

Lesson 6: Chiáh-pá bōe?
Greetings!

Tù-i-ōe ❖ Dialogue 🗣️ 30

A: Gâo-chá, lí chiáh-pá bōe?

B: Góa chiáh à. Lí leh?

A: Góa mā chiáh à. Lín beh khi tò-ūi?

B: Góan beh lâi-khi bé-chhài.

A: Lín beh khi tò-ūi bé.

B: Góan beh khi Tâi-lâm bé.

A: Iá-bô, ū-êng chaih lâi-chē.

B: Hó. To-siā.

Sin-gí ❖ New Vocabulary

Chiáh-pá bōe is a commonly used expression in Hokkien. Literally, it means “have you eaten yet?”, but it is typically used as a greeting, like “hello”, or “how are you?”

gâo-chá		Good morning [lit: You're around early!]
chiáh-pá bōe		Have you eaten yet?
à	Pa	[particle for past or perfect tense]
beh	Aux	want/will
khì	V	to go
lâi-khì	V	going (and coming back soon)
bé-chhài	V + O	to buy food
teh	Aux	[auxiliary indicating continuing action]
chhóng-sià ⁿ		What are you doing?
êng	N or V	spare time
Tâi-lâm	PN	Tainan
ia-bô (á-bô)	Adv	then
chiah	Adv	then/until/only
lâi-chē	V	come and sit [a courteous greeting]

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Dialogue (translation)

A: Good morning, have you eaten yet?

B: Yes. How about you?

A: Me too. Where are you going?

B: We are going to buy food.

A: Where are you going to buy it?

B: We are going to Tainan to buy it.

A: Come and visit me.

B: OK, thanks.

Bûn-hoat tiōng-tiám ❖ Grammar Points

1. Talking about a continuing activity or state:

S	teh	[V +N]
lí	teh	chhóng-sià ⁿ
you	[continuing action]	do what

Q: Lí teh chhóng-siàⁿ?

What are you doing?

→ Góa teh thák-chheh.

I am reading a book.

→ Góa teh bé-chhài.

I am buying food.

→ Góa teh hô-êng.

I am busy.

Spoken Hokkien

2. Asking for information, such as where someone wants to go:

S	beh	V	IP
lí	beh	khì	toh-ūi
you	want	go	where

3. Answering the above question:

S	beh	V	V, N or PN
góa	beh	khì	bé-chhài
I	want	go	buy food

Q: Lí beh khì toh-ūi?

Where are you going?

→ Góa beh khì bé-chhài.

I am going to buy food.

→ Góa beh khì lú-hêng.

I am going to travel.

→ Góa beh khì Bí-kok.

I am going to America.

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4. Talking about going to do something and coming back soon:

S	beh	lâi-khì	V, N or PN
góa	beh	lâi-khì	bé-chhài
I	want	come-go	buy food

Q: Lí beh khì toh-ūi?

Where are you going?

→ Góa beh lâi-khì bé-chhài.

I am going to buy food.

→ Góa beh lâi-khì séh-ke.

I am going shopping.

× Góa lâi-khì lîu-hák.

I am going to study abroad.

Spoken Hokkien

Kù-hîn ❖ Sentence Patterns

Greetings:

Gâu chá.	“Good morning.”
Lí chiáh-pá bōe?	“Hello”, or “Have you eaten?”: used when you see someone around mealtime.
Lí-chiah-nih-chá.	“You are so early!”: can be said to someone who is earlier than expected.
Lí beh khi toh ūi?	“Where are you going?”: also used as a general greeting, or to ask someone where they are going.
Lí-hó?	“How do you do”: used only in formal situations.
Teh bô-êng hiō?	“Are you busy?”: used as a greeting or as a polite way of getting someone’s attention when they are doing something.
Ū-êng chaih lâi chē. Ū-êng chaih koh lâi chhit-thô.	These both mean “come again to visit” and are used when a visitor is leaving.

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Pó-chhiog sin-gí ❖ Additional Vocabulary  31

bô-êng	Adj	busy
chhài-chhī-á	N	market
kong-hng	N	park
siōng-pan	V+O	to work [lit: go to workplace or office]
hák-hāu	N	school
thák-chheh	V+O	to study, to read [lit: to read a book]
séh-ke	V+O	to go shopping [lit: walk streets]
lú-hêng	V	to travel
phah-chio-ho̍	V or N	greeting
Tâi-pak	N	Taipei
Sin-ka-pho	N	Singapore
Pak-kia ⁿ	N	Beijing
Lûn-tun	N	London
Pa-lê	N	Paris

Liān-sip ❖ Exercises

A. Complete the following sentences:

1. Gâo-chá, Li chiáh-pá ()?
2. Lín () khi tó-ūi?
3. Góan beh () bé-chhài.
4. () ū-êng () lái-chē.

B. Translate the following sentences:

1. Where are you going?
→
2. We are going to Tainan.
→
3. We are going to buy food.
→
4. Where are you going to buy it?
→
5. When you have time please come (and visit).
→