



新北市 106 年度外籍英語教師聘用委託專業服務

新進外師職前訓練之研習課程內容 New Foreign Teacher' s Orientation

執行單位：英美達文教事業有限公司



table of contents

Contents

· **Discover Taiwan**

1. History and Culture of Taiwan
2. Must-Go Attractions & Festivals
3. Tastes of Taiwan
4. Getting Around
5. When The West Meets The East –
Avoid Cultural Shocks
6. Instruction of Simple Chinese
Conversation and Pin Yin

· **Working in Taiwan**

1. The Rights and Obligations of Foreign
Teachers
Work Permits, Visas, and Alien Resident
Certificates

Contents

· **Living in Taiwan**

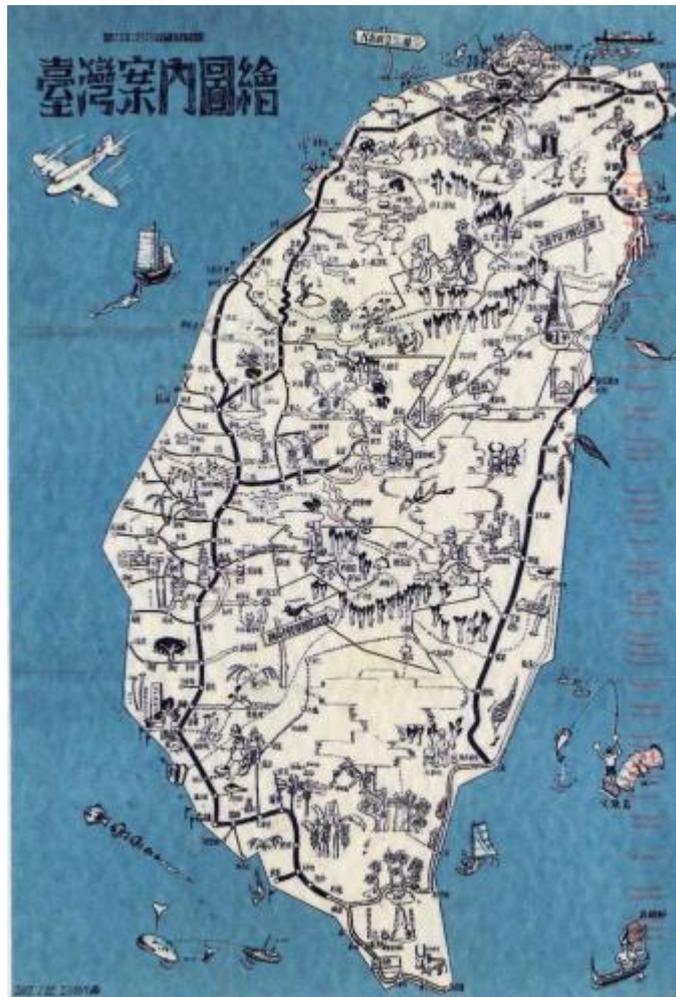
1. Housing, Medical, and Transportation Information
2. A Brief Guidance of New Taipei City
3. Foreigner Dependent Services and Education Systems

· **Educational System of Taiwan**

1. Introduction to Educational Systems in Taiwan
2. Aspects of Teaching English to Young Learners in Taiwan
3. The Analysis of Students' Common Errors in English Learning

Chapter 1

Discover Taiwan



History and Culture of Taiwan



History of Taiwan

Indigenous tribes have been here for some 4000 years, with Chinese settlements springing up from the sixteenth century onwards. It subsequently drew the interest of European colonists, with the Dutch and Spanish both putting down roots. In 1684, Taiwan was then taken over by supporters of the deposed Ming Dynasty, before becoming completely controlled by the Qing Dynasty, turning into a province in its own right.

In the 1890s, Chinese defeat in the first Sino-Japanese War brought the first occupation of Chinese territory by the Japanese. Taiwan was 'ceded in perpetuity' to Japan by Article 2 of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. Although it was fiercely resented and actively resisted by the population, Taiwan remained under Japanese rule from 1895 until its defeat at the end of World War II.

The Chinese Civil War, which had already been in progress for some years, came to a head in 1948. The nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-Shek were defeated by Mao's Communists, and the nationalist leadership, along with thousands of supporters, fled to Taiwan. Here, their political vehicle, the Kuo Min-Tang (KMT) rapidly came to dominate Taiwanese politics.

Having ensured its own survival, the KMT set about developing the economy. In this, the KMT regime was spectacularly successful, helping Taiwan become one of the fast-developing 'tiger economies' of the Pacific Rim. Politically, Taiwan relied for a long time upon the support of the USA until the early 1970s, when a rapprochement between Washington and Beijing took place, the USA effectively shifting its allegiance from Taiwan to China.

The Chinese still consider Taiwan to be part of the national territory and continue to harbour the long-term objective of reunifying Taiwan with the mainland. International recognition of Taiwan (by the United Nations, for example) is therefore unacceptable to Beijing. But for all their political disagreements, extensive trade, travel and communications links have built up between Taiwan and China since the early 1970s. Annual bilateral trade is now worth well over US\$50 billion and one million people travel between the two countries each year.

Taiwan Culture

Religion:

'Folk religion' - a blend of ancient animist beliefs with the traditions of Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism - forms the core beliefs of most Taiwanese. Purer forms of Buddhism are also on the rise, along with Christianity. Due to the work of Western missionaries in centuries gone by, many aboriginal Taiwanese are Christians.

Social conventions:

Despite Taiwan's complex ethnic and cultural mix, its way of life is predominantly Chinese, steeped in tradition and marked by superstition. As such, ancient customs and festivals are celebrated with fervour, and traditional holidays are closely observed. Taiwanese people are on the whole extremely friendly, and standards of hospitality are high. Entertainment is more commonly offered in restaurants than in private homes, and visitors are not usually expected to entertain. Handshaking is common, and casual wear is widely acceptable.

Language in Taiwan

As is the case in mainland China, the official language of Taiwan is Mandarin Chinese, commonly referred to as guoyu ('national language'). However, the native Taiwanese tongue, alternatively called taiyu or minnan hua, is still widely spoken as a first language by the island's dominant ethnic group, which originally hails from China's southern Fujian province. Hakka Chinese and various aboriginal dialects are still spoken too.



Must-Go Attractions & Festivals



Attractions

Taiwan is known for its towering mountains and, indeed, is spotted with numerous mountain peaks that rise over 3,000 meters. It is also the home of Northeast Asia's tallest mountain, Yu Mountain (Yushan), which is nearly 4,000 meters in height. Besides mountains, beautiful coastal scenes are part of Taiwan's great natural assets. Starting from the northern tip of the island is the North Coast & Guanyinshan National Scenic Area and Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area, featuring a wide variety of coastal geography. Traveling around the island to the east, you come to the scenic East Coast National Scenic Area and East Rift Valley National Scenic Area; go to the south, and you will come to the Southwest Coast National Scenic Area and then the Dapeng Bay National Scenic Area, blessed with sunshine and a tropical touch. Alongside the western edge of the Central Mountain Range is the Maolin National Scenic Area, where a lot of indigenous people live and place you can check out the world of butterflies, Rukai stone houses, and splendid natural scenes. Legendary tales depict the subtle beauty of the Alishan National Scenic Area, where you can enjoy relaxing scene of the sun rising over a sea of clouds. The incomparable natural setting of the Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area waits in the center of the island, and the Tri-Mountain National Scenic Area offers eagle-spotting at Bagua Mountain, the highland fruits of Lishan and the sacred Buddhist sanctuary of Lion's Head Mountain.

The Penghu National Scenic Area encompasses ninety islets scattering in the Taiwan Strait. Flat landscapes make these islands much different from

Taiwan itself. Located in the sea southeast of Taiwan is, Green Island, part of the East Coast National Scenic Area, which offers unique saltwater hot-spring bathing and spectacular diving on colorful coral reefs. The Matsu National Scenic Area comprises four townships on five islands. Most of the tourist sites are located on the island of Nangan. Beigan is famous for its traditional stone house and fish noodles. Juguang for its fishing port and lighthouse (designated as a Grade 2 historic site). On Dongyin you will find fantastic rock formations and the Dongyin branch of the Matsu Distillery. Natural and cultural attractions abound in the Siraya National Scenic Area in southern Taiwan's Tainan City. In addition to five scenic reservoirs (Zengwen, Wushantou, Baihe, Jianshanpi, and Hutoupi), the scenic area embraces the geologically fascinating Caoshan Moon World, the Zouzhen archaeological site, and the skin-pampering mud springs of Guanziling. Colorful indigenous events and tasty local specialties also await you at Siraya. The scenic area is also known for a varied coastline of sand dunes, sand banks, marshes, and wetlands, offering precious habitats for wildlife.

Taiwan now has eight National Parks: J National Park in suburban Taipei, which is famous for its volcanic landscapes; Shei- Pa National Park, spanning Hsinchu and Miaoli counties and famous for the unique and endangered Formosan landlocked salmon; Taroko National Park, known for its lofty canyon landscapes; Yushan National Park, known for its bright sunshine and the highest peak in Northeast Asia; Kenting National Park gives at the southern tip of the island, giving a touch of Southeast Asia; and Kinmen National Park, containing legacies of war decades ago. The Dongsha Atoll National Park was established in January 2007 on the northern waters of the South China Sea, marking the southern portal to the Taiwan Strait. The atoll has a unique white sand landscape formed of coral and shell. Finally, both culture and natural attractions await your discovery at Taijiang National Park in Tainan City Taiwan's newest national park.

In addition, the National Palace Museum, located in the outskirts of Taipei City, is home to priceless artifacts that present the essence of China's 5,000 years of history. It has the finest collection of Chinese art in the world, providing an eye-opening experience of Chinese culture.



Festivals

2018

Date	Weekday	Holiday Name	Holiday Type
Jan 1	Monday	Republic Day/New Year's Day	National holiday
Feb 4	Sunday	Farmer's Day	Observance
Feb 15	Thursday	Chinese New Year's Eve	National holiday
Feb 16	Friday	Chinese New Year's Day	National holiday
Feb 17	Saturday	Chinese New Year Holiday 1	National holiday
Feb 18	Sunday	Chinese New Year Holiday 2	National holiday
Feb 19	Monday	Chinese New Year Holiday 3	National holiday
Feb 20	Tuesday	Chinese New Year Holiday 4	National holiday
Feb 28	Wednesday	228 Memorial Day	National holiday
Mar 2	Friday	Lantern Festival	Observance
Mar 2	Friday	Tourism Day	Observance
Mar 8	Thursday	Women's Day	Observance
Mar 12	Monday	Arbor Day	Observance
Mar 18	Sunday	Earth God's Birthday	Observance
Mar 20	Tuesday	March equinox	Season
Mar 29	Thursday	Youth Day	Observance
Apr 1	Sunday	Easter Sunday	Observance
Apr 4	Wednesday	Children's Day	National holiday
Apr 4	Wednesday	Kuan Yin's Birthday	Observance
Apr 5	Thursday	Tomb Sweeping Day	National holiday
Apr 30	Monday	God of Medicine's Birthday	Observance
May 1	Tuesday	Labor Day	National holiday
May 4	Friday	Literary Day	Observance
May 8	Tuesday	Matsu's Birthday	Observance
May 13	Sunday	Mother's Day	Observance
May 22	Tuesday	Buddha's Birthday	Observance
Jun 3	Sunday	Opium Suppression Movement Day	Observance
Jun 18	Monday	Dragon Boat Festival	National holiday
Jun 21	Thursday	June Solstice	Season
Jun 26	Tuesday	Kuan Kung's Birthday	Observance
Jun 26	Tuesday	Chen Huang's Birthday	Observance
Aug 8	Wednesday	Father's Day	Observance
Aug 17	Friday	Valentine's Day	Observance
Aug 25	Saturday	Ghost Festival	Observance
Sep 3	Monday	Armed Forces Day	Observance
Sep 23	Sunday	September equinox	Season
Sep 24	Monday	Mid-Autumn Festival	National holiday
Sep 28	Friday	Teachers' Day	Observance
Oct 10	Wednesday	National Day/Double Tenth Day	National holiday
Oct 17	Wednesday	Double Ninth Day	Observance
Oct 21	Sunday	Overseas Chinese Day	Observance
Oct 25	Thursday	Taiwan's Retrocession Day	Observance
Oct 31	Wednesday	Halloween	Observance
Nov 12	Monday	Sun Yat-sen's Birthday	Observance
Nov 22	Thursday	Saisiat Festival	Observance
Dec 21	Friday	December Solstice	Season
Dec 21	Friday	Dōngzhì Festival	Observance
Dec 25	Tuesday	Constitution Day	Observance
Dec 25	Tuesday	Christmas Day	Observance

Tastes of Taiwan



Taiwan can be termed a melting pot of all the great culinary traditions, both Chinese and foreign. In any town, city, or village in this country, it is said, there is a snack shop within three steps and a large restaurant within five, making dining in Taiwan a matter of the utmost convenience. All of China's regional culinary styles are available, from those of Beijing, Tianjing, and Shandong of the north to those of Sichuan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong, and Taiwan in the south. You can also find restaurants in Taiwan that serve the cuisines of other countries all over the world, including the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and India, among others. The famous international fast-food and restaurant chain--McDonald's, KFC, Mos Burger, Pizza Hut, and others--also have outlets scattered all over the main cities. Taiwan also offers its own unique types of restaurant, such as vegetarian, "improved" hot pot (including medicinal hot pot), and local snacks, that offer a native Taiwanese taste. If you would like to have a drink before or after your meal, there are plenty of bars, pubs, and beer houses to choose from.



Taiwanese Food:

The emphasis in Taiwanese cooking is on light, natural flavors and freshness, and there is no pursuit of complex flavors. Another feature of Taiwanese cuisine is that tonic foods are prepared by using different types of medicinal ingredients for the various seasons of the year.

Cantonese Food:

Cantonese cooking is known for its meticulous methods of preparation, whether fried, roasted, stir-fried, steamed, or boiled, and the vessels used to contain this food are known for their exquisite nature.

Hakka Food:

Dried and pickled foods have an important position in the cuisine of the Hakka people. Flavors are relatively heavy, and this food features fried, spiced, well-done, salty, and fatty dishes.

Sichuan Food:

The most prominent characteristic of Sichuan cooking is that it uses the most common materials to produce dishes with a most uncommon flavor. It is best known, of course, for its spicy hotness.

Beijing Food:

This culinary tradition combines the features of Qing Dynasty court dishes, Moslem cuisines, and Mongolian tastes, and Beijing food can be eaten in a surprising variety of ways. Beijing chefs place heavy emphasis on cooking time and slicing techniques, and they strive for subtle tastes and soft and tender textures.

Jiangzhe Food:

Shanghainese food is the representative cuisine of this tradition, which originated along the lower reaches of the Yangzi River and the southeastern coastal areas of the country. Because the many rivers and lakes in this area produce rich harvests of shrimp, crabs, eels, and the like, Jiangzhe cuisine concentrates on seafood.

Hunan Food:

The preparation of meats by smoking is one of the most prominent features of richly flavored Hunan cuisine. Hunan has one thing in common with Sichuan in its cuisine: many of their dishes use large amounts of chili peppers, making them very hot and spicy.

Getting Around



Boat

There is regular ferry service between Taiwan and its outlying islands (although in recent years air transport has become more popular). It's a cheaper way to travel but some routes could make a Navy SEAL vomit. And if the weather doesn't cooperate, forget it: you're not going anywhere.

Hitching

Hitching is never entirely safe in any country in the world, and we don't recommend it. Travellers who do decide to hitch should understand that they are taking a small but potentially serious risk. If you do choose to hitch you will be safer if you travel in pairs and let someone know where you are planning to go.

Car & motorcycle

Car, motorcycle & scooter

To reach certain choice areas and to get around once you're there, your own transport is advisable, and sometimes absolutely necessary. Driving a car is not terribly difficult outside of the cities, especially on weekdays. Scooters are cheap to rent (average NT400 per day, but some as low as NT200), but not every place will let you rent one without a local licence. At the time of writing, you could rent scooters with just an International Driver's Licence in Hualien, Kenting, Chiayi, Tainan, Sun Moon Lake and Jiaoshi.

Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org) has an excellent overview of Taiwan's road and highway system, which includes explanations of the numbering

system. Go to the website and type 'highway system in Taiwan' .



Hire

Car rental fees typically run between NT800 and NT1500 for a half day, or NT1500 and NT2800 for a full day, depending on the type of vehicle and rental company. Typical long-term discounts are 10% for three to seven days, 20% for eight to 20 days and 30% for longer. Ask if there is a limit to the number of kilometres you can drive. All airports have car rental agencies (or else they do free delivery), as do most of the High-Speed Rail stations. You can also check with local tourist information offices for rental agencies in your area. The following are two possibilities:

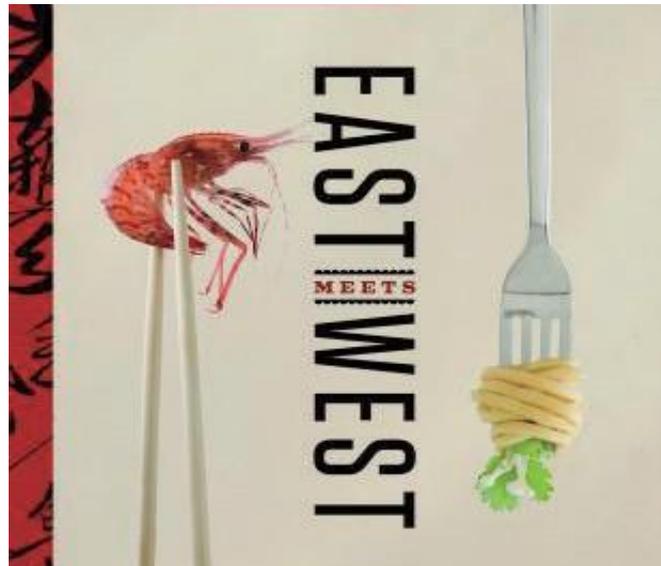
Central Auto (02-2828 0033; www.rentalcar.com.tw) Long-running foreign-managed rental company with Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung branches. Good reputation.

Hertz (02-2731 0377; www.hertz.com) Many branches islandwide.

Insurance

Insurance laws were modified in 2007 but at the time of writing it wasn't clear how this would play out in rental businesses. Many agency staff members seemed unaware of any changes. At the time of writing, the best deal we could find was decent third-party liability insurance and the option of buying comprehensive insurance with a NT10,000 deduction for damages. In the case of theft or loss, the renter would also be charged 10% of the value of the car. Not the best, but much better than years ago when you essentially were uninsured despite what rental companies might have told you.

When The West Meets The East – Avoid Cultural Shocks



Many people who travel or live overseas experience what is commonly referred to as “culture shock.”

During the first stage, often described as the "honeymoon," everything you see and do in the country you are visiting is exciting and positive. But in the second stage, known as "culture shock," you can feel a sense of dislocation and general unease. To cope with culture shock, learn to recognize its symptoms:

- You feel angry, uncomfortable, confused, frustrated or irritable and lose your sense of humour.
- You withdraw and spend excessive amounts of time alone, only with Canadians or other foreigners, and avoid contact with the local people.
- You develop negative feelings about the people and culture of the host country.
- You eat and drink compulsively or need an excessive amount of sleep.
- You are bored, fatigued and unable to concentrate or work effectively.

During the third and final "adjustment" stage, you start to accept your new surroundings and make a compromise between the honeymoon and culture shock phases.

You might also experience “reverse culture shock” after living abroad. Be prepared for a period of readjustment when you return to Canada.

Coping strategies

Probably the best strategy for coping with the various impacts of culture shock is to make a conscious effort to adjust to the new culture. Here are some suggestions on how to make yourself feel more at home in your new surroundings:

- **Admit frankly that these impacts exist.** It is not a sign of weakness to admit that you feel uncomfortable, tense or confused.
- **Learn the rules of living in your host country.** Try to understand how and why the local people act the way they do. Their behaviour and customs, although they may be different from your own, are neither better nor worse than what you are used to.
- **Get involved in some aspect of the new culture.** Whether you study art or music, or learn a new sport or martial art, being an interested student will make a world of difference.
- **Take time to learn the language.** It always helps to understand as much as possible of what people are saying. They will appreciate your effort to communicate with them in their language, even if it is just a few simple phrases, and it will make your daily life much easier.
- **Take care of yourself.** Eat well, exercise and take the time to sleep. Limit your alcohol consumption to moderate amounts.
- **Travel.** Take the time to be a tourist and explore the country's sights.
- **Make friends and develop relationships.** Getting to know local people will help you overcome cultural differences and understand the country. It will also show you how to be more sensitive to cultural norms and expectations.
- **Maintain contact with friends and family back home.** Writing home about your experiences and problems can help you sort through them. It is also a good idea to keep a journal of your feelings and thoughts.
- **Do something that reminds you of home.** Listening to your favourite music or practising a familiar hobby can boost your spirits when you are feeling homesick.
- **Avoid idealizing life back home.** Try to make the most of your stay and consciously adopt an open mind.

Instruction of Simple Chinese Conversation and Pin Yin

锅 鍋 guo
国 國 gwō
果 果 guō
过 過 guōh

The romanization of Chinese is the use of the Latin alphabet to write Chinese. Because Chinese is a tonal language with a logographic script, its characters do not represent phonemes directly. There have been many systems of romanization throughout history. Linguist Daniel Kane recalls, "It used to be said that sinologists had to be like musicians, who might compose in one key and readily transcribe into other keys." [1] However, Hanyu Pinyin has become the international standard since 1982. Other well-known systems include Wade-Giles and Yale Romanization.

There are many uses for Chinese romanization. It serves as a useful tool for foreign learners of Chinese by indicating the pronunciation of unfamiliar characters. It can also be helpful for clarifying pronunciation—Mandarin pronunciation is an issue for some speakers of other mutually unintelligible Chinese languages who do not speak Mandarin fluently. Standard keyboards such as QWERTY are designed for the Latin alphabet, often making the input of Chinese characters into computers difficult. Chinese dictionaries have complex sorting rules for characters, and romanization systems can simplify the problem by listing the characters by their Latin form alphabetically.

Romanization systems for other Chinese languages and dialects are indicated in the information box on the right side of this page.

Background

The Indian Sanskrit grammarians who came to China two thousand years ago to work on the translation of Buddhist scriptures into Chinese and

the transcription of Buddhist terms into Chinese, discovered the "initial sound", "final sound", and "suprasegmental tone" structure of spoken Chinese syllables. This understanding is reflected in the precise Fanqie system, and it is the core principle of all modern systems. While the Fanqie system was ideal for indicating the conventional pronunciation of single, isolated characters in written Classical Chinese literature, it was unworkable for the pronunciation of essentially polysyllabic, colloquial spoken Chinese languages, such as Mandarin.

Aside from syllable structure, it is also necessary to indicate tones in Chinese romanization. Tones distinguish the definition of all morphemes in Chinese, and the definition of a word is often ambiguous in the absence of tones. Certain systems such as Wade-Giles indicate tone with a number following the syllable: ma¹, ma², ma³, ma⁴. Others, like Pinyin, indicate the tone with diacritics: mā, má, mǎ, mà. Still, the system of Gwoyeu Romatzyh (National Romanization) bypasses the issue of introducing non-letter symbols by changing the letters within the syllable, as in mha, ma, maa, mah, each of which contains the same vowel, but a different tone.

English

Mandarin Pinyin

Greetings

Hello (How are you?) Ni/ hao\.

Good morning. Zao\shang\ hao\ . -or- Zao\an—.

Good afternoon. Xia\wu\ hao\ . -or- Wu\an—.

Good evening. Wan\shang\ hao\ . -or- Wan\an—.

Good night. Wan\an—.

Good-bye. Zai\ jian\.

See you soon. Hui/ tou/ jian\.

See you later. Yi\huir\ jian\.

See you later. Dai—huir\ jian\.

See you tomorrow. Ming/tian— jian\.

I hope to meet you again. Xi—wang\ wo\men zai\ jian\mian\.

I'll miss you.	Wo\ hui\ xiang\ nian\ ni\ de.
Hello (on the phone)	Wei\ -or- Wei/.
I am American.	Wo\ shi\ Mei\ guo/ ren/.
My name is ____.	Wo\ jiao\ ____.
What is your family name?	Gui\ xing\?
What is your surname?	Ni\ xing\ shen/me?
What is your first name?	Ni\ jiao\ shen/me ming/zi?
Nice meeting you.	Hen\ gao—xing\ ren\ shi ni\.
I am glad to meet you.	Hen\ gao—xing\ ren\ shi ni\.
Glad to meet you.	Zhen— gao—xing\ ren\ shi ni\.
It's been a long time since we last met.	Hao\ jiu\ mei/ jian\ le.
Long time no see.	Hao\ jiu\ bu/ jian\.
I am really pleased to see you.	Wo\ zhen— gao—xing\ jian\ dao\ ni\.
I am very pleased to have met you.	Hen\ gao—xing\ yu\ dao\ ni\.
I've brought you a small present.	Wo\ gei\ ni\ dai\ lai/ yi/ ge xiao\ li\ wu\.
I know a little Chinese.	Wo\ hui\ yi\ dian\ Zhong—wen/.
I don't understand.	Wo\ ting— bu\ dong\.
Can you say that again?	Ni\ neng/ zai\ shuo— yi—bian\ ma?
Say it again.	Zai\ shuo— yi—bian\.
Please speak more slowly.	Qing\ shuo— man\ yi\ dian\.
Excuse me. (I'm sorry.)	Dui\ bu\ qi\.
I'm sorry.	Qing\ yuan/ liang\.
I'm sorry.	Bao\ qian\.

Shopping

Do you have ____?

Ni\ you\ ____ ma?

Do you have ____?

Ni\ you\ mei/ you\ ____?

I want ____.

Wo\ yao\ ____.

I don't want ____.

Wo\ bu/ yao\ ____.

This one is very nice.

Zhe\ge hen\ hao\.

It's really beautiful.

Zhen—shi\ piao\liang\ ji/le.

I'll buy this one.

Wo\ yao\ zhe\ge.

How much does it cost?

Duo—shao\ qian/?

It's too expensive.

Tai\ gui\le.

Can you lower the price a little bit? Neng/ pian/yi yi\ dianr\ ma?

I can't afford it.

Wo\ mai\ bu\ qi\.

Sorry, I don't want this.

Dui\ bu\ qi\ wo\ bu/yao\le.

It's a deal.

Cheng/ jiao—le.

Chapter 2

Working in Taiwan



The Rights and Obligations of Foreign Teachers



visa

- Landing visa
- Visitor' s visa
- Resident visa
- Alien Residence Certificate
- Overstay and extensions
- Work permit

APRC, Marriage and dependent ARC

- Naturalization and marriage registration

Important places for your stay

- MOFA
- Labor Bureau- WDA
- Immigration Offices
- Labor Affairs Department
- Airport/ Customs
- Local Police Department--Foreign Department
- International Hotline

National Health Insurance

- Full package for everyone
- Co-pay 20%, employer 70%, Government 10%
- Teaching Hospitals, local hospitals, clinics
- English speaking doctors

Driver' s License

- International Driver' s License
- Scooter Driver' s License
- Permit and Registration
- Convert International one to local one
- Take a written and road test
- Emission Test
- Liability Insurance

Banking Services

- Currency
- Bank of Taiwan
- New Dollars vs old dollars
- Travelers checks
- Opening an Account: ARC or Unicode

Taxation

- 183 days, 18% 6% and 5%
- Minimum wage monthly: 18,780; hourly:103
- Where,when and how
- MOF
- Deductibles: rent, mortgage, medical bills, travel cost, relocation cost, renovating rented premises, insurance fees, children' s education fees, etc.

Labor Insurance

- 60-year-old
- 20%, 70% and 10%
- Child-birth subsidy, commuters' protection, accident insurance during work.

Studying in Taiwan

- Foreign Schools
- Studying Chinese-language centers
- Student visa
- Foreign spouses

Obligations

- No outside work
- Lunch at school
- Immigration: report change of residence
- Health check and background check
- Being Late/ leaving work early for more than 5 times
- Do not hang out with students after school

permit -- a formal government-issued letter of approval -- is sent by registered mail to the employer. The letter, which serves as proof of permission for the prospective employee to undertake employment in Taiwan, is required for the resident visa application.

2. Visas

After receiving the work permit, the prospective employee should apply for a resident visa. If they have arrived in Taiwan with a Visitor's Visa, they may change their visa status without departing Taiwan by applying at the Bureau of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taipei, Taichung or Kaohsiung. If they are not in Taiwan, they must apply for a Resident Visa at the nearest Taiwan representative office. If they have entered under the Visa Waiver Program or received a Landing Visa, they must depart Taiwan to apply for a Resident Visa.

3. Alien Resident Certificates

After receiving a resident visa and entering Taiwan, foreign nationals are then required to apply for an Alien Resident Certificate with the foreign affairs police under the National Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior.

4. Foreign Nationals with Resident Status in Taiwan

Different rules apply for the hiring of foreign nationals with resident status in Taiwan. For example, foreign nationals who are married to ROC nationals and have obtained legal resident status are permitted to work in Taiwan without having to apply for a work permit. As for permanent residency holders, they may apply for an "open" work permit directly with the Council of Labor Affairs and do not need to apply for a work permit through their employer.

Chapter 3

Living in Taiwan



Housing, Medical, and Transportation Information



Housing In Taiwan

Schools in Taiwan don't provide housing for you, but they generally assist in helping you find an apartment which matches what you are looking for. All Reach To Teach affiliated schools offer some form of assistance when you first arrive, whether it takes the form of direct help in finding apartment and/or providing you with temporary housing. This assistance is extremely helpful when trying to negotiate leases and find a location you're happy with. Alternatively, tealit.com and forumosa.com are two great web sites that serve the foreign community, although we wouldn't advise you to sign a rental contract until you are here in person to see the apartment.

Apartment hunting in Taiwan may at first seem overwhelming because of the language barrier, but with a little patience you will have no problem finding something to your liking. Concentrate on taking your time and finding a place which is comfortable and located near your school and you'll get more out of your teaching experience in Taiwan. Most teachers find their apartment to be cheaper and a better value than anything they could have found back home.

The cost of an apartment in Taiwan varies from city to city. In all cases apartments here are much cheaper than what you would expect to pay in most Western countries. Your cheapest housing option is the studio-apartment, which usually comes furnished with air-conditioning, bed, desk, chair, and clothes cabinet. One-bedroom apartments may or may not have a kitchen or come furnished. Two and three-bedroom

apartments usually have at least 2 bathrooms and a kitchen. They may or may not come furnished.

Housing In Taipei

Housing in Taiwan - ESL in Taiwan

Most apartments are spacious and comfortable

As the economic and cultural hub of the country expect to pay a premium for housing in Taipei. Within Taipei City expect to pay NT\$10,000/month + utilities. As you move out into what was called Taipei County, now New Taipei City, your costs could fall as low as NT\$5,000/month, but expect an average of \$NT7-9,000/month + utilities.

A lack of space is a definite drive behind the high prices in Taipei and, as such, apartments tend to be on the smaller side. While the interiors of most apartments are well maintained and clean, the outside streets and alleys can sometimes feel dirty and uninviting. Similar to much of Asia, Taiwanese cities appear to be one giant concrete jungle with very little space given over to open spaces and parks. This is the price you pay for the convenience of living in Taipei, or other major cities in Taiwan.

Housing In Other Cities

The housing situation in the rest of Taiwan is roughly the same throughout, particularly in terms of price. You can expect to pay as little as NT\$4,000/month and no higher than NT\$7,000/month + utilities for a simple one bedroom studio. Space is less of an issue so apartments tend to be a little larger than a similarly priced Taipei apartment.

Utilities In Taiwan

Expect to pay NT\$500 to NT\$1,000 a month for basic utilities (water and electricity). There is no central heating in Taiwan because frankly it is not that cold. Should you be a little on the cold blooded side you can buy a small electric heater that will heat a small room, but expect to pay for it in your next electric bill. Most apartments do come with air conditioning which is an absolute must during the summer months. Again, expect to pay a little extra on your electric bill.

These days just about every apartment is hot wired with a broadband internet connection right when you move in. Many landlords will include the internet in monthly rent, but if they don' t you should expect to pay an additional NT\$500/month for internet. Contact us for our guide to the different internet providers in Taiwan and how to set the internet up in your apartment.

Leases In Taiwan

Cost of living in Taiwan - ESL in Taiwan

Many apartments come fully furnished with everything you will need!

When you have finally found the right apartment it is time to sign the lease, and luckily they are pretty straight forward in Taiwan. Often, you will be required to pay a two month deposit + the first month of rent straight away. A NT\$7,000/month apartment would mean you need to pay NT\$21,000 (\$600 USD), so be prepared. The length of leases in Taiwan are generally a full year, although many landlords are accommodating if your circumstances are different.

Medical

As a teacher in Taiwan you automatically qualify for national medical coverage. However, this coverage does not start immediately. In order for it to begin you must have your Alien Residence Card (ARC), which can take upwards of two months to get established. It is advised that in the mean time you get emergency medical coverage before you go.

Rest assured that all doctors in Taiwan speak some level of English from their exposure to many medical texts in English. It also helps to try and find the largest hospital in your area, as it will undoubtedly have the largest staff to draw an English-speaking doctor from.

If you have a medical emergency dial 1-1-9 to reach emergency services in Taiwan. You can also call one of the medical centers listed below and they may have the ability to dispatch one of their own emergency vehicles to come and get you.

Traditional Chinese Medicine in Taiwan

For over 3000 years traditional Chinese medicine has healed sick and imbalanced bodies through massage, manipulation of blood flow and acupuncture. The theories of these practices were long ago outlined in The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine written between the third and first century B.C.

Baguan

Baguan is the art of placing large bell-shaped vacuum caps on one's back (see picture). The idea is to pull blood and any toxins that reside in it to the surface of the body using the strong suction inside the cups. Bringing the blood to the surface draws the toxins out and allows the body to rid itself of disease. The downside is that the cups leave large circular bruises on the skin. These bruises will slowly heal and change back to a normal skin tone over a period of about a month.

Guasha

Guasha will typically follow a baguan treatment. The technique involves pressing a cow-horn implement onto pressure points along the entire back. The tool is then dragged (in a scraping motion) along the back that causes bruising. This brings more of the body's internal impurities to the surface to be cleansed. The next step is an acupuncture treatment to help the body relax and heal faster by balancing the flow of yin and yang.

Acupuncture

Acupuncture - Traditional Chinese Medicine - ESL in Taiwan

Acupuncture uses needles to cleanse the body of impurities

The technique does not always involve needles going into your skin. Acupuncture can also involve using a small steel prong connected to a source of low electrical current. This is pressed onto different pressure points on the body until the flow of electricity stimulates these points. The initial sensation can be very painful, especially if one of the acupoints that is being pressed connects to a body organ or energy field that is unhealthy. The soreness is temporary though and the initial sting is replaced by a sense of relaxation.

In traditional acupuncture needles are pushed into acu-points that are connected with energy fields or internal organs. It is the stimulation of these acu-points that activates that organ or energy field. Through a combination of techniques this stimulation unblocks organs or energy flows in order to induce proper function.

Hair-Pulling

A trained professional will grab your hair in a special way and slowly start to pull. They will start gently but continue to apply more pressure until your eyes become slits and the skin on your forehead is stretched tightly back. The pain involved is exquisite, but when it's done your whole body tingles and feels like rubber.

Pharmacies In Taiwan

Small pharmacies can be found in just about every little neighborhood throughout the country. Here you can find all your common cold remedies as well as other hygienic products. Pricing is very cheap particularly compared to what you may be use to paying back home. If you need to refill a prescription it is best to return to the doctor from whom you received it.

Transportation In Taiwan

You will be happy to hear that Taiwan is a very easy country to navigate and offers a variety of means to get from point A to point B. Each of the major cities has an excellent public transportation system in place, with Taipei having one of the highest rated systems in the world. The national train system offers a fast and efficient method for getting around the island during holidays. The High Speed Rail (HSR) line opened less than two years ago and allows you to travel between between Taipei and Kaohsiung in just 90 minutes.

Getting a Scooter in Taiwan

Scooters in Taiwan - Teaching English in Taiwan

Scooters are everywhere!

Taiwan is scooter heaven. It would not be surprising to hear there is at least one scooter for every person over the age of 20. Driving in Taiwan is definitely not for the faint of heart, but owning a scooter does offer a lot of advantages. They are cheap to buy and maintain: a decent second-hand scooter can be as cheap as NT\$5-10000. They offer great fuel economy even with the rising price of gas. If you ride your scooter back and forth to work and in your general neighborhood, you may find yourself spending as little as NT150 (\$5 USD) per week on gas. They also offer you flexibility in getting to harder to reach places around Taiwan. Having a scooter is certainly not a must, but after your first couple months it is definitely worth considering. If you do decide to purchase a scooter make sure to drive carefully! Accidents are unfortunately quite common throughout the island.

By law all drivers must wear a helmet and obtain a local scooter license. The reality is that many foreigners forego the license but you should definitely always wear a helmet! If you do plan on being here for a while by all means take the time to apply for a license.

Scooters tend to jump around the foreigner community as people come and go. A great place to find a cheap second-hand scooter is tealit.com. If you decide to buy one from a dealer remember to bring your ARC (Alien Resident Card).

Bicycles In Taiwan

Good secondhand bicycles can be purchased for as little as NT\$1,500, but many quality bikes are manufactured in Taiwan so purchasing a quality new bike is also an option. Giant, in particular, produces many of its bikes here and has stores all across the country. Though bikes are a great way to exercise, you will find that they are not a very convenient way to get to work, especially if one wants to start the day without a sweaty shirt!

Trains In Taiwan

The High Speed Rail trains can take you from the top of the island to the bottom in just under two hours! For those of us who lived in Taiwan before the HSR opened two years ago, this is REALLY fast and convenient! Taking the train is one of the best ways to get around in Taiwan. It is safe, trains run frequently and on time, and ticket prices are reasonable. The extensive conventional railway system has major lines that combine to make a full circle of the island (along with four branches that allow access to the mountainous areas of Taiwan), allowing travelers access to most of Taiwan' s major scenic and cultural attractions.

Just opened in 2007, the High Speed Rail (HSR) services travelers between Taipei and Kaohsiung with a number of stops in between. At an incredible cost of \$13 billion USD, the HSR is one of the most expensive privately funded projects in human history. Reaching a top speed of 300km/h it has cut the travel time between Taipei and Kaohsiung to 90 minutes, and has eased congestion on Taiwanese highways. This convenience comes at a price, expect to pay NT\$1500 each way.

Buses In Taiwan

Each of the major cities has an excellent bus system that makes getting around the city very easy. That is after you figure out where each bus goes which can take some time. Once you figure out the bus routes you need, they are a very cheap and reliable means of transportation. Depending on the distance to one' s destination, intra-city bus fares run from NT\$15 to NT\$25.

Buses are also an excellent way to get around the rest of the island. Some of the coach buses here can be incredibly comfortable allowing you to sit back and watch movies your entire journey. A typical express journey from Taipei to Kaohsiung can take 6 hours and costs roughly NT\$500.

Taxis In Taiwan

It is a safe bet that wherever you are in Taiwan, a yellow taxi is not far away. Equally appealing is the cheap fare, which starts at NT\$70 for the first 1.5km and rises by NT\$5 for every additional 0.5km. Getting around in a taxi can be very cheap and convenient, particularly if you split the fare with a friend. Most likely you will need to use taxis to get to and from bars and night clubs. Public transportation in Taiwan stops at 12:00pm which leaves you with few options when it comes time to head home.

However, it will be rare to encounter a taxi driver who speaks any English beyond maybe a "Hello, how are you?" If you know next to no Chinese this can turn into a frustrating experience. The best advice is to start taking business cards from the places you would like to return to, and simply show the driver the card with the address. It is also a good idea to

copy down your own home address to the best of your ability, or have a Chinese friend do it for you.

Air Travel In Taiwan

Taiwan offers easy access to the rest of Asia. Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines are all at your fingertips and fares are very reasonable. In the past, getting to China was problematic with no direct flights. The easiest way was to fly to Hong Kong and buy a separate ticket into Mainland China. This is currently still the case but the new Taiwanese government has opened discussions with China to begin operating direct flights between Taipei and Beijing. These flights will hopefully begin by the end of 2008 / beginning of 2009!

Air travel is also possible within the island, but unless timing is of the up most importance, the cost is usually prohibitive compared to train and bus fares.

A Brief Guidance of New Taipei City



New Taipei Bridge at night in Sanchong District, New Taipei.

New Taipei is a special municipality and the most populous city in Taiwan. Located in northern Taiwan, the city includes a substantial stretch of the island's northern coastline and surrounds the Taipei Basin, making it the second largest special municipality by area, behind Kaohsiung. New Taipei City is bordered by Keelung to the northeast, Yilan County to the southeast, and Taoyuan to the southwest. It completely surrounds Taipei. Banqiao District is its municipal seat and biggest commercial area.

Geography

New Taipei City is located at the northern tip of Taiwan Island. It covers a vast territory with a varied topology, including mountains, hills, plains and basins. In the northern part lies 120 km of coastline with gorgeous shorelines and beaches. The Tamsui River is the main river flowing through New Taipei City. Other large tributaries are the Xindian, Keelung and Dahan rivers, sections of which constitute riverside parks. The tallest peak in the

city is Mount Zhuzi (zh), standing at 1,094 m and located in the Sanzhi District.

Climate

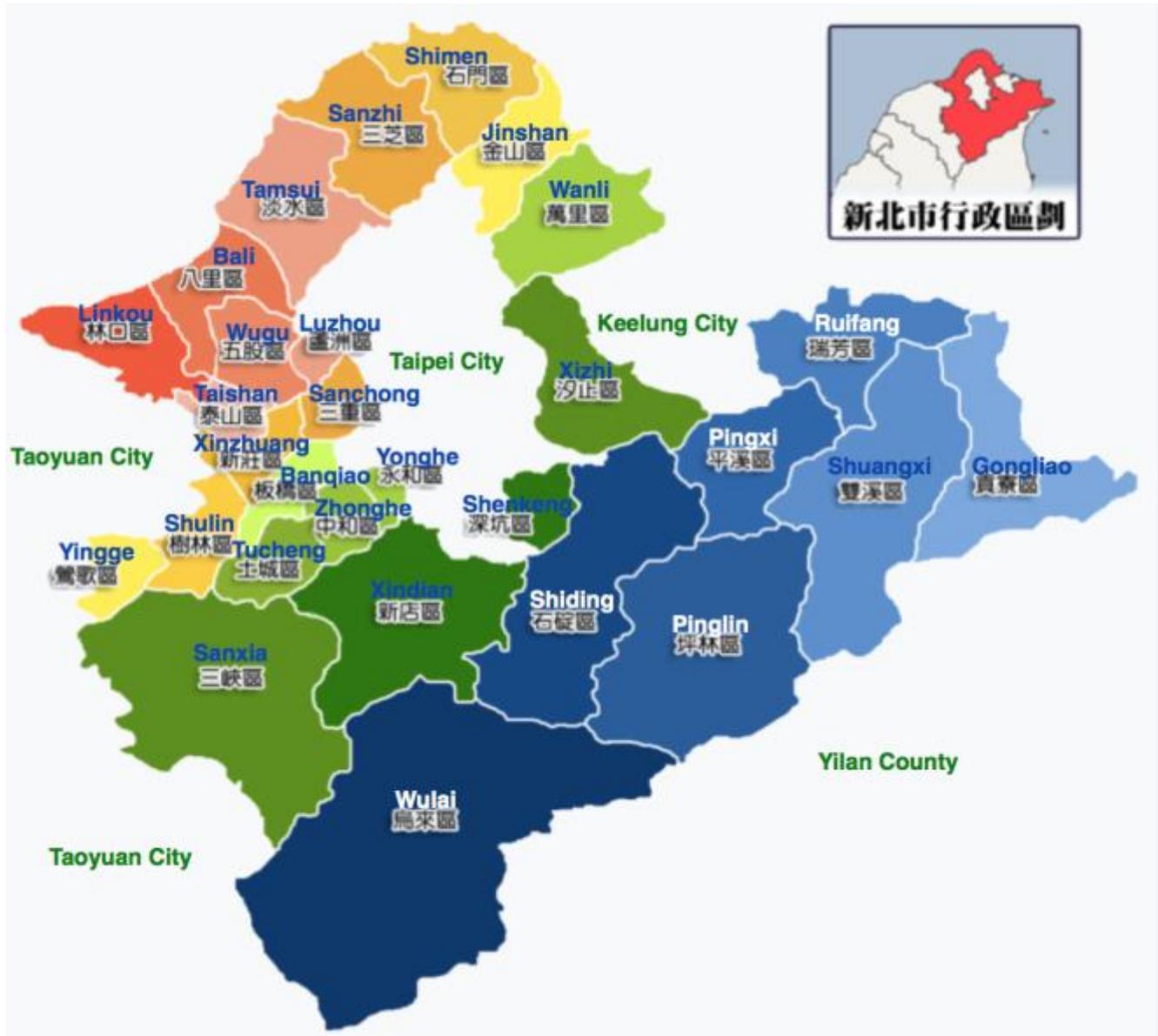
The climate of the city is characterized as a [humid subtropical climate](#) with seasonal monsoons with ample rainfall evenly distributed throughout the year. Seasonal variations of temperatures are noticeable although temperatures typically varies from warm to hot throughout the year, except when cold fronts strikes during the winter months when temperatures can sometimes dip below 10 °C (50 °F). January is typically the coolest month and July is usually the warmest.

[hide] Climate data for Taipei (1981–2010)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	19.1 (66.4)	19.6 (67.3)	22.1 (71.8)	25.7 (78.3)	29.2 (84.6)	32.0 (89.6)	34.3 (93.7)	33.8 (92.8)	31.1 (88)	27.5 (81.5)	24.2 (75.6)	20.7 (69.3)	26.6 (79.9)
Daily mean °C (°F)	16.1 (61)	16.5 (61.7)	18.5 (65.3)	21.9 (71.4)	25.2 (77.4)	27.7 (81.9)	29.6 (85.3)	29.2 (84.6)	27.4 (81.3)	24.5 (76.1)	21.5 (70.7)	17.9 (64.2)	23 (73.4)
Average low °C (°F)	13.9 (57)	14.2 (57.6)	15.8 (60.4)	19 (66)	22.3 (72.1)	24.6 (76.3)	26.3 (79.3)	26.1 (79)	24.8 (76.6)	22.3 (72.1)	19.3 (66.7)	15.6 (60.1)	20.4 (68.7)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	83.2 (3.276)	170.3 (6.705)	180.4 (7.102)	177.8 (7)	234.5 (9.232)	325.9 (12.831)	245.1 (9.65)	322.1 (12.681)	360.5 (14.193)	148.9 (5.862)	83.1 (3.272)	73.3 (2.886)	2,405.1 (94.69)
Average rainy days (≥ 0.1 mm)	14.1	14.6	15.5	14.9	14.8	15.5	12.3	14	13.8	11.9	12.4	11.7	165.5
Average <u>relative humidity</u> (%)	78.5	80.6	79.5	77.8	76.6	77.3	73	74.1	75.8	75.3	75.4	75.4	76.6
Mean monthly <u>sun shine hours</u>	80.6	71.3	89.6	92.6	113.7	121.7	179	188.9	153.7	124	99.4	90.7	1,405.2

Source: Central Weather Bureau^[16]

Municipal administration

New Taipei City controls 28 districts (區; qū) and 1 mountain indigenous district (山地原住民區; shāndì yuánzhùmín qū).[17] The sub-city entities consists of 1,017 villages (里; lǐ), which in turn are divided into 21,683 neighborhoods (鄰; lín). The municipal seat is located at Banqiao District.



Demographics and culture

New Taipei City has an estimated population of around 3.9 million. Over 80% of New Taipei's residents live in the 10 districts that were formerly county-controlled cities (Banqiao, Luzhou, Sanchong, Shulin, Tucheng,

Xizhi, Xindian, Xinzhuang, Yonghe and Zhonghe), which account for one-sixth of the area. 28.80% of the residents moved into the area from Taipei City. Around 70% of the population living in New Taipei come from different parts of Taiwan, and there are around 73,000 foreigners residing in the city, making New Taipei City the third largest municipality in Taiwan in terms of foreign resident population.

Beliefs

The city is home to 952 registered temples and 120 churches, including 160 Buddhist-Taoist temples and more than 3,000 Taoist shrines. The city also houses five major Buddhist monasteries, such as the Dharma Drum Mountain in Jinshan District and Ling-jiou Mountain Monastery in Gongliao District. On average, there are two worship places in every square kilometer around the city. Xizhi District and Sanxia District have the highest number of registered temples, while Wulai District has the fewest. New Taipei City houses the Museum of World Religions in Yonghe District.

Sports

New Taipei City is home to the Banqiao Stadium and Xinzhuang Baseball Stadium.

Economy

Port of Taipei

Due to its strategic location, New Taipei is the second major city of business industries after Taipei, with over 250,000 privately owned companies and 20,000 factories scattered around five industrial parks with a total capital of NT\$1.8 trillion. There are also many high technology industry, service industry and tourism industry, contributing a significant amount of GDP to Taiwan. The five major industries in the city are

information technology (IT), telecommunications, digital contents, biotechnology and precision instruments. The city is among the top three cities in the global market in terms of IT product production volume, securing more than 50% of the global market share for products such as motherboards, notebooks, LCD monitors and CRT monitors.

Creative industries

New Taipei City is also filled with many cultural and creative industries, such as pottery in Yingge District, Liuli industry in Tamsui District, drum industry in Xinzhuang District, dye industry in Sanxia District, noble metal processing industry in Ruifang District, sky lantern industry in Pingxi District etc. The Taiwan Film Culture Center is planned to be built in Xinzhuang District for the key resource of the development of film industries in Taiwan. The Knowledge Industry Park is also planned to be built in the same district to encourage the clustering and expansion of digital content companies and will help turn the city into a virtual digital entertainment park.

Logistic industries

The Port of Taipei located in Bali District has the capability of fitting container ships weighing up to 80,000 tons and transporting more than 2 millions of TEU annually. The Tamsui Fisherman's Wharf in Tamsui District serves as the main port for fishing boats, as well as for sightseeing and leisure.

Education

Fu Jen Catholic University

Education in New Taipei City is government by the Education Department of New Taipei City Government. The city population is highly educated,

with over 38% of the people received higher education.

Universities and colleges

The city houses many government and private universities, such as Aletheia University, Chihlee University of Technology, Fu Jen Catholic University, Hsing Wu University, Huafan University, Jinwen University of Science and Technology, Ming Chi University of Technology, National Open University, National Taipei University, National Taiwan University of Arts, St. John's University, Tamkang University etc.

Some of the colleges in the city are De Lin Institute of Technology, Lee-Ming Institute of Technology, Mackay Medical College, Oriental Institute of Technology etc.

Public libraries

Founded in 1914, the National Taiwan Library, the oldest public library in Taiwan, is located in the city at Zhonghe District.

Education centers

Opened in January 2008, the Sustainable Development Education Center in Bali District is a center for wetland conservation education.

Historical

Historical attractions include Bitoujiao Lighthouse, Chin Pao San, Fort Santo Domingo, Hobe Fort, Ōgon Shrine, Tamsui Old Street, Lin Family Mansion and Garden, Fugueijiao Lighthouse, Cape San Diego Lighthouse and Qing dynasty remnants in Tamsui and the old mining towns of Jiufen, Jinguashi and Jingtong in the east. Sanxia houses the historic Minquan Street.

Temples

The most famous temple is the Zushi Temple in Sanxia District. Jinshan District houses the Dharma Drum Mountain.

Museums and galleries

There are numerous notable museums and galleries, such as Drop of Water Memorial Hall, Gold Museum, Jing-Mei Human Rights Memorial and Cultural Park, Jingtong Mining Industry Museum, Ju Ming Museum, Li Mei-shu Memorial Gallery, Li Tien-lu Hand Puppet Historical Museum, Museum of World Religions, New Taipei City Hakka Museum, New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum, Pinglin Tea Museum, Sanxia History Museum, Shisanhang Museum of Archaeology, Taiwan Coal Mine Museum, Taiwan Nougat Museum, Tamkang University Maritime Museum, Tamsui Art Gallery, Teng Feng Fish Ball Museum, Wulai Atayal Museum, Wulai Tram Museum and Xinzhuang Culture and Arts Center.

Natural

Natural attractions include the Wulai and Shifen waterfalls, Bitan, Wulai hot springs, Cape San Diego, Twin Candlestick Islets, Xinhai Constructed Wetland, hoodoo geological formations at the Yehliu seacoast, and hiking in Mount Guanyin, Wulai, Pingxi and the northeast coast. Tamsui Fisherman's Wharf along the Tamsui River is a popular place for leisure and sightseeing. Popular beaches include Fulong, Yanliao and Baisha Bay.

Theme Parks and Resorts

Theme parks and resorts in the city include Formosa Fun Coast, Yehliu Ocean World, Yun Hsien Resort etc.

Night Markets

Famous night markets in the city are Nanya Night Market and Lehua Night Market.

Festivals

New Taipei City regularly hosts around 5,000 annual art, music and cultural festivals, such as the Hohaiyan Rock Festival in Gongliao District. The Lantern Festival is held regularly in the city particularly in Pingxi District, where sky lanterns are made throughout the year for people to buy. Guests can also learn how to make their own lanterns, paint their hopes, dreams and wishes on them, then release them to the sky in the hopes that their prayers will be answered.

Other festivals include the Yeliu Religious Festival, Cherry Blossom Season, Ching Shui Tsu Shih Rituals, Mazu Cultural Festival, Zhonghe Water Festival, Green Bamboo Shoot Festival, Tung Blossom Festival, Fulong Sand Sculpture Festival, Shimen International Kite Festival, Taishan Lion Dance Culture Festival, Color Play Asia etc.

Foreigner Dependent Services and Education Systems



Service line for foreign spouses

In order to provide a channel for fast and thoughtful services for new immigrants without communication difficulties, the “Foreign Spouses Information Line 0800-088-885” has been established by the Ministry of the Interior, which offers services in Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Cambodian, and English. New immigrants with inquiries on adapting to living in Taiwan, residency, education, employment, medical services, personal safety, children’s education, transportation, social welfare, and laws and regulations are welcome to call 0800-088-885 for assistance.

Study in Taiwan

1. Higher Education in Taiwan

There are more than 165 universities and institutions in Taiwan. Most of them accept foreign students. For those foreign students who can not manage Mandarin taught courses, there are also many graduates programs taught in English, or they can choose any language center to learn Mandarin first.

There are many popular fields which also have high academic standard, such as IMBA (International Business Administration and Management), Taiwan Studies, Computer Information Technology, Nanotechnology, Electrical Engineering, Application Agriculture and so on.

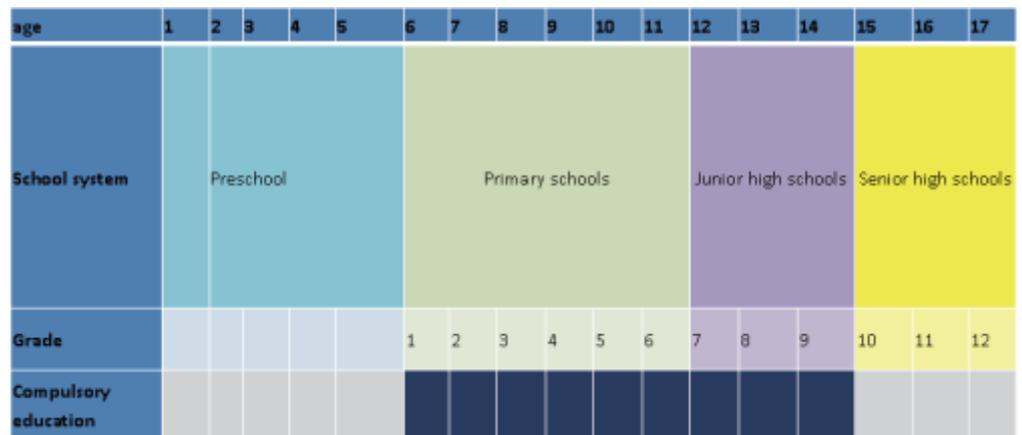
Both Taiwan government and universities are eager to create a friendly environment for foreign students and to enhance international competitiveness. More than 33,900 foreign students study in Taiwan in 2010.

2. Useful links :

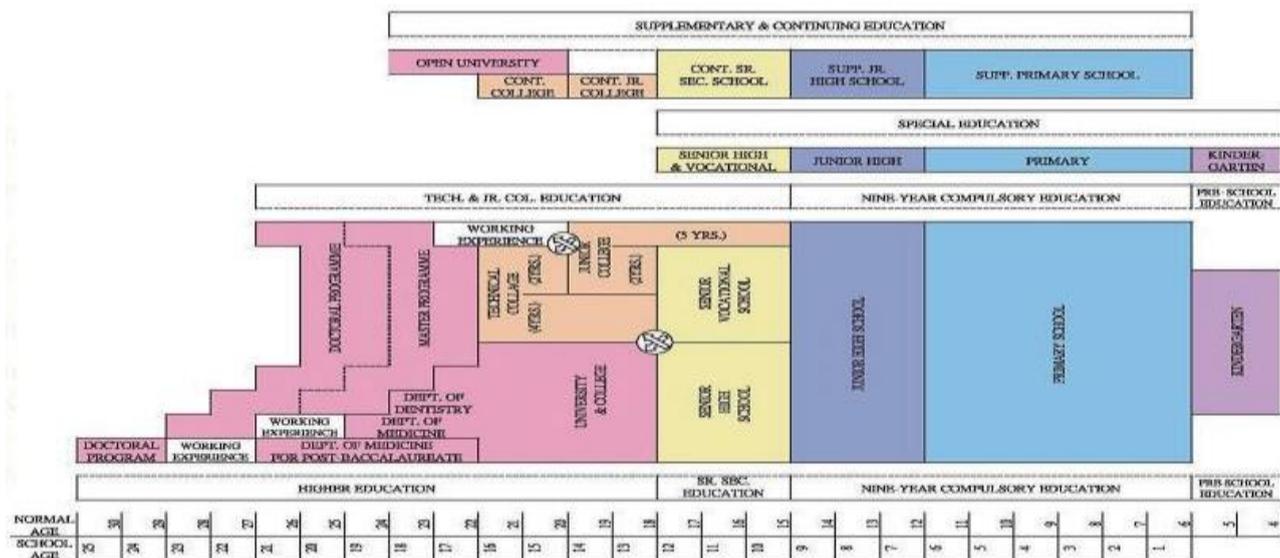
- Study in Taiwan : Provides introduction of education in Taiwan, lists of universities and Mandarin study courses/language centers, programs taught in English and application procedures
<http://www.studyintaiwan.org/en/index.html>
- Ministry of Education of Taiwan (official website)
<http://english.moe.gov.tw/lp.asp?ctNode=11446&CtUnit=1351&BaseDSD=16&mp=1>
- Programs taught in English (studyintaiwan website)
<http://www.studyintaiwan.org/programs.html>
- Information for foreigners (official website from National Immigration Agency)
Provides introduction about how to live, work, visit or study in Taiwan
<https://www.immigration.gov.tw/np.asp?ctNode=36879&mp=2>

Chapter 4

Educational System of Taiwan



Introduction to Educational Systems in Taiwan



Educational System

Students may study, under the current education system, for up to 22 years, which includes 2 years of preschool education, 6 years of primary education, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of senior high school, 4 to 7 years of college or university, 1 to 4 years for a master's degree and 2 to 7 years for a doctoral degree.

Compulsory Education

A 9-year Compulsory Education system was put into effect in 1968, of which 6 years are for elementary education and 3 years are for junior high school. To offer more diverse opportunities for junior high school students, technical arts education is included as well. Practical classes allow students to better understand future vocation and career choices. Compulsory education will be extended to twelve years in 2014.

Senior High School and Vocational Education

This category includes senior high schools and vocational high schools and consists of three years of schooling. Senior high school includes "ordinary senior high schools," "comprehensive senior high schools," "magnet senior high schools," and "experimental senior high schools." Vocational high schools offer a special curriculum with general high school courses as well as classes in practical skills, classes in industry-related subjects, and cooperative education programs, all designed in line with the various needs of students for a balanced vocational education.

Junior College Education

Vocational school education can be classified according to admission requirements into 5-year junior colleges and 2-year junior colleges. 5-year junior colleges admit graduates of junior high schools, whereas 2-year junior colleges admit graduates of vocational high schools.

Teacher Education Programs

The teacher education system, comprising multiple providers, serves to screen potential teacher candidates and establish a pool of prospective teachers. Teachers who teach kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, and senior high school are trained in teachers colleges or universities with teacher training programs or centers. These institutions are also responsible for providing in-service training and guidance for local education practitioners.

University/College and Graduate School Education

The maximum study period for university education (including universities, colleges, universities of technology, and technical colleges) is 4 years (the Post-bachelor Second Specialty Program is 1-2 years, while the Associate Degree offered by technical colleges is usually 2 years), and internships can last one-half to 2 years depending on the needs of the subject. For Master's Degree candidates, the study period is 1-4 years and for Doctoral Degree candidates the duration is 2-7 years.

Special Education

Special education institutions are established for students with mental and/or physical disabilities, and offer education at the levels of kindergarten, primary school (6 years), junior high school (3 years), and senior or vocational high school (3 years). Moreover, schools not exclusively dedicated to special education may also offer special education classes. Additionally, there are also resource rooms in universities to guide and to support students with disabilities.

Supplementary and Continuing Education

Supplementary and continuing education institutions provide extensive and comprehensive learning opportunities for the general public. This kind of education can be divided into general supplementary education, continuing education, and short-term supplementary education.

Aspects of Teaching English to Young Learners in Taiwan



Since 2005, it has been government policy in Taiwan to introduce English in Grade 3 of primary schooling (when learners are generally age 9). The overall aim of this research project was to investigate some of the problems associated with the implementation of this policy by combining research involving teacher cognition with research involving the criterion-referenced analysis of a sample of textbooks produced in Taiwan for young learners and a sample of lessons taught in Taiwanese primary schools.

A questionnaire-based survey of a sample of teachers of English in Taiwanese primary schools (166 respondents) was conducted, focusing on teacher background and training, views about national and local policies, approaches to course content, methodology and teaching resources, and perceptions of their own proficiency in English and of their own training needs. Only 46 (27%) of the respondents reported that they had a qualification specific to the teaching of English and 41 (25%) reported that they had neither a qualification in teaching English nor a general primary teaching qualification. Many expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of policies relating to the teaching of English at national level (46/ 29%), local level (39/24%) and in their own school (28/17%). Although many reported that the availability of resources (125/ 75%) and/ or student interest (101/ 61%) played a role in determining what they taught, none reported that the national curriculum guidelines did so. Although official policy in Taiwan endorses the use of 'communicative language teaching', only 103 (62%) of respondents reported that their own approach was communicatively-oriented, with 18 (11%) observing that they preferred grammar-translation.

A more in-depth survey relating to teacher perception of pre- and in-service training was conducted using a questionnaire and semi-structured interview. Although all 10 participants in this survey are officially classified as being trained to teach English in Taiwanese primary schools, the type and extent of their training varied widely and all of them expressed dissatisfaction with that training, noting that they had no confidence in the trainers' own competence in teaching English to young learners. All claimed that critical issues were either omitted altogether or dealt with in a superficial way.

One contextual factor that has a significant impact on teacher performance in Taiwan is the quality of the textbooks that are generally available. A sample of textbooks (3 different series) produced in Taiwan was analysed and evaluated, the analysis revealing that the materials were often poorly organised, inappropriately selected and illustrated, contextually inappropriate.

Finally, from a sample of twenty videotaped English lessons taught to students in primary schools in Taiwan, six that were considered to be typical were transcribed, analysed and evaluated in relation to criteria derived from a review of literature on teaching effectiveness. All of these lessons were found to be characterised by problems in a number of areas, including lesson focus, lesson staging, concept introduction, concept checking, and the setting up and conducting activities.

It is concluded that the implementation of official policy on the teaching of English in primary schools in Taiwan is fraught with problems, problems that are evident at every stage in the process, from teacher education, through materials design to lesson planning and delivery.

The Analysis of Students' Common Errors in English Learning



Defining the Problem

Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in Taiwan is for the most part pleasant and exciting. Students are eager to learn. However, one of the frustrations ESL teachers often complain about is that students seem to make the same mistakes repetitively. Learners will often transfer the rules of their first language to express something in their second language. This transference happens when they have insufficient knowledge of the rules of the second language (Cook, 2001). In Taiwan, students fall back on the rules of their first language (Mandarin) when they do not know the rules of the second language (English). The result is a poor form of English, informally referred to as "Chinglish". The errors that occur are also called language interference errors. These errors affect students' academic performance in English. Foreign teachers with limited knowledge of Mandarin may not even know why the same kinds of errors are being made repeatedly. Teachers feel frustrated and discouraged. To find textbooks that provide information on common interference errors and ways to "teach" them, is hard. Knowing where these errors come from may guide teachers to deal with these interference errors effectively. This article will identify some of the most common errors made by Taiwanese students in writing, as well as offer some strategies for teachers to use in the ESL classroom.

Where Does Chinglish Come From?

There are a number of causes leading to language interference errors. Errors are chiefly due to differences between the two languages, structurally and phonologically. The greater the difference, the more acute the learning difficulties are. The differences between English and Mandarin are many. These differences lead to confusion of the appropriate gender and number inflection for subject and object pronouns. For example, students confuse "he with she" and "him with her" and vice versa. In spoken Mandarin they do not have pronouns indicating the gender of the object or subject! Even an intermediate student can be heard saying, "I love my husband. She is so handsome." When one looks at sentences in Mandarin, verbs frequently appear in the final position as opposed to English verbs that appear in the middle of sentences.

Another example of a big difference between the languages is that in Mandarin, nouns stay the same, but "counting words" are used to indicate plural. Students do not add the -s to plurals. It is common to hear sentences like "Monkeys like to eat banana." The first noun was pluralized, but not the second noun. This is not only a grammatical error in writing, but happens frequently in speaking too. Mandarin speakers use a specific time phrase to mark the time. Typical sentences that can be found in the writing and speaking of ESL learners are "I yesterday eat cake" and "She eat rice". The correct form, "I ate cake yesterday" and "She eats rice" would be considered redundant in a Mandarin way of thinking!

There is no lexical equivalent for the definite article "the". Students are confused about when to use it and when to omit it. They often place the definite article in front of a proper name. For example, they often produce, "I want to go to the Taipei for the weekend." Mandarin uses double transitions which English speakers consider redundant. To Mandarin speakers it is logical to say, "Because Kate is English, therefore Kate can speak English." Multi-syllabic words cause confusion for since ESL learners since most words in Mandarin tend to have one morpheme and Mandarin sentences are shorter. Mandarin nouns, adjectives and adverbs do not show suffixes as they do in English. The word "happy" can be a noun, adverb and adjective in Mandarin. Many ESL teachers in Taiwan consider the incorrect use of adverbs and adjectives the most common interference errors. Students produce English such as "You can sing beautiful" instead of "You can sing beautifully". These reoccurring errors hinder students' English performance in tests and English assignments and may also be detrimental to their confidence in using their second language.

As stated earlier, an insufficient knowledge of the second language's grammar rules, forces students to fall back on the rules of their first language. Language interference errors occur. For example, students repeatedly ignore the agreement between the verb and subject. Another common mistake students make is the use of a comma instead of a period at the end of a sentence. In Mandarin sentences are separated with the use of a comma. Since many ESL schools put the main focus on teaching communication skills, grammar is often neglected. This poses a big problem for elementary school students. They enter elementary school with acceptable speaking skills but they have tremendous difficulty in writing English sentences and paragraphs. Many schools underestimate the value of teaching grammar at an earlier age. They think grammar is too abstract. Lack of age and developmentally appropriate English grammar resources specifically designed for Taiwanese children, add to the problem.

It is hard to address language interference errors in schools with a No-Mandarin-During- English- Time-policy. Children do not get the opportunity to make the necessary links and comparisons between English and Mandarin. Again, though knowledge of the students' first language is not compulsory, it may help teachers in understanding the interference errors made by students.

How to Limit Language Interference Errors

1. Error Analysis provides insight into the process of language acquisition. Determining the source of an error constitutes a major portion of the teacher's time prior to actual teaching but it is not the only task to be considered. Once the teacher has identified the errors, he or she must prioritize the mistakes and determine which ones to teach immediately and which ones "to put on a back burner." This task cannot be stressed enough because the sequencing of errors can radically affect the way in which a student responds to language teaching. It is not unusual, for instance, for a student to be devastated when confronted with 20 to 30 different problems to solve in one essay. It is the teacher's responsibility to provide a positive learning experience for the student by first determining the student's level of proficiency and selecting accordingly specific errors to be discussed in a specific sequence. Beginning students should concentrate on global errors, those which inhibit their communication. The more advanced student ought not to exhibit so many global errors and may need and want to have all the errors identified and explained if necessary. Teachers can use a simple frequency table to list and count the errors made by each student. Give students a 50-word assignment and document the errors. Teachers can

then discuss the errors with the class or individually.

2. The effective use of various auditory and visual mode instructions can reduce interference during encoding processes. According to Chung (2003) second language words were better remembered when first language words were presented auditory with the visually presented second language word. An example of a visual reminder may be for teachers to write the phonetic "in" versus "en" on the board, highlighting to students what they've said. Teachers should follow that up by writing the phonetic "en" on the board to be a visual reminder of what has been said as a pronunciation interference error.

3. How teachers provide feedback on language interference errors can be detrimental or conducive in the acquisition of a second language. It can be quite harmful to treat errors as "diseases" or "pathological situations". The correction of every error as soon as it occurs can be discouraging. Some of the negative consequences can include anxiety, fear of making an error, the development of avoidance strategies, reduced motivation for participation and lack of trust towards the teacher. Karra (2006) promotes self-correction as an efficient way to identify errors. Self-correction can be very effective when it is done with the help of children's classmates. The younger the children are, the more they like to cooperate and the self-correction process seems less intimidating. Self-correction is a very effective way of limiting interference errors in students' writing tasks. The following is a suggested four-step approach for self-correction. This process is practical and can be used for any ESL class, not only in the Taiwanese ESL classroom. The process is based on four questions the teacher provides to the students. Students will read their own work four times while answering all four questions one at a time. For each step students have to focus on only one aspect of their piece of writing.

- Highlight the verbs and check the tenses.
- Double check prepositions.
- Concentrate on nouns – spelling and the agreement between the subject and the verb.
- Correct potential personal mistakes.

4. Peer-correction may benefit not only the student correcting the errors, but it promotes social interaction in the students' second language. Students may feel more comfortable discussing their work with a peer, than with the foreign teacher in front of the class.

5. Teachers should revise the way in which new vocabulary are presented and selected. A different manner may make learning easier. For example, Tinkham (1997) illustrates how semantic clustering of new second language vocabulary serves as a detriment to the learning process. An example of a semantic cluster is peach, apple, pear, watermelon, etc. These are the names of fruit. On the other hand, thematic clustering serves as a facilitator of learning. Thematic clusters are cognitively based as well as based upon psychological associations between clustered words. An example of such a cluster is frog, pond, hop, slippery, green, swim. Here the common thematic concept is frog.

6. Repetition plays a very important role in the ESL classroom. Recent research has stated the importance of second language learner's use of repetition for conversational participation and language learning (Veslemoy, 2005). Veslemoy stated that repetition helps students to produce more language, while also formulating what to say next. Repetition is a strategy that may scaffold participation when young children are exposed to a second language for the first time. Repetition enhances comprehension, because it provides learners with opportunities to process input. Teachers can use repetition as a feedback technique. Teachers should repeat the incorrect sentence a student makes with the corrected grammar and sentence structure. In this way the teacher does not hinder the flow of the conversation to point out the grammar mistake. The teacher can keep the conversation flowing by only repeating the student's incorrect language with the correct form of English. The benefit of this technique lies in the fact that students will not get discouraged by a continual interruption when they make a mistake. By hearing pure and correct language, learning can still take place. Recent research (Rydland & Aukrust, 2005) has stated the importance of second language learner's use of repetition for conversational participation and language learning. When a student says "I better now", teachers can echo this by repeating the correct English, "I am better now".

7. Since students fall back on the rules of the first language when they do not know the rules of the second language, teachers will have to find ways of introducing grammar rules in a "child-friendly" way in kindergarten classes already. One practical and fun idea for young learners would be to have a "Chinglish" board where the correct and incorrect grammar are displayed and the children can police themselves and earn reward points for correcting other children's "Chinglish".

8. A solution that may not be popular is the suggestion that schools should revise their NO CHINESE DURING ENGLISH TIME-policy. Instead of seeing students' minds as a tabula rasa, a clean slate, English teachers

can recognize students' previous experiences with language and learning and can build on them, and they can expand on learners' linguistic knowledge by employing their first language intelligently. There is no evidence that the use of the first language in the classroom, constrains the learning of the second language. To prevent the over-use of Mandarin in the classroom, Ku (2004) made the following suggestions:

- Use the students' first language for class management such as disciplining students, organizing activities or giving activity instructions.
- Use the students' first language to link the thoughts of first and second language, such as for explaining grammar and conveying the meaning of the second language.
- Use the first language to maintain students' collaborative dialogue in their second language by switching unfamiliar words of the second language to the first language.

It is hard to address these errors in schools with a No-Mandarin-During-English-Time-policy. Children do not get the opportunity to make the necessary links and comparisons between English and Mandarin. Again, though knowledge of the students' first language is not compulsory, it may help teachers in understanding the interference errors made by students. By relaxing the No-Mandarin-policy, students may experience a sense of mutual appreciation of each other's language.

Conclusion

In general, it is important to reform the way English is taught in Taiwanese schools. The most crucial improvement needed lies in the adoption of methods aimed at enhancing students communicative abilities. Instead of making students spend all or most of their time memorizing grammatical rules, English classes should focus on developing the abilities to speak and write the language. Toward this goal, the textbooks that are used in schools for teaching English should be drastically revised or rewritten. Staff recruitment as well as parental and auxiliary staff instruction may be needed if teachers want to make an impact on more than just their classroom.