wishyou.today learning

day 61 taking the mrt

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 9 · getting around & shopping

Say how far a place is and which way to go, and get around by MRT and scooter.

Taipei runs on the MRT and a million scooters: “how far?” and “which way?” get you everywhere.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
車站	chēzhàn	station (bus, train)	車站在哪裡？ Where’s the station?
汽車	qìchē	car	臺北的汽車很多。 There are lots of cars in Taipei.
飛機場	fēijīchǎng	airport	我坐計程車去飛機場。 I’m taking a taxi to the airport.
馬路	mǎlù	road, street	過馬路的時候要小心。 Be careful when you cross the road.
路口	lùkǒu	junction, intersection	在{zai4-tw2}下一個路口等我。 Wait for me at the next junction.
十字路口	shízìlùkǒu	crossroads	十字路口有一家便利商店。 There’s a convenience store at the crossroads.
對面	duìmiàn	opposite, across the road	郵局在銀行對面。 The post office is opposite the bank.
捷運	jiéyùn	MRT, metro	我每天坐捷運上班。 I take the MRT to work every day.
機車	jīchē	scooter, motorbike	志明騎機車上班。 Zhiming rides a scooter to work.
離	lí	from (distance)	我家離學校走路十分鐘。 My home is a ten-minute walk from school.
經過	jīngguò	pass by, go through	這輛公車經過大學。 This bus goes past the university.
往	wǎng	towards	往前走，就到了。 Go straight on and you’re there.
看起來	kànqǐlái	look, seem	你看起來很累。 You look tired.

pattern a 離 b: how far; 往 + direction

A **離** **B** **how far**

離 measures the distance between two places: A 離 B + how far, 我家離車站走路五分鐘. Tomorrow you'll add 遠 (far) and 近 (near). 往 + a direction + verb says which way to go: 往前走 go straight on, 從這裡往右走.

學校離這裡坐捷運二十分鐘。 **xuéxiào lí zhèlǐ zuò jiéyùn èrshí fēnzhōng** The school is twenty minutes from here by MRT.

從車站往前走，經過一個路口就到了。 **cóng chēzhàn wǎng qián zǒu jīngguò yí ge lùkǒu jiù dào le** From the station go straight on, past one junction, and you're there.

公車已經開走了。 **gōngchē yǐjīng kāi zǒu le** The bus has already gone.

dialogue which way?

anna 喂，志明，我到捷運站了。你的公司離這裡走路幾分鐘？
wéi Zhìmíng wǒ dào jiéyùn zhàn le nǐ de gōngsī lí zhèlǐ zǒulù jǐ fēnzhōng · Hi Zhiming, I'm at the MRT station. How many minutes' walk is your office from here?

zhiming 十分鐘。你從車站出來，往前走。
shí fēnzhōng nǐ cóng chēzhàn chū lái wǎng qián zǒu · Ten minutes. Come out of the station and go straight on.

anna 好。然後呢？
hǎo ránhòu ne · OK. Then what?

zhiming 經過一個路口，走到十字路口。我的公司在銀行對面。
jīngguò yí ge lùkǒu zǒu dào shízìlùkǒu wǒ de gōngsī zài yínháng duìmiàn · Go past one junction and walk to the crossroads. My office is opposite the bank.

anna 這裡的機車和汽車好多，馬路也好大！
zhèlǐ de jīchē hé qìchē hǎo duō mǎlù yě hǎo dà · So many scooters and cars here, and the road is huge!

zhiming 過馬路的時候小心一點。要是你找不到，我就騎機車去接你。
guò mǎlù de shíhòu xiǎoxīn yìdiǎn yàoshì nǐ zhǎo bu dào wǒ jiù qí jīchē qù jiē nǐ · Be careful crossing. If you can't find it, I'll come and get you on my scooter.

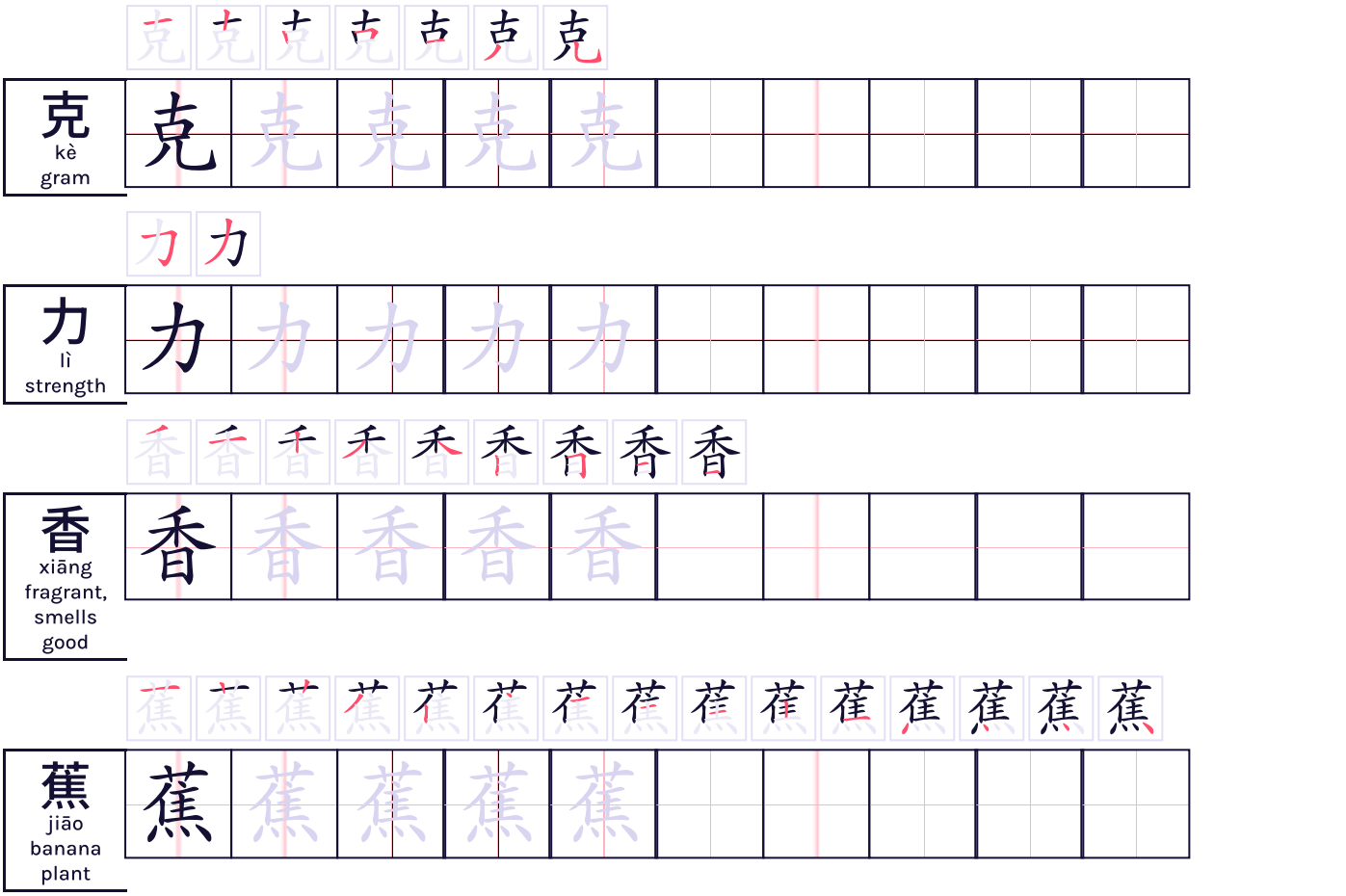
anna 不用，我看見銀行了！…志明，你看起來很忙。
búyòng wǒ kànjiàn yínháng le Zhìmíng nǐ kànqǐlái hěn máng · No need, I can see the bank! … Zhiming, you look busy.

zhiming 對啊，明天我還得去飛機場接老闆。
duì a míngtiān wǒ hái děi qù fēijīchǎng jiē lǎobǎn · Yeah, and tomorrow I have to pick up my boss from the airport.

anna 我帶了王阿姨的包子來！
wǒ dài le Wángāyí de bāozi lái · I've brought Auntie Wang's buns!

zhiming 太好了！讓我休息一下，我們一起吃吧。我有時候坐捷運，有時候騎機車，今天走了好多路！
tài hǎo le ràng wǒ xiūxí yíxià wǒmen yìqǐ chī ba wǒ yǒushíhou zuò jiéyùn yǒushíhou qí jīchē jīntiān zǒu le hǎo duō lù · Brilliant! Let me take a break and we'll eat together. Sometimes I take the MRT and sometimes the scooter: today I walked miles!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



good to know · 機車 in Taiwan is a scooter or motorbike (the mainland says 摩托車), and Taiwan has more than 14 million of them. In Taiwanese slang, 很機車 also means “really annoying”! Taipei MRT stations are numbered and colour-coded by line, and signs are in Chinese and English.

How far, which way, past the junction, opposite the bank: you can now find any place someone describes.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 62 turn left

Give and follow directions: near, far, turn left or right, and say where things end up.

Turn left at the second junction: the directions every visitor needs, and every local loves to give.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
中間	zhōngjiān	middle, between	銀行在郵局和公園中間。 The bank is between the post office and the park.
送	sòng	give (as a gift); take, deliver	我送你回家。 I'll see you home.
放	fàng	put, place	你的書我放在桌子上了。 I've put your book on the table.
近	jìn	near, close	車站很近，走路五分鐘。 The station is close, five minutes on foot.
遠	yuǎn	far	飛機場離這裡很遠。 The airport is far from here.
向	xiàng	towards, to	向左轉。 Turn left.
轉	zhuǎn	turn	在{zai4-tw2}十字路口往右轉。 Turn right at the crossroads.
掉	diào	fall, drop; (lose)	我的錢包掉了！ I've dropped my wallet!
南部	nánbù	the south	臺南在臺灣南部。 Tainan is in the south of Taiwan.
西部	xībù	the west	臺灣西部的城市很多。 There are lots of cities in western Taiwan.
北部	běibù	the north	臺北在臺灣北部。 Taipei is in the north of Taiwan.
東部	dōngbù	the east	臺灣東部有很多山。 There are lots of mountains in eastern Taiwan.
地圖	dìtú	map	你看一下手機上{=on}的地圖。 Have a look at the map on your phone.

pattern verb + 进/出/回/過/上/下/起 + 來/去; verb + 在/到

verb **進 / 出 / 回 / 過 / 上 / 下** **來 / 去**

After a verb, 進 (in), 出 (out), 回 (back), 過 (across), 上 (up), 下 (down) show the direction, and 來/去 show if it comes towards you or goes away: 走進來 come in, 拿出去 take out. Verb + 在/到 says where it ends up: 放在桌子上, 走到路口, 找到了 (found it).

請進來！ **qǐng jìn lái** Come in!

他從樓上走下來了。 **tā cóng lóushàng zǒu xià lái le** He came down from upstairs.

我把書放在桌子上了。 **wǒ bǎ shū fàng zài zhuōzi shàng le** I put the book on the table.

從這裡往前走，走到十字路口向右轉。 **cóng zhèlǐ wǎng qián zǒu zǒu dào shízìlùkǒu xiàng yòu zhuǎn** Go straight on from here to the crossroads and turn right.

dialogue lost on the way to the post office

anna 美玲，我找不到郵局。你可以幫我看一下地圖嗎？
Měilíng wǒ zhǎo bu dào yóujú nǐ kěyǐ bāng wǒ kàn yíxià dìtú ma · Meiling, I can't find the post office. Could you look at the map for me?

meiling 你現在在哪裡？
nǐ xiànzài zài nǎlǐ · Where are you now?

anna 我在一個公園和一家銀行中間。
wǒ zài yí ge gōngyuán hé yì jiā yínháng zhōngjiān · I'm between a park and a bank.

meiling 好，郵局離那裡很近。你往前走，走到十字路口，向右轉。
hǎo yóujú lí nàlǐ hěn jìn nǐ wǎng qián zǒu zǒu dào shízìlùkǒu xiàng yòu zhuǎn · OK, the post office is close. Go straight on to the crossroads and turn right.

anna 向右轉……然後呢？
xiàng yòu zhuǎn ránhòu ne · Turn right… and then?

meiling 經過兩個路口，郵局在左邊。你要寄什麼？
jīngguò liǎng ge lùkǒu yóujú zài zuǒbiān nǐ yào jì shénme · Go past two junctions and the post office is on the left. What are you sending?

anna 我要送林奶奶一個禮物，寄到臺南。…啊，我的錢包掉了！
wǒ yào sòng Línnǎinai yí ge lǐwù jì dào Táinán a wǒ de qiánbāo diào le · I want to send Grandma Lin a present, to Tainan. … Oh no, I've dropped my wallet!

meiling 別緊張！你看一下地上。
bié jǐnzhāng nǐ kàn yíxià dì shàng · Don't panic! Have a look on the ground.

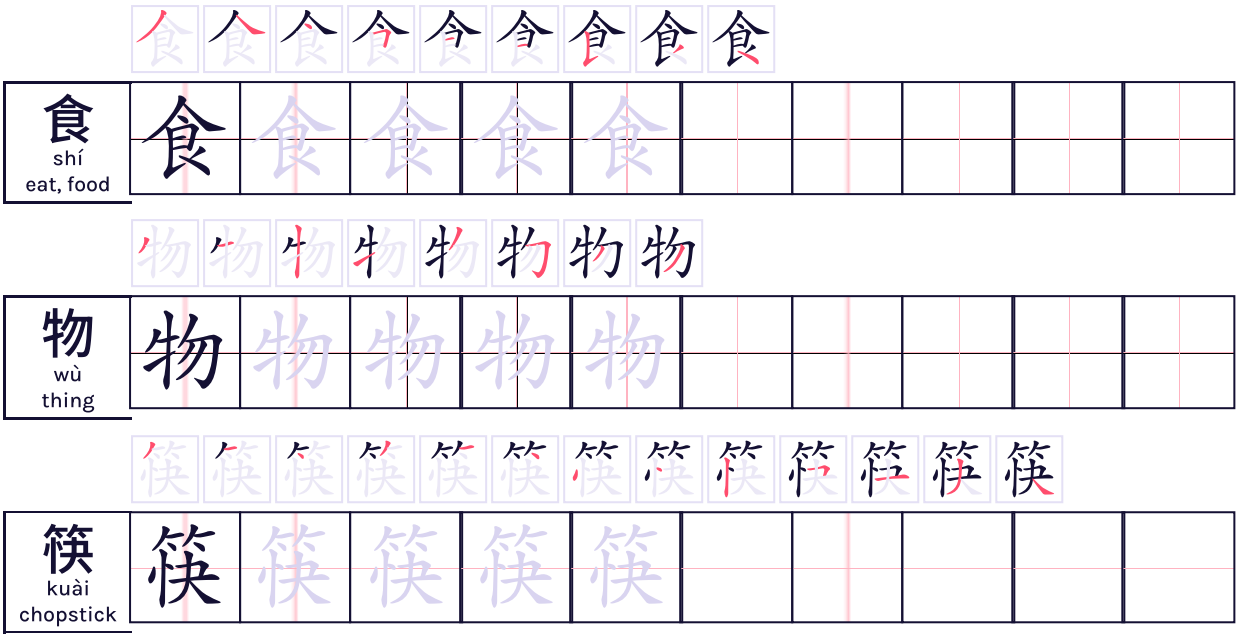
anna 找到了！它掉在路口了。
zhǎo dào le tā diào zài lùkǒu le · Found it! It fell at the junction.

meiling 太好了！你快進去寄吧，然後回來休息。
tài hǎo le nǐ kuài jìn qù jì ba ránhòu huí lái xiūxí · Great! Go in and post it, then come home and rest.

anna 好。今天走了好多路，我的腳好痛。
hǎo jīntiān zǒu le hǎo duō lù wǒ de jiǎo hǎo tòng · OK. I've walked so much today, my feet hurt.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

用
yòng
use; with



good to know · 向左轉 and 往左轉 both mean “turn left”; in speech you’ll also hear just 左轉. 來 is towards the speaker and 去 is away: inside the house you say 進來 (come in), outside you say 進去 (go in).

Left, right, near, far, put it there, found it: you can now give directions as well as follow them.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 63 a weekend trip

Talk about a trip: when, how and where something happened, with 是……的.

Every photo has a story: “where was this taken? how did you get there?”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
旅行	lǚxíng	travel; trip	我喜歡去旅行。 I love travelling.
飯店	fàndiàn	hotel	我們的飯店在車站旁邊。 Our hotel is next to the station.
旅館	lǚguǎn	inn, small hotel	這家旅館很便宜。 This inn is cheap.
袋子	dàizi	bag	你需要袋子嗎？ Do you need a bag?
參觀	cānguān	visit (a place)	我們去參觀大學吧。 Let’s go and visit the university.
照相機	zhàoxiàngjī	camera	這是我的新照相機。 This is my new camera.
照相	zhàoxiàng	take a photo	我們在{zai4-tw2}這裡照相吧！ Let’s take a photo here!
照片	zhàopiàn	photo	這張照片很漂亮。 This photo is lovely.
一半	yībàn	half	一半的人坐火車去。 Half the people are going by train.
全部	quánbù	all, the whole	我把蛋糕全部吃了。 I ate the whole cake.
所有	suǒyǒu	all	所有的人都來了。 Everyone has come.
需要	xūyào	need	你需要幫忙嗎？ Do you need help?
種	zhǒng	kind, type	這種水果叫什麼？ What’s this kind of fruit called?

pattern 是……的: when, how, where it happened

是 **when / how / where** **verb** **的**

For something that has already happened, 是……的 puts the spotlight on when, how or where: 我是坐飛機來的, “it was by plane that I came”. 是 goes before the detail and 的 at the end. In speech 是 is often dropped: 我昨天來的.

你是怎麼來的？——我是坐捷運來的。 **nǐ shì zěnme lái de wǒ shì zuò jiéyùn lái de** How did you get here? — By MRT.

這個蛋糕是美玲做的。 **zhè ge dàngāo shì Měilíng zuò de** Meiling made this cake.

我是去年九月來臺灣的。 **wǒ shì qùnián jiǔ yuè lái táiwān de** I came to Taiwan last September.

dialogue photos from tainan

meiling 你看，這是我去年的照片。
nǐ kàn zhè shì wǒ qùnián de zhàopiàn · Look, these are my photos from last year.

anna 好漂亮！這是在哪裡？
hǎo piàoliàng zhè shì zài nǎlǐ · Lovely! Where is this?

meiling 是臺南。奶奶家附近有很多老房子。
shì Táinán nǎinai jiā fùjìn yǒu hěn duō lǎo fángzi · Tainan. There are lots of old houses near Grandma’s.

anna 你是怎麼去的？
nǐ shì zěnme qù de · How did you get there?

meiling 我是坐火車去的，坐了四個多小時。
wǒ shì zuò huǒchē qù de zuò le sì ge duō xiǎoshí · By train: just over four hours.

anna 下個月我們一起去臺南旅行吧！我想參觀奶奶家，也想在那裡照相。
xià ge yuè wǒmen yìqǐ qù Táinán lǚxíng ba wǒ xiǎng cānguān nǎinai jiā yě xiǎng zài nàlǐ zhàoxiàng · Let’s go to Tainan together next month! I’d love to visit Grandma’s house and take photos there.

meiling 好啊！我們可以住在奶奶家，不用住飯店。
hǎo a wǒmen kěyǐ zhù zài nǎinai jiā búyòng zhù fàndiàn · Sure! We can stay at Grandma’s, no need for a hotel.

anna 志明也去嗎？他也需要住的地方。
Zhìmíng yě qù ma tā yě xūyào zhù de dìfāng · Is Zhiming coming too? He’ll need somewhere to stay as well.

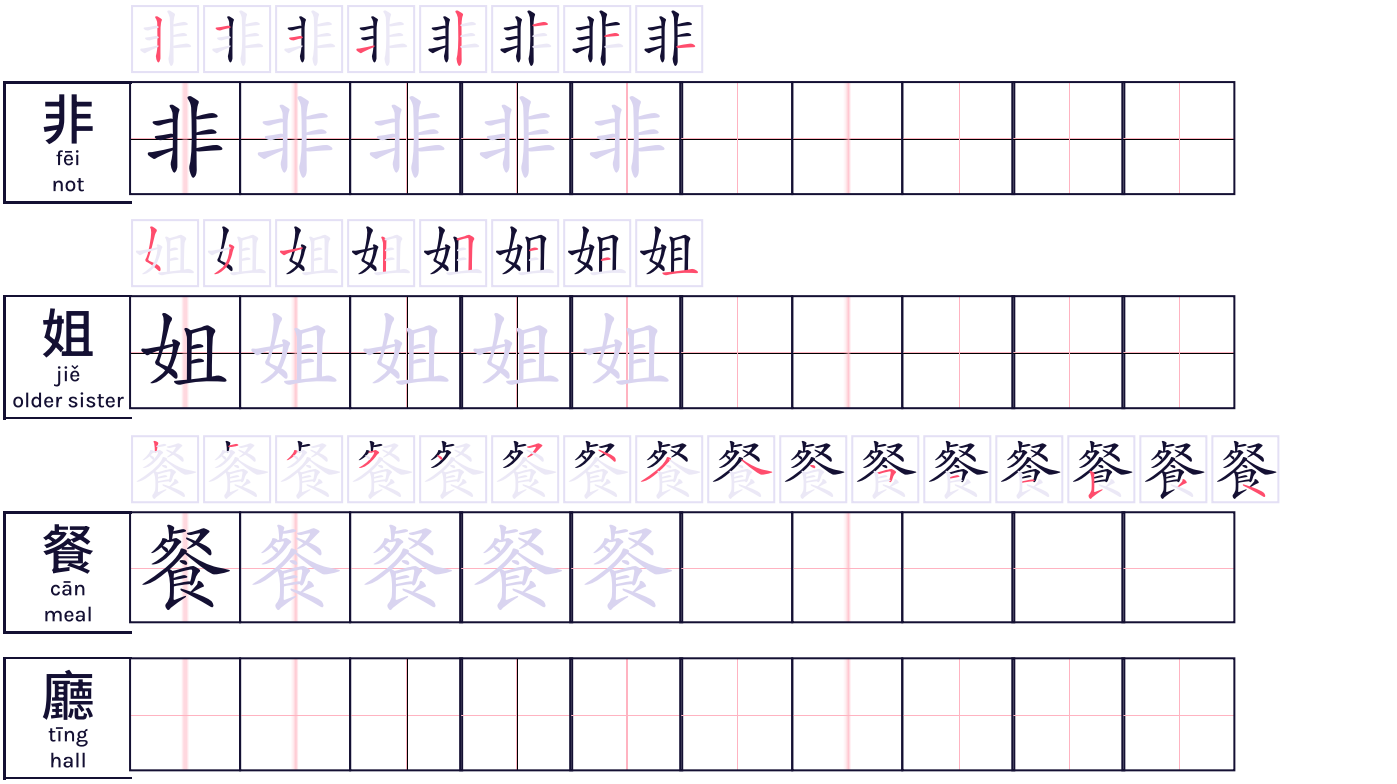
meiling 他可以住附近的旅館，那種旅館很便宜。你要帶一個大袋子，奶奶會給你很多東西帶回來！
tā kěyǐ zhù fùjìn de lǚguǎn nà zhǒng lǚguǎn hěn piányí nǐ yào dài yí ge dà dàizi nǎinai huì gěi nǐ hěn duō dōngxi dài huí lái · He can stay at an inn nearby: that kind is cheap. And bring a big bag: Grandma will give you loads to bring back!

anna 我還要帶我的照相機。
wǒ hái yào dài wǒ de zhàoxiàngjī · And I’ll bring my camera.

meiling 你的手機裡一半的照片都是小黑！
nǐ de shǒujī lǐ yíbàn de zhàopiàn dōu shì Xiǎohēi · Half the photos on your phone are of Xiaohei!

anna 全部都是小黑也很好啊！
quánbù dōu shì Xiǎohēi yě hěn hǎo a · All of them being Xiaohei would be fine too!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



good to know · In Taiwan 飯店 usually means a hotel. A small, cheaper place is a 旅館, and a guesthouse is a 民宿. 是……的 is only for things that already happened. For plans, just say 我們坐火車去.

When, how and where: with 是……的 you can tell the story behind every photo.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 64 what colour?

Ask about and choose colours, and shop and pay at markets and shops.

The red one or the white one? Choosing a present is all about colours, and paying the right way.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
賣	mài	sell	這家店賣什麼？ What does this shop sell?
付	fù	pay	我可以用信用卡付嗎？ Can I pay by card?
書店	shūdiàn	bookshop	學校旁邊有一家書店。 There's a bookshop next to the school.
商店	shāngdiàn	shop, store	這個地方有很多商店。 There are lots of shops round here.
市場	shìchǎng	market	奶奶每天早上去市場買菜。 Grandma goes to the market for food every morning.
超級市場	chāojíshìchǎng	supermarket	超級市場晚上十點關門。 The supermarket closes at ten at night.
信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ	credit card	這裡可以用信用卡嗎？ Do you take credit cards here?
顏色	yánsè	colour	你喜歡什麼顏色？ What colour do you like?
黃色	huángsè	yellow	這件黃色的衣服很好看。 This yellow top looks great.
白色	báisè	white	我想買白色的鞋子。 I want to buy white shoes.
紅色	hóngsè	red	過年的時候，大家都穿紅色的衣服。 At New Year everyone wears red.
黑色	hēisè	black	小黑是一隻黑色的貓。 Xiaohei is a black cat.
藍色	lánsè	blue	我的手機是藍色的。 My phone is blue.

pattern 什麼顏色? colour + 的

colour **的** **(thing)**

Ask 什麼顏色? (what colour?). Before a noun, a colour takes 的: 紅色的杯子; and 的 alone can stand for the thing: 我要紅色的, the red one. Colours with 色 are nouns, so say 這件衣服是紅色的, not 很紅色.

你的手機是什麼顏色的？ **nǐ de shǒujī shì shénme yánsè de** What colour is your phone?

我想買一件白色的衣服。 **wǒ xiǎng mǎi yí jiàn báisè de yīfú** I want to buy a white top.

黃色的比藍色的貴。 **huángsè de bǐ lánsè de guì** The yellow one is more expensive than the blue one.

dialogue a present for grandma

anna 我想給林奶奶買一個禮物。她喜歡什麼顏色？
wǒ xiǎng gěi Línnǎinai mǎi yí ge lǐwù tā xǐhuān shénme yánsè · I'd like to buy Grandma Lin a present. What colour does she like?

meiling 奶奶最喜歡紅色。
nǎinai zuì xǐhuān hóngsè · Grandma loves red.

anna 這家商店賣很多東西。你看，這個紅色的杯子怎麼樣？
zhè jiā shāngdiàn mài hěn duō dōngxi nǐ kàn zhè ge hóngsè de bēizi zěnmeyàng · This shop sells all sorts. Look, how about this red cup?

meiling 很好看！不過白色的也不錯。
hěn hǎokàn búguò báisè de yě búcuò · Lovely! Though the white one's nice too.

anna 我要紅色的。老闆，一共多少錢？我可以用信用卡付嗎？
wǒ yào hóngsè de lǎobǎn yígòng duōshǎo qián wǒ kěyǐ yòng xìnyòngkǎ fù ma · I'll take the red one. Boss, how much altogether? Can I pay by card?

meiling 這種小店不太能用信用卡，我先替你付吧。
zhè zhǒng xiǎo diàn bú tài néng yòng xìnyòngkǎ wǒ xiān tì nǐ fù ba · Little shops like this don't really take cards: I'll pay for you for now.

anna 謝謝！我晚上就還給你。
xièxie wǒ wǎnshàng jiù huán gěi nǐ · Thanks! I'll pay you back tonight.

meiling 快要下雨了，我們去超市買一點水果就回家吧。
kuài yào xiàyǔ le wǒmen qù chāoshì mǎi yìdiǎn shuǐguǒ jiù huí jiā ba · It's about to rain: let's get some fruit at the supermarket and go home.

anna 市場的水果不是比超市便宜嗎？那裡的蘋果，一個才二十塊！
shìchǎng de shuǐguǒ bú shì bǐ chāoshì piányí ma nàlǐ de píngguǒ yí ge cái èrshí kuài · Isn't fruit at the market cheaper than at the supermarket? Apples there are only twenty dollars each!

meiling 對，可是市場已經關門了。
duì kěshì shìchǎng yǐjīng guān mén le · Yes, but the market has already closed.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

單
dān
list

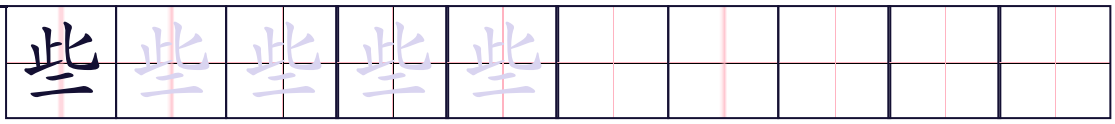
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位
wèi
(polite measure word for people)

給
gěi
give; for, to



些
xiē
some



good to know · Red (紅色) is the lucky colour in Taiwan: New Year envelopes, wedding cards and birthday presents love it. Small shops and night-market stalls often take cash only; convenience stores and supermarkets take cards and travel cards.

The red one, the blue one, cash or card: you can now shop for a present like a local.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 65 try it on

Shop for clothes, try things on and say what people are wearing.

Taipei is a shopping city: and in Chinese, you "wear" a hat with a different verb from a coat.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
綠色	lǜsè	green	我喜歡綠色。 I like green.
手錶	shǒubiǎo	watch	這支手錶是爸爸送我的。 My dad gave me this watch.
襪子	wàzi	socks	我買了三雙襪子。 I bought three pairs of socks.
雙	shuāng	pair (of)	這雙鞋子多少錢？ How much are these shoes?
裙子	qúnzi	skirt	美玲穿了一條藍色的裙子。 Meiling is wearing a blue skirt.
褲子	kùzi	trousers	這條褲子太長了。 These trousers are too long.
大衣	dàyī	coat, overcoat	冬天要穿大衣。 You need a coat in winter.
帽子	màozi	hat, cap	太陽很大，戴帽子吧。 The sun's strong, wear a hat.
皮包	píbāo	leather bag, handbag	這個皮包很貴。 This handbag is expensive.
外套	wàitào	jacket	晚上有一點冷，帶外套吧。 It gets a bit cold in the evening: bring a jacket.
戴	dài	wear (hats, glasses, watches)	他戴著一個黑色的帽子。 He's wearing a black hat.
試	shì	try	我可以試試看嗎？ Can I try it on?
條	tiáo	(measure word for long things)	我想買一條褲子。 I'd like to buy a pair of trousers.

pattern 穿 vs 戴: clothes vs hats, glasses, watches

穿 clothes, shoes, socks | 戴 hats, glasses, watches

穿 is for things you put your body into: clothes, trousers, skirts, shoes and socks. 戴 is for things you put on: hats, glasses, watches. Add 著 for "is wearing": 她戴著帽子, 他穿著外套.

我今天穿了一條藍色的裙子。 **wǒ jīntiān chuān le yì tiáo lánsè de qúnzi** I'm wearing a blue skirt today.

他戴著一支黑色的手錶。 **tā dài zhe yì zhī hēisè de shǒubiǎo** He's wearing a black watch.

外面很冷，穿大衣，戴帽子吧！ **wàimiàn hěn lěng chuān dàyī dài màozi ba** It's cold out: put on a coat and a hat!

dialogue try it on!

anna 下個星期就要去臺南了，我想買一件外套。
xià ge xīngqí jiù yào qù Táinán le wǒ xiǎng mǎi yí jiàn wàitào · We're off to Tainan next week: I want to buy a jacket.

meiling 臺南不冷，你不用買大衣。
Táinán bù lěng nǐ búyòng mǎi dàyī · Tainan isn't cold, you don't need a coat.

anna 你看，這件綠色的外套怎麼樣？
nǐ kàn zhè jiàn lǜsè de wàitào zěnmeyàng · Look, how about this green jacket?

meiling 很好看！你試試看。我幫你拿皮包。
hěn hǎokàn nǐ shì shi kàn wǒ bāng nǐ ná píbāo · It's nice! Try it on. I'll hold your bag.

anna 有一點大。有小一點的嗎？
yǒuyìdiǎn dà yǒu xiǎo yìdiǎn de ma · It's a bit big. Do you have a smaller one?

meiling 這件呢？你穿上看看。
zhè jiàn ne nǐ chuān shàng kàn kan · What about this one? Put it on and see.

anna 這件很好！我也想買一條褲子和一雙襪子。
zhè jiàn hěn hǎo wǒ yě xiǎng mǎi yì tiáo kùzi hé yì shuāng wàzi · This one's great! I'd like a pair of trousers and a pair of socks too.

meiling 你看，這個帽子很可愛！你戴戴看。
nǐ kàn zhè ge màozi hěn kěài nǐ dài dai kàn · Look, this hat is so cute! Try it on.

anna 帽子不是穿的，是戴的，對吧？
màozi bú shì chuān de shì dài de duì ba · You don't 穿 a hat, you 戴 it, right?

meiling 對！手錶也是戴的。
duì shǒubiǎo yě shì dài de · Right! A watch is 戴 too.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

最 zuì — most, -est

定 dìng — fixed, settle

錢 qián — money

塊 kuài — dollar (in speech); piece

good to know · Measure words for clothes: 一件 for tops and jackets, 一條 for trousers and skirts, 一雙 for pairs (shoes, socks), 一個 or 一頂 for hats. Taiwan shops are fine with you trying things on: ask 可以試穿嗎？ and look for the 試衣間 (fitting room).

穿 or 戴, 條 or 雙: now you can shop for a whole outfit and describe what anyone is wearing.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 66 how do i look?

Describe how someone looks and compare things in three ways.

"Is this one lighter?" "You look just like a teacher!" Comparing is how we choose and how we joke.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
頭髮	tóufǎ	hair (on the head)	她的頭髮很長。 Her hair is long.
手指頭	shǒuzhǐtou	finger	我的手指頭痛。 My finger hurts.
肚子	dùzi	tummy, belly	我肚子餓了。 I'm hungry.
臉	liǎn	face	她的臉很小。 She has a small face.
眼鏡	yǎnjìng	glasses	我戴眼鏡。 I wear glasses.
輕	qīng	light (in weight)	這個皮包很輕。 This bag is light.
重	zhòng	heavy	你的袋子好重！ Your bag is so heavy!
樣子	yàngzi	look, appearance	這件外套的樣子很好看。 This jacket has a nice style.
比較	bǐjiào	quite, rather; compare	這件比較便宜。 This one is cheaper.
特別	tèbié	special; especially	這個顏色很特別。 This colour is unusual.
簡單	jiǎndān	simple, easy	這個問題很簡單。 This question is easy.
頭痛	tóutòng	headache; have a headache	我有一點頭痛。 I've got a bit of a headache.
身高	shēngāo	height (of a person)	我的身高跟我爸爸一樣。 I'm as tall as my dad.

pattern 比較 + adjective; a 沒有 b 那麼……; a 比 b 還……

A | **比較 / 沒有 B 那麼 / 比 B 還** | **adjective**

比較 + adjective is "rather, more", without naming the other thing: 這個比較輕. A 沒有 B 那麼 + adjective is "A isn't as … as B": 我沒有你那麼高. A 比 B 還 + adjective is "even more … than B": 今天比昨天還熱.

這件外套比較便宜。 **zhè jiàn wàitào bǐjiào piányí** This jacket is cheaper.

臺北沒有臺南那麼熱。 **Táiběi méiyǒu Táinán nàme rè** Taipei isn't as hot as Tainan.

我的袋子比你的還重！ **wǒ de dàizi bǐ nǐ de hái zhòng** My bag is even heavier than yours!

dialogue the new look

anna 美玲，你看，我的新眼鏡！我戴眼鏡的樣子怎麼樣？
Měilíng nǐ kàn wǒ de xīn yǎnjìng wǒ dài yǎnjìng de yàngzi zěnmeyàng · Meiling, look, my new glasses! How do I look in them?

meiling 很特別！你一戴眼鏡就像老師。
hěn tèbié nǐ yí dài yǎnjìng jiù xiàng lǎoshī · Very distinctive! The moment you put them on, you look like a teacher.

anna 真的嗎？我覺得我的臉比較小，眼鏡比較大。
zhēnde ma wǒ juéde wǒ de liǎn bǐjiào xiǎo yǎnjìng bǐjiào dà · Really? I think my face is small and the glasses are big.

meiling 沒有，很好看。你的頭髮也變短了！
méiyǒu hěn hǎokàn nǐ de tóufǎ yě biàn duǎn le · Not at all, they look good. And your hair's shorter!

anna 對！天氣開始熱了，短頭髮比較舒服。長頭髮讓我頭痛！
duì tiānqì kāishǐ rè le duǎn tóufǎ bǐjiào shūfu cháng tóufǎ ràng wǒ tóutòng · Yes! It's starting to get hot, and short hair is more comfortable. Long hair gives me a headache!

meiling 臺北沒有臺南那麼熱，下個星期你就知道了！
Táiběi méiyǒu Táinán nàme rè xià ge xīngqí nǐ jiù zhīdào le · Taipei isn't as hot as Tainan: you'll see next week!

anna 你的袋子好重！裡面是什麼？
nǐ de dàizi hǎo zhòng lǐmiàn shì shénme · Your bag is so heavy! What's in it?

meiling 是給奶奶的東西。你的袋子比我的還重吧？
shì gěi nǎinai de dōngxi nǐ de dàizi bǐ wǒ de hái zhòng ba · Things for Grandma. Yours must be even heavier than mine?

anna 對，我的手指頭好痛。我們先吃東西吧，我肚子餓了。
duì wǒ de shǒuzhǐtou hǎo tòng wǒmen xiān chī dōngxi ba wǒ dùzi è le · Yes, my fingers hurt. Let's eat first, I'm hungry.

meiling 好，吃簡單一點吧。牛肉麵怎麼樣？
hǎo chī jiǎndān yìdiǎn ba niú ròu miàn zěnmeyàng · OK, something simple. Beef noodles?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

元
yuán
dollar (written)

買
mǎi
buy

貴
guì
expensive

便
pián
handy, convenient

good to know · 眼睛 yǎnjīng is “eyes”, 眼鏡 yǎnjìng is “glasses”: listen for the tone on the last syllable. Never say 比 with 很: not 他比我很高, but 他比我高, 他比我還高 or 他比我高得多.

Lighter, not as tall, even hotter: you can now compare anything and pay a friend a compliment.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 67 just a moment

Say “about”, “almost”, “just now”, “soon” and “just in time” while you wait.

Stations are full of almosts: almost eight, just left, back in a moment.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
剛剛	gānggāng	just now	他剛剛走了。 He’s just left.
一會兒	yīhuǐr	a moment, a little while	請等一會兒。 Please wait a moment.
禮拜	lǐbài	week	下{=next}個禮拜我們去臺南。 We’re going to Tainan next week.
差不多	chàbùduō	about, almost; similar	我們差不多到了。 We’re almost there.
包	bāo	packet, bag (of)	我買了一包糖。 I bought a bag of sweets.
其他	qítā	other	其他的人呢？ Where are the others?
名	míng	(measure word: place in a ranking; people)	她是我們班的第一名！ She’s top of our class!
帶來	dàilái	bring (here)	你帶來的蛋糕很好吃！ The cake you brought is delicious!
離開	líkāi	leave	火車八點離開臺北。 The train leaves Taipei at eight.
剛才	gāngcái	just now	你剛才去哪裡了？ Where did you go just now?
不久	bùjiǔ	soon; not long	不久以後，她就會說中文了。 Before long she could speak Chinese.
正好	zhènghǎo	just right; as it happens	你來得正好！ You’ve come at just the right time!
早點	zǎodiǎn	earlier, a bit early	明天早點來！ Come a bit earlier tomorrow!

pattern 差不多: about, almost

差不多 **number / verb**

差不多 before a number or a verb means “about, almost”: 差不多十點, 差不多到了. As an adjective it means “about the same”: 這兩件差不多. 剛剛 and 剛才 are “just now”, 一會兒 “a moment”, and 不久 “soon, before long”.

從這裡到車站差不多十分鐘。 **cóng zhèlǐ dào chēzhàn chàbùduō shí fēnzhōng** It’s about ten minutes from here to the station.

他們兩個人差不多高。 **tāmen liǎng ge rén chàbùduō gāo** They’re about the same height.

我剛剛到。 **wǒ gānggāng dào** I’ve just arrived.

他剛才打電話來，說不久就到。 **tā gāngcái dǎdiànhuà lái shuō bùjiǔ jiù dào** He just called: he says he’ll be here soon.

dialogue where’s zhiming?

meiling 志明呢？火車差不多八點開。
Zhìmíng ne huǒchē chàbùduō bā diǎn kāi · Where’s Zhiming? The train goes at about eight.

anna 他剛剛打電話來，他說一會兒就到。
tā gānggāng dǎdiànhuà lái tā shuō yìhuǐr jiù dào · He just rang: he says he’ll be here in a moment.

meiling 你看，車站裡人好多！有的人在買東西，有的人在等火車。
nǐ kàn chēzhàn lǐ rén hǎo duō yǒude rén zài mǎi dōngxi yǒude rén zài děng huǒchē · Look how busy the station is! Some people are shopping, others are waiting for trains.

anna 聽說今天火車上有兩百多名學生，要去臺南參觀。
tīngshuō jīntiān huǒchē shàng yǒu liǎngbǎi duō míng xuéshēng yào qù Táinán cānguān · I hear there are over two hundred students on the train today, on a trip to Tainan.

anna 我去便利商店買一包糖和兩瓶水。你要其他的東西嗎？
wǒ qù biànlìshāngdiàn mǎi yì bāo táng hé liǎng píng shuǐ nǐ yào qítā de dōngxi ma · I’m popping to the convenience store for a bag of sweets and two bottles of water. Want anything else?

meiling 不用，謝謝。小心，別走錯了！
búyòng xièxie xiǎoxīn bié zǒu cuò le · No thanks. Careful, don’t get lost!

anna 志明來了！你看，他慢慢地走過來了。
Zhìmíng lái le nǐ kàn tā màn màn de zǒu guò lái le · Here’s Zhiming! Look, he’s strolling over.

zhiming 對不起！我的機車壞了，我是坐計程車來的。我帶來了一些點心！
duìbùqǐ wǒ de jīchē huài le wǒ shì zuò jìchéngchē lái de wǒ dàilái le yìxiē diǎnxīn · Sorry! My scooter broke down, so I came by taxi. I’ve brought some snacks!

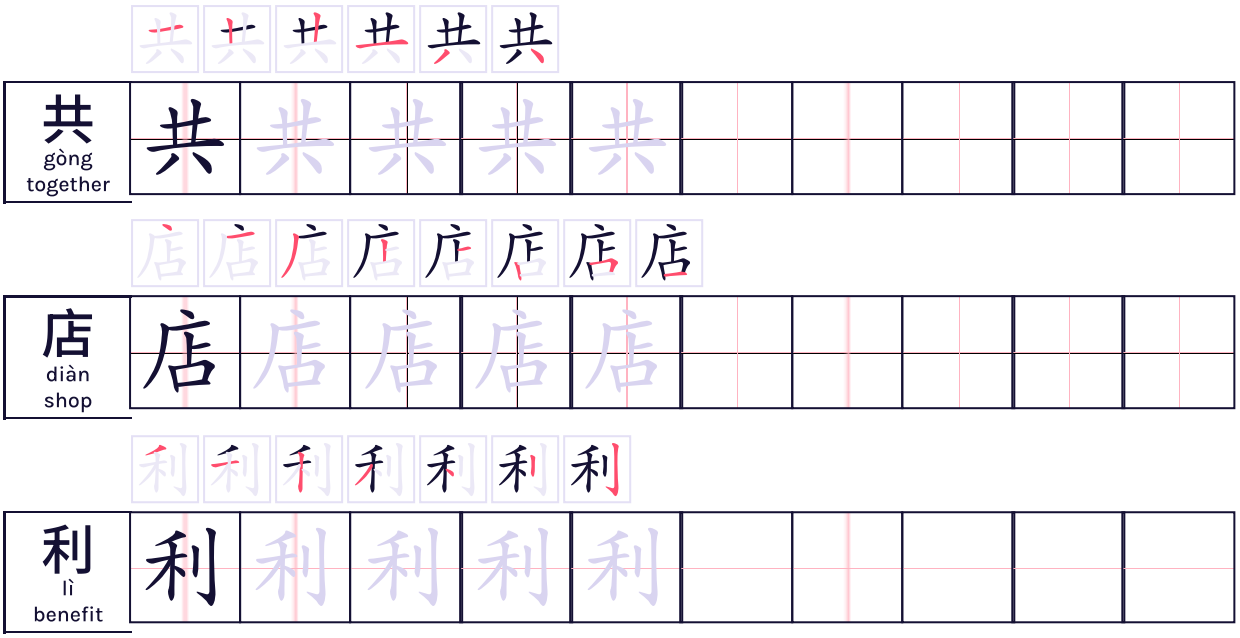
meiling 沒關係，你來得正好，火車還沒離開。下個禮拜你得早點出來！
méiguānxi nǐ lái de zhènghǎo huǒchē hái méi líkāi xià ge lǐbài nǐ děi zǎodiǎn chū lái · No problem, you’re just in time: the train hasn’t left yet. Next week you’d better leave a bit earlier!

zhiming 好啦！我們上車吧！
hǎo la wǒmen shàng chē ba · OK, OK! Let’s get on!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

宜 宜 宜 宜 宜 宜 宜 宜

宜
yí
suitable



good to know · 禮拜 and 星期 both mean “week” in Taiwan: 禮拜六 = 星期六. 禮拜 is very common in speech. 一會兒 keeps its 兒 in Taiwan, but you’ll also hear 一下: 等一下 = 等一會兒.

Almost, just now, in a moment: your Chinese can now keep time, even when your friends can’t.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 68 mission: a trip to tainan

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 9 · getting around & shopping

Follow a whole trip: the train south, directions in a new city, shopping, and an evening with Grandma Lin.

Days 61–67 meet in one story: transport, directions, travel, colours, clothes, looks and “almost”.

chapter 1 are we nearly there?

anna 臺南離臺北好遠！我們坐了差不多四個小時了。
Táinán lí Táiběi hǎo yuǎn wǒmen zuò le chàbùduō sì ge xiǎoshí le · Tainan is so far from Taipei! We’ve been on the train almost four hours.

meiling 對，臺北在北部，臺南在南部。你看地圖：火車經過很多城市。
duì Táiběi zài běibù Táinán zài nánbù nǐ kàn dìtú huǒchē jīngguò hěn duō chéngshì · Yes, Taipei is in the north and Tainan is in the south. Look at the map: the train goes through lots of cities.

zhiming 臺灣西部的城市很多，東部的山很多。下次我們去東部吧！
táiwān xībù de chéngshì hěn duō dōngbù de shān hěn duō xià cì wǒmen qù dōngbù ba · Western Taiwan has lots of cities, the east lots of mountains. Next time let’s go east!

anna 你看起來很累，你剛剛睡了嗎？
nǐ kànqǐlái hěn lèi nǐ gānggāng shuì le ma · You look tired. Were you asleep just now?

zhiming 睡了一會兒。我有一點頭痛。
shuì le yìhuǐr wǒ yǒuyìdiǎn tóutòng · For a little while. I’ve got a bit of a headache.

meiling 我帶來了水和點心，給你。
wǒ dàilái le shuǐ hé diǎnxīn gěi nǐ · I’ve brought water and snacks: here.

anna 我們在火車上照相吧！一、二、三！
wǒmen zài huǒchē shàng zhàoxiàng ba yī èr sān · Let’s take a photo on the train! One, two, three!

meiling 我們差不多到了。快把東西拿下來！
wǒmen chàbùduō dào le kuài bǎ dōngxi ná xià lái · We’re nearly there. Quick, get your things down!

chapter 2 which way to grandma’s?

meiling 奶奶給我寫了一個電子郵件，我念給你們聽：
nǎinai gěi wǒ xiě le yí ge diànzǐyóujiàn wǒ niàn gěi nǐmen tīng · Grandma has emailed me the way. I'll read it to you:

meiling 「美玲、安娜、志明：歡迎你們來臺南！從車站出來，往前走，經過兩個路口。在十字路口向左轉，我家在一家書店和一個小公園中間，郵局對面。家離車站很近，走路差不多十分鐘。馬路上機車和汽車很多，過馬路的時候要小心！奶奶」
Měilíng Ānnà Zhìmíng huānyíng nǐmen lái Táinán cóng chēzhàn chū lái wǎng qián zǒu jīngguò liǎng ge lùkǒu zài shízìlùkǒu xiàng zuǒ zhuǎn wǒ jiā zài yì jiā shūdiàn hé yí ge xiǎo gōngyuán zhōngjiān yóujú duìmiàn jiā lí chēzhàn hěn jìn zǒulù chàbùduō shí fēnzhōng mǎlù shàng jīchē hé qìchē hěn duō guò mǎlù de shíhòu yào xiǎoxīn nǎinai · "Meiling, Anna, Zhiming: welcome to Tainan! Come out of the station and go straight on, past two junctions. Turn left at the crossroads: my house is between a bookshop and a little park, opposite the post office. It's close to the station, about a ten-minute walk. There are lots of scooters and cars on the roads, so be careful crossing! Grandma"

anna 奶奶寫得好清楚！我們走吧。
nǎinai xiě de hǎo qīngchǔ wǒmen zǒu ba · Grandma writes so clearly! Let's go.

zhiming 到十字路口了。向左轉，對吧？
dào shízìlùkǒu le xiàng zuǒ zhuǎn duì ba · Here's the crossroads. Turn left, right?

meiling 對！你們看，那家書店就在前面。
duì nǐmen kàn nà jiā shūdiàn jiù zài qiánmiàn · Yes! Look, there's the bookshop just ahead.

grandma lin 美玲！安娜！我在這裡！快進來，外面熱！
Měilíng Ānnà wǒ zài zhèlǐ kuài jìn lái wàimiàn rè · Meiling! Anna! I'm over here! Come in quick, it's hot outside!

chapter 3 how did you come?

grandma lin 你們是怎麼來的？坐飛機來的嗎？
nǐmen shì zěnme lái de zuò fēijī lái de ma · How did you get here? Did you fly?

meiling 不是，我們是坐火車來的。離開臺北的時候才八點！
bú shì wǒmen shì zuò huǒchē lái de líkāi Táiběi de shíhòu cái bā diǎn · No, we came by train. It was only eight when we left Taipei!

anna 奶奶，這是我們送您的禮物。
nǎinai zhè shì wǒmen sòng nín de lǐwù · Grandma, this is a present from us.

grandma lin 紅色的杯子！我最喜歡紅色了。謝謝你們！我把它放在桌子上。
hóngsè de bēizi wǒ zuì xǐhuān hóngsè le xièxie nǐmen wǒ bǎ tā fàng zài zhuōzi shàng · A red cup! Red is my favourite. Thank you! I'll put it on the table.

zhiming 奶奶，這附近有沒有便宜的旅館？我需要住的地方。
nǎinai zhè fùjìn yǒu méiyǒu piányí de lǚguǎn wǒ xūyào zhù de dìfāng · Grandma, is there a cheap inn round here? I need somewhere to stay.

grandma lin 有啊，車站旁邊有很多種旅館，也有大飯店。我帶你去。
yǒu a chēzhàn pángbiān yǒu hěn duō zhǒng lǚguǎn yě yǒu dà fàndiàn wǒ dài nǐ qù · Yes, there are all kinds of inns next to the station, and big hotels too. I'll take you.

anna 奶奶，這些是您年輕時候的照片嗎？
nǎinai zhèxiē shì nín niánqīng shíhòu de zhàopiàn ma · Grandma, are these photos of you when you were young?

grandma lin 對！那時候我們常常去旅行。所有的照片都在這個盒子裡：一半是臺南的，一半是日本的。
duì nà shíhòu wǒmen chángcháng qù lǚxíng suǒyǒu de zhàopiàn dōu zài zhè ge hézi lǐ yíbàn shì Táinán de yíbàn shì rìběn de · Yes! We travelled a lot back then. All the photos are in this box: half are from Tainan, half from Japan.

chapter 4 shopping with grandma

grandma lin 這個市場什麼都賣：水果、衣服、鞋子、帽子。
zhè ge shìchǎng shénme dōu mài shuǐguǒ yīfú xiézi màozi · This market sells everything: fruit, clothes, shoes, hats.

anna 你們看，這條藍色的裙子很特別！我可以試一下嗎？
nǐmen kàn zhè tiáo lánsè de qúnzi hěn tèbié wǒ kěyǐ shì yíxià ma · Look, this blue skirt is unusual! Can I try it on?

meiling 你穿裙子很好看，可是這件黃色的外套比較便宜。
nǐ chuān qúnzi hěn hǎokàn kěshì zhè jiàn huángsè de wàitào bǐjiào piányí · You look good in a skirt, but this yellow jacket is cheaper.

zhiming 安娜，你戴戴看這個白色的帽子！臺南的太陽比臺北還大。
Ānnà nǐ dài dai kàn zhè ge báisè de màozi Táinán de tàiyáng bǐ Táiběi hái dà · Anna, try on this white hat! The sun in Tainan is even stronger than in Taipei.

anna 好！帽子很輕，樣子也很簡單，我要了。
hǎo màozi hěn qīng yàngzi yě hěn jiǎndān wǒ yào le · OK! The hat is light and simple: I'll take it.

grandma lin 這裡不能用信用卡，我來付。
zhèlǐ bù néng yòng xìnyòngkǎ wǒ lái fù · They don't take cards here: I'll pay.

anna 不行不行，奶奶，我自己付！我還想買一雙襪子和一條褲子。
bù xíng bu xíng nǎinai wǒ zìjǐ fù wǒ hái xiǎng mǎi yì shuāng wàzi hé yì tiáo kùzi · No, no, Grandma, I'll pay myself! And I want a pair of socks and some trousers too.

meiling 安娜的袋子比我的還重了！
Ānnà de dàizi bǐ wǒ de hái zhòng le · Anna's bag is even heavier than mine now!

chapter 5 see you soon

grandma lin 你們剛剛來，就要走了！下個禮拜再來，好不好？
nǐmen gānggāng lái jiù yào zǒu le xià ge lǐbài zài lái hǎo bu hǎo · You've only just come, and you're already leaving! Come again next week, OK?

meiling 奶奶，下個禮拜我們有考試，可是過年的時候一定回來。
nǎinai xià ge lǐbài wǒmen yǒu kǎoshì kěshì guònián de shíhòu yídìng huí lái · Grandma, we have exams next week, but we'll definitely be back for New Year.

anna 奶奶，臺南和臺北差不多大嗎？
nǎinai Táinán hé Táiběi chàbùduō dà ma · Grandma, are Tainan and Taipei about the same size?

grandma lin 臺南沒有臺北那麼大，可是吃的東西比較好吃！
Táinán méiyǒu Táiběi nàme dà kěshì chī de dōngxi bǐjiào hǎochī · Tainan isn't as big as Taipei, but the food is better!

zhiming 對，我的肚子還很飽！奶奶做的菜是第一名！
duì wǒ de dùzi hái hěn bǎo nǎinai zuò de cài shì dì yī míng · True, my tummy is still full! Grandma's cooking is number one!

grandma lin 這一包是給你們的點心，其他的東西我放在你的袋子裡了。
zhè yì bāo shì gěi nǐmen de diǎnxīn qítā de dōngxi wǒ fàng zài nǐ de dàizi lǐ le · This bag is snacks for you, and I've put the other things in your bag.

anna 謝謝奶奶！火車快要開了，我們上車吧。
xièxie nǎinai huǒchē kuài yào kāi le wǒmen shàng chē ba · Thank you, Grandma! The train's about to go, let's get on.

grandma lin 慢慢地走，小心！到了臺北就打電話給我！
màn màn de zǒu xiǎoxīn dào le Táiběi jiù dǎdiànhuà gěi wǒ · Take it slowly, be careful! Ring me as soon as you get to Taipei!

Train, map, directions, a market and a grandmother's kitchen: you just travelled across Taiwan in Chinese.
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