

第九課
Lesson Nine

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十八個大水缸
sap6 baat3 go3 daai6 sei2 gong1

Eighteen Large Water Jars

Chinese	Pronunciation	Meaning	Spoken Cantonese
缸	go	jar	
王獻之	wong4 hin3 zi1	a name	
古代	gu2 doi6	ancient, past (when talking about China, 古代 can refer to anytime in the past before the modern age)	
書法家	syu1 faat3 gaa1	calligrapher	
王羲之	wong4 hei1 zi1	a name	
兒子	ji4 zi2	son	zai2 (仔)
寫	se2	write	
這麼好	ze5 mo1 hou2	so well	gam3 hou2 (咁好)
祕訣	bei3 kyut3	secret (of success)	
帶	daai3	take	
院子	jyun2 zi2	courtyard	ting4 jyun2/4(庭院)

指	zi2	point to/at	
指着	zi2 zeok6	pointing to/at	zi2 zyu6 (指住)
放着的	fong3 zeok6 dik1	laid out, set out	fong3 zyu6 ge3 (放住嘅)
磨	mo4	grind, rub	
墨	mak6	ink	
磨墨	mo4 mak6	grind ink (in the old days people made ink by rubbing an ink stick on an inkstone with some water)	
等	dang2	wait (until)	
用完	jung6 jyun4	use up	
勤苦	kan4 fu2	hardworking	(kan4 lou4 hak1 fu2) 勤勞刻苦
練	lin6	practice	
勤學苦練	kan4 hok6 fu2 lin6	study and practice hard	kan4 fan5 gam2 hok6 zaap6 tung4 fu2 lin6 (勤奮咁學習同苦練)
清水	cing1 sei2	clean water	
一天比一天	jat1 tin1 bei2 jat1 tin1	day by day	jat1 jat6 bei2 jat1 jat6 (一日比一日)
最後	zeoi3 hau6	finally	

Eighteen large water tanks

Wang Xianzhi was the son of the great calligrapher of the past Wang Xizhi. One day Wang Xianzhi asked his mum, "Is there some secret in father being able to write characters so well?"

"Yes, there is", said his mum with a smile, "Come with me and have a look".

His mum took Wang Xianzhi into the courtyard, pointed to eighteen large water tanks placed in the courtyard yard and said, "If every day you grind ink and write some characters until you have used up all the water in these eighteen large water tanks, you will know Dad's secret of success in writing characters."

From that day on, Wang Xianzhi studied and practised hard. The water in the tank became less and less every day, and his writing of characters became better every day. Finally, Wang Xianzhi also became a great calligrapher.