

Chinese Graded Reader
Level 2
by Abby Chen

LOST
IN
TRANSLATION

咖啡店愛情故事

Chinese Graded Reader

Level 2: INTERMEDIATE

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Lost in Translation

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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 Two: Is this level right for me?

Level 2 is designed for Chinese learners who have reached an intermediate to upper-intermediate level. This series contains about 450-500 unique characters.

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.

As an added feature, clicking key words will take you to the [glossary](#), where each word's definition and pronunciation are listed. This should provide an easier reading experience.

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

Can you date someone if you do not speak the same language?

A cross-cultural romance based on a true story: after a Japanese lady meets a Taiwanese man in his Café in Tainan, they gradually develop feelings for each other despite the language barrier and the long distance.

Contact

If you encounter any issues after purchasing this book (e.g., not able to read this book on your device), please contact the author by sending an email to talktaiwanese Mandarin@gmail.com

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人物 Characters

- 阿喬(Āqiáo)：台南人，在台南開了一家咖啡店。喜歡和客人聊天、交朋友。

From Tainan, Taiwan. He runs a Café in Tainan. Friendly and sociable.

- 朋子(Péngzi)：日本人，住在東京^[1]。來台灣旅行的時候，來到阿喬的咖啡店。

From Tokyo, Japan. She comes to Āqiáo's Café when visiting Taiwan.

- 真真(Zhēnzhēn)：阿喬咖啡店的常客^[2]，會說日文。

A regular at Āqiáo's Café who speaks Japanese.

- 小張(Xiǎozhāng)：和阿喬認識很久的好朋友。

An old friend of Āqiáo's.

- 小高(Xiǎogāo)：真真的男朋友。

Zhēnzhēn's boyfriend.

-
1. 東京 カメロ ヲーロ Dōngjīng *n.* Tokyo
 2. 常客 イオウ オホキ chángkè *n.* regular customer

前言(qiányán) Preface

在某^[3]一年的十二月，我心情不好、想要去別的城市走走，所以就坐上火車，從台北來到台南。

我用手機查^[4]了一下附近有什麼咖啡店，看到一家風格^[5]很特別的店，我就想去看。

走進去後，看到裡面有很多有特色^[6]的老東西：老桌子、老照片、老電視...等等。

老闆站在吧台^[7]裡忙著，跟我說：「哈囉^[8]。」

我們就這樣聊起天來，他的名字叫阿喬。

到了要回台北前的最後一個晚上，我又來到這家咖啡店。

阿喬坐在吧台裡，看起來好像心情不太好。

「你怎麼了？心情不好？」我問他。

「沒事，我只是想到一個人。」他說。

「誰？」我問。

他沒有回答，過了一會，他說：「妳要聽故事嗎？」

「好啊，如果好聽的話。」我笑著說。

阿喬喝了一口水，開始說起了一個很特別的[愛情](#)^[9]故事。

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3. 某 ㄇㄨˇ mǒu **det.** certain; some
 4. 查 ㄔㄚˊ chá **v.** to look up, to check
 5. 風格 ㄈㄥ ㄍㄜˊ fēnggé **n.** style
 6. 有特色 ㄩˇ ㄛˋ ㄘㄜˋ ㄘㄜˋ yǒutèsè **adj.** has something special, unique
 7. 吧台 ㄅㄞˊ ㄊㄞˊ bātai **n.** bar, counter
 8. 哈囉 ㄏㄚˊ ㄌㄚˊ hālō **n.** hello
 9. 愛情 ㄞˋ ㄑㄩㄥˊ àiqíng **n.** romantic love

1. 第一次見面

在某個星期一下午，阿喬在自己的咖啡店裡看著電腦發呆^[10]，外面在下雨，店裡一個客人都沒有。

五年前，阿喬忽然^[11]不想再做飯店服務生的工作了。他在飯店工作已經十年了，雖然他對服務客人很有熱情^[12]、和同事^[13]們也都很熟^[14]，但是他想試試看不一樣的工作，他一直都想自己開^[15]一家咖啡店。

阿喬對咖啡有很大的熱情，也非常喜歡老房子的風格，所以他決定在自己從小長大的台南開一家老房子的咖啡店。

他找了很久才找到喜歡的老房子，又花了好幾個月的時間整理^[16]，才把這間很久沒人住的老房子變成一家很有特色的老咖啡店。

從開店到現在已經五年了，因為店的風格很特別，再加上阿喬熱情的服務、喜歡跟客人聊天，咖啡店的生意^[17]越來越好，每個週末他常常忙到沒時間吃飯。

不過今天是星期一，又加上下大雨，整個早上只來了幾個住在附近的常客。阿喬看著外面越下越^[18]大的雨，他心想：「今天下午應該不會有什麼客人吧...」

就在這個時候，有兩個客人走了進來。

阿喬站了起來，對他們微笑^[19]著說：「哈囉！兩位嗎？」

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

[sample]

問題 & 討論 Questions & Discussion

[sample]

生詞表 The list of key words

1. 東京 カメㄥ ㄐㄧㄥㄉㄨㄥˊ Dōngjīng *n.* Tokyo
2. 常客 ㄟㄨㄛˊ ㄘㄨㄛˋ chángkè *n.* regular customer
3. 某 ㄇㄨˇ mǒu *det.* certain; some
4. 查 ㄟㄚˊ chá *v.* to look up, to check
5. 風格 ㄉㄥㄍㄜˊ fēnggé *n.* style
6. 有特色 ㄩˇ ㄘㄜˋ ㄘㄨㄛˋ yǒutèsè *adj.* has something special, unique
7. 吧台 ㄅㄞㄊㄞˊ bātai *n.* bar, counter
8. 哈囉 ㄏㄚˊ ㄌㄚˊ hāluō *n.* hello
9. 愛情 ㄞˋ ㄑㄩㄥˊ àiqíng *n.* romantic love
10. 發呆 ㄉㄞˊ ㄉㄞˊ fādāi *v.* to stare blankly, to zone out
11. 忽然 ㄏㄨㄞˊ ㄖㄢˊ hūrán *adv.* suddenly
12. 熱情 ㄖㄜˋ ㄑㄩㄥˊ rèqíng *n./adj.* passion, enthusiastic
13. 同事 ㄘㄨㄛˋ ㄕㄨㄛˊ tóngshì *n.* colleague
14. 熟 ㄕㄨˊ shóu *adj.* familiar
15. 開 ㄎㄞˊ kāi *v.* to open; run (a shop)
16. 整理 ㄘㄨㄥˋ ㄌㄩˊ zhěnglǐ *v.* tidy up, to arrange
17. 生意 ㄕㄨㄥˋ ㄩˋ shēngyì *n.* business (e.g., 生意很好: *business was going well*)

18. 越...越... ㄩㄝˋ yuè **adv.** the more...the more...
19. 微笑 ㄨㄟˊ ㄒ一ㄠˋ wéixiào **v./n.** smile
20. 口音 ㄎㄡˇ ㄩㄢ ㄩㄣˋ kǒuyīn **n.** accent
21. 牛仔褲 ㄋㄩˊ ㄗㄞˋ ㄎㄨˋ niúzáikù **n.** jeans
22. 皮膚 ㄆ一ˊ ㄈㄨˊ pífū **n.** skin

[sample]

Parts of Speech

n. Noun

adj. Adjective

adv. Adverb

conj. Conjunction

mw. Measure word

Part. Particle

Prep. Preposition

Det. Determiner

v. Verb

vo. Verb + Object (examples: 吃飯、睡覺)

vc. Verb + complement (examples: 睡著、看到)

THANK YOU

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About the Author

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

For more information, please visit www.TalkTaiwaneseMandarin.com

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