

CHINESE GRADED READER

LEVEL 1:
PRE-INTERMEDIATE



虎 姑 婆
Hǔ Gū Pó

HŭGŭPÓ
THE TIGER AUNT

TALK TAIWANESE MANDARIN

Chinese Graded Reader

Level 1: PRE-INTERMEDIATE

虎 姑 婆

ㄏㄨˇ ㄍㄨ ㄆㄛˊ Hǔgūpó

The Tiger Aunt

By Abby Chen

About the Author

Abby is a Mandarin teacher, writer, and producer of the podcast "Talk Taiwanese Mandarin with Abby." She hopes to share her knowledge with you to make learning Chinese a fun experience.

Author's Note

While researching learning resources for my students and audience, I realized there's a lack of graded readers that are originally written in Traditional Chinese and that use Taiwanese vocabulary. Therefore, I decided to work on graded readers that are designed for Taiwan-centric learners. The book is written in everyday language and with expressions that are both practical and easy to understand.

Level One: Is this level right for me?

Level 1 is designed for Chinese learners who have reached upper-elementary level to pre-intermediate level. This series contains about 300 unique characters. The learner should be able to recognize at least 200-250 Chinese characters to follow the story.

If you are able to read this book and comprehend it without having to look up the vocabulary list, this book is likely good for your level.

How do I study with this book?

Read at your own pace. By reading this book, you're already improving your recognition and comprehension skills.

If you're looking to push yourself, try making sentences with words from the vocabulary list. There's also a "Questions and Discussion" session at the end of the book, for extra practice, perhaps with your teacher.

About This Story

This book is based on the famous Taiwanese folk tale - The Grandaunt Tiger(虎姑婆 Hǔgūpó; Taiwanese: Hó·ko·pô). Most Taiwanese people grow up hearing this story. It implies that kids should not open the door for strangers.

The Audiobook version

It's recommended to listen to the audiobook while reading to improve both your listening and reading skills.

You can get the audiobook [here\(click\)](#).

If you encounter any issues after purchasing this book (e.g. not able to open this ebook, etc.), please contact me by sending an email to talktaiwanese Mandarin@gmail.com

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人物 Characters

- 安安(Ān'ān)：3 歲，睡覺前喜歡聽故事。

A 3-year old who loves bedtime stories.

- 爸爸(Bàba)：安安的爸爸。

An'an's dad.

故事的人物 Characters in the story

- [老虎 \[1\]](#) (Lǎohǔ)：在山上的[老虎](#)，希望[變成 \[2\]](#) 人。

A tiger living in the mountain wants to become a human being.

- 美美(Měiměi)：住在山下的小房子，6 歲。小明的姊姊。

A 6-year old living in a small house next to the mountain. Xiaoming's older sister.

- 小明(Xiǎomíng)：住在山下的小房子，4 歲。美美的弟弟。

A 4-year old living in a small house next to the mountain. Meimei's younger brother.

- 媽媽(Māmā)：美美和小明的媽媽。

The mom of Meimei and Xiaoming.

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|-------|----------|-----------|-----|------------------------|
| 1. 老虎 | ㄌㄠˇ ㄏㄨˇ | lǎohǔ | n. | tiger |
| 2. 變成 | ㄅㄧㄢˋ ㄔㄥˊ | biànchéng | vc. | to change into; become |

1. 說故事

有一天晚上，三歲的安安躺在床上，要準備睡覺了。爸爸唸了一本故事書、唱了一首歌給他聽，平常 [3] 安安這個時候就會睡著 [4] 了，可是今晚他特別興奮 [5]，怎麼都睡不著 [6]。

「好了，該睡覺了。」爸爸說，摸 [7] 了摸安安的頭。

「不要，我還不想睡！」安安興奮地說。

「你不睡覺的話，要做什麼？爸爸已經很累了。」爸爸說。他今天上班很累，只想趕快 [8] 回自己的房間，躺下來看電視。

「我還想要聽故事。你再唸別的故事給我聽。」安安說。

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|--------|---------------|------------|------|------------------------|
| 3. 平常 | ㄉㄞˊ ㄓㄨㄥˊ ㄉㄨㄥˊ | píngcháng | adv. | normally |
| 4. 睡著 | ㄕㄨㄟˋ ㄓㄨㄛˋ | shuìzháo | vc. | to fall asleep |
| 5. 興奮 | ㄒㄩㄥˊ ㄈㄣˋ ㄈㄣˋ | xīngfèn | adj. | excited |
| 6. 睡不著 | ㄕㄨㄟˋ ㄅㄨˋ ㄓㄨㄛˋ | shuìbùzháo | vc. | cannot fall asleep |
| 7. 摸 | ㄇㄛˊ | mō | v. | to touch (gently) |
| 8. 趕快 | ㄍㄨㄞˋ ㄑㄨㄞˋ | gǎnkuài | adv. | hurriedly; immediately |

「我已經唸了你最喜歡的那本故事書，還唱了你最喜歡的歌了。」
爸爸覺得有一點煩 [9]，也開始想睡覺了，但是他還是說：「你還
想聽什麼呢？」

「唸你小時候的故事給我聽。」安安說。

爸爸沒辦法，只好想了一下，然後說：「我小時候聽的故事喔……
好吧，就唸虎姑婆 [10] 好了。」

「虎姑婆！」安安高興地說。「好！我最喜歡老虎！」

「你聽了不要害怕 [11] 喔！」爸爸笑著說。

「我才不會害怕！」安安大聲地說。

爸爸喝了一口水，開始說起了故事：「很久很久以前……」

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- | | | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------------|
| 9. 煩 | ㄉㄢˊ | fán | <i>adj.</i> | annoyed; annoying |
| 10. 姑婆 | ㄍㄨ ㄆㄛˊ | gūpó | <i>n.</i> | great-aunt |
| 11. 害怕 | ㄏㄞˋ ㄆㄞˋ | hàipà | <i>v.</i> | be afraid |

2. 想變成人的老虎

很久很久以前，有一隻住在山上的老虎，他很想要變成 人類[12]。因為他非常地認真 [13]，幾十年後，他已經有了人的身體和臉，只是他還不是真的人類，他的屁股 [14] 有老虎尾巴 [15]，頭上有老虎 耳朵[16]。

有一天，有一個奇怪的人跟老虎說：「如果你想要變成真的人類，我可以教你怎麼做。」

「真的嗎？」老虎興奮地說，「我很想變成真的人類！快跟我說！」

「你只要 [17] 再吃幾個小孩，就能變成真的人類了。」奇怪的人說。他一說完，就走了。

老虎聽了很興奮，他決定到山下去找小孩吃。

12. 人類	日ㄣˊㄉㄤˊ	rénlèi	<i>n.</i>	human
13. 認真	日ㄣˊㄉㄤˊ	rènzhēn	<i>adj.</i>	serious
14. 屁股	ㄉㄤˊㄉㄤˊ	pìgǔ	<i>n.</i>	butt ; buttocks
15. 尾巴	ㄉㄤˊㄉㄤˊ	wěibā	<i>n.</i>	tail
16. 耳朵	ㄉㄤˊㄉㄤˊ	ěrduo	<i>n.</i>	ear
17. 只要	ㄉㄤˊㄉㄤˊ	zhǐyào	<i>conj.</i>	[with 就...] as long as

有一天，他下了山，走著走著，他看到一個簡單的小房子。這個房子小小的、沒有什麼特別的，裡面住著一家人。他偷偷 [18] 地站在門外聽裡面的人說話。他聽到一個媽媽在和兩個小孩子說話，是一個姊姊和一個弟弟。

「美美，小明，你們過來一下。」媽媽說。

美美和小明走到媽媽面前 [19]，美美問媽媽：「什麼事？」

「我跟你們說，你們的外婆 [20] 生病了，我要去看她。」媽媽說，她的臉看起來很擔心 [21]。

「外婆生病了？我也要去看看她！」小明大聲地說。

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|--------|-------------|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| 18. 偷偷 | 去又 去又 | tōutōu | <i>adv.</i> | secretly; stealthily |
| 19. 面前 | 冂一 冂' 冂一 冂' | miànqián | <i>n.</i> | in front of |
| 20. 外婆 | メ 冂' 冂 冂' | wàipó | <i>n.</i> | grandmother |
| 21. 擔心 | 冂 冂 冂一 冂 | dānxīn | <i>v./adj.</i> | worry/worried |

I hope you enjoyed this sample! You can purchase the full book on <https://talktaiwanese Mandarin.com/books/>

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

3. 有人在敲門

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

4. [姑婆](#)在吃什麼?
[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

5. 想辦法

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

6. 真的有虎姑婆嗎?
[sample]

-The end-

問題 & 討論 Questions & Discussion

[sample]

生詞表 The list of key words

1. 老虎	カ ㄠˇ ㄉㄤˇ ㄉㄨˇ	lǎohǔ	<i>n.</i>	tiger
2. 變成	ㄅㄧㄢˋ ㄉㄨㄥˊ	biànchéng	<i>vc.</i>	to change into; become
3. 平常	ㄅㄨㄥˊ ㄉㄨㄥˊ	píngcháng	<i>adv.</i>	normally
4. 睡著	ㄕㄨㄟˋ ㄓㄨㄛˋ	shuìzháo	<i>vc.</i>	to fall asleep
5. 興奮	ㄒㄩㄥˋ ㄈㄣˋ	xīngfèn	<i>adj.</i>	excited
6. 睡不著	ㄕㄨㄟˋ ㄅㄨˋ ㄓㄨㄛˋ	shuìbùzháo	<i>vc.</i>	cannot fall asleep
7. 摸	ㄇㄛ	mō	<i>v.</i>	to touch (gently)
8. 趕快	ㄍㄨㄞˇ ㄎㄨㄞˋ	gǎnkuài	<i>adv.</i>	hurriedly; immediately
9. 煩	ㄈㄢˊ	fán	<i>adj.</i>	annoyed; annoying
10. 姑婆	ㄍㄨˊ ㄅㄛ	gūpó	<i>n.</i>	great-aunt
11. 害怕	ㄏㄞˋ ㄆㄚˋ	hàipà	<i>v.</i>	be afraid
12. 人類	ㄖㄣˊ ㄌㄟˋ	rénlèi	<i>n.</i>	human
13. 認真	ㄖㄣˋ ㄓㄨㄢˊ	rènzhēn	<i>adj.</i>	serious
14. 屁股	ㄅㄩˋ ㄍㄨˋ	pìgǔ	<i>n.</i>	butt; buttocks
15. 尾巴	ㄨㄟˊ ㄅㄚ	wěibā	<i>n.</i>	tail
16. 耳朵	ㄦˊ ㄞˋ	ěrduo	<i>n.</i>	ear
17. 只要	ㄓㄩㄞˋ ㄩㄞˋ	zhǐyào	<i>conj.</i>	[with 就...] as long as
18. 偷偷	ㄊㄡˊ ㄊㄡˊ	tōutōu	<i>adv.</i>	secretly ; stealthily
19. 面前	ㄇㄧㄢˋ ㄑㄧㄢˊ	miànqián	<i>n.</i>	in front of
20. 外婆	ㄨㄞˋ ㄅㄛ	wàipó	<i>n.</i>	grandmother
21. 擔心	ㄉㄢˊ ㄒㄩㄢˊ	dānxīn	<i>v./adj.</i>	worry/worried

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

[sample]

Parts of Speech

n. Noun

adj. Adjective

adv. Adverb

conj. Conjunction

mw. Measure word

Part. Particle

Prep. Preposition

v. Verb

vo. Verb + Object (examples: 吃飯、睡覺)

vc. Verb + complement (examples: 睡著、[吃掉](#)、看到)

Credits

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