean foreigners who invaded China; now commonly used to indicate non-Chinese in a casual way and should not be regarded as a hostile racist word; e.g. gwai mue, foreign girl. 2. adv., used to replace all the vulgar adverbs to make a friendly speech; e.g. Jo med gwai? What on earth are you doing (strangely)?

h

hai1 (n.) ‡ *cunt, pussy* NOTE Lit., equivalent to the female sexual organs; stronger and more offensive than the male counterpart; e.g. ju hai, pig pussy (which means a bitch); hai yeung, cunt face.

hai1 (fem., adv.) ‡ *in a fucking way* NOTE Lit., with the same usage as leng2 but in a stronger sense; more commonly used in Canton; cf. leng2 (adv.); e.g. Yau mo gau hai cho? What the fucking hell?

hem7 ga1 tsan2 (n. & exclam.) † *n., a good-for-nothing person; exclam., damn!* NOTE Lit.,

'hem' means 'overall' and 'ga' means 'family'; 'tsan' means 'to produce' or 'profits' but oppositely means 'to bust' or 'shits'. To say a person being a 'hem ga tsan' means that he wastes (not necessarily a spendthrift) or screws the whole thing up and had better gone to eat shit. The exclamation is milder and can be either used to blame oneself or others.

I

leng2 (n.) † *prick, cock* NOTE Lit., equivalent to the male sexual organ in a vulgar sense; not commonly used as a noun.

leng2 (adv.) † *in a fucking way* NOTE Lit. most commonly used vulgar adverbs in Canton, Hong Kong; can be inserted in almost any phrase (even with several times) to strengthen its vulgar sense and fluent the speech; a very useful swear word; can also be replaced by hai1 in a stronger sense; e.g. diu leng lei, fuck you; gau leng cho, fucked up (or as an exclam.); tsi leng sin, fucking crazy; med leng yea, what the fuck.

P

pok1 gai1 (n. & v.i.) † *n. asshole; v.i. to fall down on the street* NOTE Lit., 'pok' means 'to fall or slip' and 'gai' means the 'street'. As a noun, 'pok gai' is used in an unfriendly way; as a verb, it is often used as a curse.

S

set9 tsi7 gei2 (v.i. & exclam.) † *masturbate* NOTE Lit., 'set' means 'to eat' and 'tsi gei' means 'oneself'; to eat oneself means to have sex with oneself; a recent Hong Kong slang; often used when couples break apart.

T

tset ha tset ha *stupid fool* NOTE (adv.) + stupid fool! 'tset' is the penis. 'tset ha tset ha' is to describe a person who are very ugly that really looks like the Penis! When you say 'tset' in Cantonese it is close to the number 'seven'. So people in Cantonese may also say 'lay go yeun hol seven!' which means you are very ugly! you also looks like the penis!

tset9 (n. & adv.) † *penis, dick* NOTE Same usage as leng2; slightly milder than leng2; cf. leng2; e.g. tsit tset, castrate.