

hello	你好	Nǐ hǎo	Knee how
Goodbye	再见	Zàijiàn	Zha zhin
Please	请	Qǐng	king
Thank you	谢谢	Xièxiè	Zhe zhay
Excuse me	劳驾	Láojià	Lao zha
Pardon me		Bù hǎo yì si	Boo how ee see
Where is it	间在哪里	Jiān zài nǎlǐ	Zhin zay nah lee
toilet	厕所	Cèsuǒ	Tse sue-oh
Where is the toilet	厕所在哪里	Cèsuǒ zài nǎlǐ?	Tse sue-oh zay nah lee
Yes	是	Shì	she
No	没有	Méiyǒu	may ya
One	一	Yī	ye
two	二	Èr	are
Five	五	Wǔ	whoo
Ten	十	Shí	she
Tea	茶	Chá	cha
Coffee	咖啡	Kāfēi	Coff ayy
Coffee with milk	咖啡加牛奶	Kāfēi jiā niúniǎi	Coff ayy ghin nu nie
water	水	Shuǐ	Shoe -ey
chicken	鸡	Jī	gee
Chicken sandwich	鸡肉三明治	Jīròu sānmíngzhì	Gee ro san ming zhee
beef	牛肉	Niúròu	Ne-o row
rice	白饭	Báifàn	Bye fan
Noodle	面条	Miàntiáo	Mean tea-yow
Pork	猪肉	Zhūròu	Zhu row
How much	多少	Duōshǎo	Duo sh-ouw

1. Nǐ hǎo/ Nǐn hǎo *Pronunciation: Nee how / Neen how* **Hello**

The common way to greet people in Taiwan is by either saying Nǐ hǎo or Nǐn hǎo and these phrases translate as “Hello.” While the former is a more relaxed manner of greeting that you’d use with friends, the latter is a formal way of saying ‘Hello’ which you should use when greeting those senior to you or when speaking with your manager or boss.

2. Xièxie *Pronunciation: hsieh hsieh* **Thanks**

This simple phrase means nothing more than “Thanks.” If you want to be extra polite, you can say Xièxie nǐ/nǐn as a more formal ‘Thank you.’ Remember, Taiwanese culture is generally very polite so this is one phrase you’ll not only want to memorise, but use frequently too!

3. Bú kèqì *Pronunciation: Boo khe chee* **You are welcome**

When you thank someone for something, this is the phrase you will hear in return. Yep, you’re right! it can mean “You’re welcome,” “Don’t mention it,” or “My pleasure.” This is another great one to add to your Mandarin vocabulary arsenal.

4. Bù hǎo yì si *Pronunciation: Boo how eeh si* **Pardon me**

If you’re caught on the local trains or buses during rush hour in Taipei, you’ll need to keep this phrase on standby for when you’re pushing your way off. It translates as ‘pardon’ or ‘excuse me’ and can also be used to get someone’s attention if you need to ask them something.

5. Duō-shǎo-qián *Pronunciation: Doo oh show chee an* **How much?**

When you visit Taiwan’s night markets you’ll notice right away that not all the cool goodies you find there have price tags. Before you break out your bartering skills you’ll want to ask Duō shǎo qián which means “How much?” If you don’t know all your numbers in Mandarin yet, don’t worry, vendors will type out the amounts on their calculators so you can see.

6. Bú yòng *Pronunciation: Boo yong* **No (to vendor)**

While Bú yòng literally translates as “No need” it’s really just a nice way to say “no” or let someone know you don’t want something. Remember, it’s important to be polite, so even when you’re being nagged by street vendors trying to sell you things you don’t want, the best term to use is Bú yòng.

7. Tīng bù dǒng *Pronunciation: Teeng boo dong* **I don’t understand**

The three most important words you’ll ever learn are probably Tīng bù dǒng. This phrase means “I don’t understand” and as a foreigner navigating the strange and exciting waters of Taiwanese culture, you’ll definitely want to have this one down pat.

8. Méi yǒu wèntí / Méi wèntí *Pronunciation: May yo when tee / May when tee* **No Problem**

These two phrases mean the same thing: “No problem.” These words can be used in many situations. A common one is to excuse someone after they apologize for, say, bumping into you. Another situation where it may come in handy is if you want to express confidence or show you’ve got something under control. It’s kind of like saying “No problem, I can handle it.”

9. Zài nǎli *Pronunciation: Zeye nah lee* **Where is...**

Getting lost a few times during your trip to Taiwan is to be expected, it’s one of the risks of being a traveler, right? As long as you have this phrase on hand, you can stop anyone on the street and get directions! Most Taiwanese people are very friendly, so it shouldn’t be too hard to find someone who can point you the right way.

10. Cèsuǒ *Pronunciation: Tse sue-oh* **bathroom**

Last but not least, we have the word for “bathroom.” But don’t just go around saying Cèsuǒ to people when you’re trying to find the restroom, use all your phrase prowess and combine it with another one you learned above to say: Cèsuǒ zài nǎli? (Where is the bathroom?).

Cèsuǒ zài nǎli? *Pronunciation: Tse sue-oh Zeye nah lee* **Where is the bathroom?**