

臺南市政府「每日聽・英語廣播」文字稿

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Taiwan Features

English-Friendly Taiwan: “Hello. Can I help you?” It is becoming increasingly easier for international visitors and residents to live in Taiwan thanks to the government’s enthusiastic promotion of English island-wide. From road signs to public announcements and service people’s efforts to communicate in English, a foreigner no longer feels in the dark.

Taiwan is my favorite place in the world. It is the most convenient place I have ever lived. Where else can you pay your bills at a 7-ELEVEN? I love the motorcycles. I ride a scooter myself, and it gets me almost anywhere. I also love the weather and the food. If you asked me what I love most about Taiwan, I would say, “The people!” The Taiwanese are some of the greatest people I have ever met.

In Taiwan you can never be lost for very long! Why would I say such a thing? The reason you can’t stay lost in Taiwan is because of the people. I can’t tell you how many times I have been lost and have followed a Good Samaritan Taiwanese who went out of their way to drive me to the place I needed to go. It is better than a taxi ride and the meter is not running!

Taiwan’s gas stations are great! They have friendly employees who pump the gas for you. In the 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s, there were “full service” gas stations in the U.S. The attendant would pump your gas, wash your windshield, check your oil, and even check the pressure in your tires. Nearly 100 percent of all U.S. gas stations now are “self-service.” A Taiwan gas station is a pleasant reminder of the good old days in the U.S.

We always assume there will be enough water. Occasional years of low rainfall, however, prove that even relatively wet regions like Taiwan can experience unexpected water shortages. If every person took small steps to preserve water, there would be much less chance of shortages. Simple steps like taking shorter showers can significantly reduce the amount of water you use. Give it a try!

Depending on whom you ask, graffiti is either a creative expression of urban art or

simply an eyesore. For better or for worse, it has arrived in Taiwan. On TV, a local shampoo commercial portrays a “crew” of teenagers spray-painting a wall, and a cable news network recently aired an in-depth report on graffiti in Taiwan’s cities. While this coverage does not exactly promote graffiti, it is neither discouraging it. So where does the public stand on this controversial issue?

At the intersections of major roads in Taiwan, there are middle-aged women, who wear big leaf hats and lots of clothing that sell little flowers with a great smell. The flowers function as a car air freshener. The women have a hard time because most people don’t even roll down their windows. I always buy from them because they may get depressed after lots of rejection. I know they have mouths to feed at home and I want to help.

In America, rice is rice. After living in Taiwan, I have come to the conclusion that all rice is not equal. Some rice is exquisite and other rice is bland. I love to sprinkle cilantro on top and then pour out a generous ladle of pork fat. When I am daring I will add about five teaspoons of hot sauce. All the Taiwanese look at me out of the corner of their eye when I do the hot sauce thing. I wonder what they are thinking.

Taiwan has fun garbage trucks! It plays songs, teaches English, and is colorful. The workers are friendly and always want to chat. Trash service in the U.S. is a once-a-week ordeal. Americans use super-sized trash barrels stuffed with a week’s worth of garbage. They drag the barrels down to the end of their driveway and the garbage truck comes very early in the morning and carts it off. Trash service is not “for free” in America. If you don’t pay your bill, they won’t pick up your trash.

Humility is an endearing quality. The Taiwanese are a very humble people. How can you not love someone who is not driven to be the center of attention? I wish my home country, America, could learn this great quality from the Taiwanese. In four years, I have never met a proud Taiwanese. What a great compliment to the citizens of Taiwan!

臺灣特色

英語友善的臺灣：「哈囉，需要幫忙嗎？」由於政府積極推動全民學英語，國際旅客與居留人士越來越容易在臺灣生活。透過路標、公共廣播與服務人員以英語溝通的努力，老外不會再感到無所適從了。

這世界上我最喜歡的地方是臺灣，這裡是我住過最方便的地方。還有哪個地方會讓你在 7-ELEVEN 繳帳單？我愛這裡的摩托車，我自己就騎機車，幾乎哪裡都能去。我也喜歡這裡的天氣和食物。如果你問我，我最愛臺灣哪一點，我會說「人民！」臺灣人是我遇過最棒的人。

你絕對不會在臺灣迷路太久的。我為什麼這麼說呢？你不會在臺灣迷路太久，原因就是這裡的人民。我簡直數不清有多少次我迷路時，樂於助人的臺灣人會特地開車載我到目的地。這可比搭計程車要來得好，因為用不著跳表計費。

臺灣的加油站真棒！有親切的員工替你加油服務。在五〇、六〇和七〇年代，美國還有「全套服務」的加油站。工作人員會幫你加油、清洗擋風玻璃、檢查機油、甚至替你檢查胎壓。現在幾乎全美國的加油站都是「自助式」。臺灣的加油站令人愉快地回想起美國美好的過去。

我們總以為水是取之不盡、用之不竭的。但幾次低降雨量的年份證明，就算是臺灣這樣比較潮濕的地區，也可能遇到出乎意料的缺水期。如果大家都採用一些簡單的步驟來節約用水，缺水的機率就少得多，例如縮短淋浴時間這樣簡單的步驟，就可以減少許多用水量。試試看！

塗鴉這玩意兒是都會藝術的創意表達，還是看了礙眼的東西，取決於你問的對象是誰。無論是好是壞，塗鴉已經進入臺灣。在電視上，一個本地品牌的洗髮精廣告描寫一群青少年在牆壁上噴漆，最近也有有線電視台播出臺灣城市塗鴉現況的深度報導。雖然這項報導並不盡然是宣傳塗鴉，但也沒有否定它。大眾對這個爭議性話題抱持何種看法呢？

在臺灣主要道路的十字路口，可以看到頭戴斗笠、衣服包得密密的中年婦女。她們賣的是氣味芬芳的小花，可用來當車內空氣芳香劑。這些婦女賺錢很辛苦，因為大多數人甚至不肯搖下車窗。我總是向她們買花，因為她們遭拒多次後，可能會感到挫折沮喪。我知道她們要養家活口，所以想幫一點忙。

在美國，米飯就是米飯。在臺灣定居後，我的結論是米飯是有階級的。有些米飯精緻美味，有些淡而無味。我喜歡灑香菜在飯上，然後淋上一大杓魯肉汁。膽子大時，我還可以加五匙辣椒醬。當我拼命加辣椒時，所有臺灣人都用眼角瞄我，我不知道他們怎麼想。

臺灣的垃圾車真有趣！它會播放歌曲、教英文，還有繽紛的顏色。收垃圾的清潔人員都很友善，總是想和人聊幾句。在美國，收垃圾是一週一次的苦差事。美國人使用特大號的垃圾桶，能容納一個星期的垃圾。他們把垃圾桶拖到車道末端，垃圾車會在一大清早運走垃圾。在美國，收垃圾並不是「免費」的服務。如果你不繳費，清潔人員就不會收你家的垃圾。

「謙遜」是可愛的人格特質。臺灣人是謙恭有禮的民族，你怎能不愛那些不搶鋒頭的人？我多希望我的家鄉—美國，能從臺灣人身上學到這種美德。在這四年歲月裡，我從未遇到驕傲的臺灣人。對臺灣人民來說，這可說是至高無上的讚美呢！