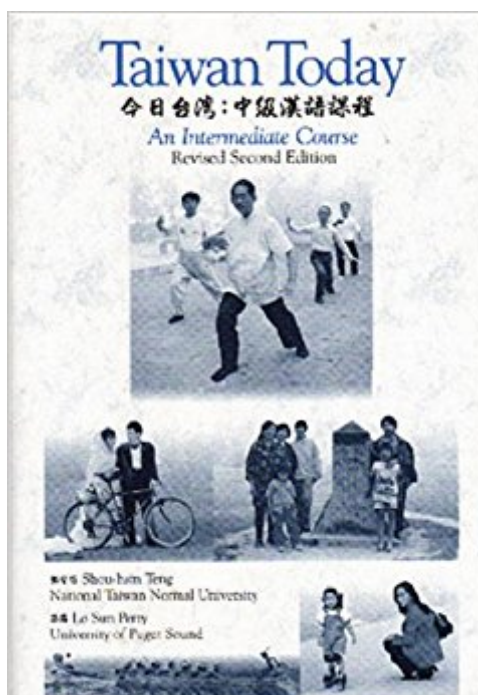


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Taiwan Today: An Intermediate Course, 2nd Revised Edition



Synopsis

This intermediate level Chinese textbook brings to life for the classroom the customs, traditions, and manners of present-day Taiwan. Interactive student participation is encouraged through a variety of activities, from role-playing techniques to puzzles to discussion topics. Students using the book should have a proficiency level equivalent to the second semester of the second year in college. Taiwan Today is also appropriate for heritage learners and accelerated high school programs. This revised edition includes photographs of life in Taiwan and expanded indices, including those by pinyin, bopomofo, and stroke count. Each of the twelve lessons introduces 45-50 new words (vocabulary lists include traditional and simplified characters and pinyin as well as the English definition). Lessons start with texts in simplified and traditional characters on facing pages. Topics are from contemporary Taiwan, and include Exercise in the Park, Visiting a Night Market, Marriage and Match-Makers, Religions and Folk Beliefs, and The Excitement of Festivals. English translations and pinyin do not appear in the readings. General exercises (presented in both simplified and traditional characters) include vocabulary practice, composition, and supplementary activities. Audio cassettes are sold separately.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Incredible way to learn mandarin and go deeper into the chinese culture in Taiwan at same time. It's a great idea to show local culture across the entire book, that is, you can increase your vocabulary incredibly like a trip to Taiwan island only with the book on hands !

This pricey textbook is designed for the student who is in the fourth semester of college level Chinese. The book contains 12 chapters that present various aspects of Taiwan's culture (recreational activities, religion, the status of women, the environment, and so fourth), but do not expect for a detailed chapter that explains these aspects of Taiwan's culture because the chapters are only one page long, and by no means do they go into the cultural aspects in detail (the supplementary materials will provide further details, but they are often newspaper clippings that are beyond the reading level of the students). Each chapter introduced between 50-60 vocabulary words, but the student will often find that during the sample sentences that illustrate the grammar, many new words are used (but not fully defined in English); thus each chapter more less contain 70-80 new words. What I like about Taiwan Today is that it has both traditional and simplified characters (but the newspaper clippings in the supplementary materials are always in traditional characters), and that it gives fairly good grammatical explanations. However, the thing that is really annoying about the book is that it does not use a system of vocabulary repetition. Thus, the student often find that s/he learns a new word in one chapter and never see that word being used again throughout the whole book. Furthermore, the sample sentences illustrating the grammatical points often do not use the words that the chapter introduces; instead they often employ the use of words that would require the student to consult a dictionary. Overall, the book is not excellent, but it is pretty good in that it give fairly good grammatical explanations and introduces good vocabulary (although the words are not always the most practical; keep in mind that this is not a book that teaches you conversational Chinese).

I used this book when studying in Taiwan. It is definately intermediate-level and may be too advanced for beginners. It follows American language teaching methods and has explanatory grammer sentence patterns, lots of drills, and fun practise exercises. It also has a good amount of reading material included. The English explanations are clear and Mainland-style pinyin is used with traditional characters. It is definately *the* book to learn about Taiwan and its everyday life. If you have never been to Taiwan, some of the subjects might seem confusing or odd, but it all makes sense once you are there.

This book contains much more pertaining and interesting topics than other intermediate books. It contains great reading material--buy also the tapes.

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