

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University  
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)  
Daily English Practice

Week 9

## #42 Add oil! This popular Hong Kong English term is now in the Oxford English Dictionary

**Skills/ Objectives: Reading and Writing**

### PART 1: Before you read...

#### Preparatory questions

1. What is the meaning of “add oil”? Do you use this term? When? To whom? In what situations?

#### Vocabulary

1. sentiment (noun): thought or idea which is based on a way of thinking about something
2. chiefly (adverb): mainly
3. root for somebody (verb): to show support for somebody
4. apparently (adverb): obviously
5. versatility (noun): to be used for different purposes

### PART 2: Article

“Add oil”, a term in Hong Kong English has been added in the Oxford English Dictionary.

**Add oil! This popular Hong Kong English term is now in the Oxford English Dictionary** (*click the read the article*)

<https://yp.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/110792/add-oil-popular-hong-kong-english-term-now-oxford-english-dictionary>

(Source: SCMP)

### PART 3: Let’s discuss!

1. When and in what situation do you say “add oil”? Do you agree with the article that this term is versatile? Why or why not?
2. What other Cantonese terms do you think should be added in an English dictionary (e.g., Oxford English dictionary) too?

### PART 4: Writing

Write three sentences and use the phrase “add oil”.

## **PART 5: Learn further**

### **1. Say what now? Cantonese speakers guess what English speakers are saying in Cantonese**

Three native speakers of English pronounce words in Cantonese and let native Cantonese speakers guess the meanings.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=34&v=qb5uW5kotNQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=34&v=qb5uW5kotNQ) (3:36 minutes)

### **2. Hong Kong English #1: Direct translation**

This website discusses some commonly used phrases and expressions by Cantonese speakers when speaking English and provides suggestions to express the ideas in English in a better way.

<https://www.britishcouncil.hk/en/english/courses-adults/myclass/tips/hkenglish-1-direct-translation>

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