

CHINESE GRADED READER

LEVEL 1:  
PRE-INTERMEDIATE



虎 姑 婆  
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HŭGŭpó

THE TIGER AUNT

TALK TAIWANESE MANDARIN

Chinese Graded Reader  
Level 1: PRE-INTERMEDIATE

# 虎姑婆

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## The Tiger Aunt

By Abby Chen

## 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.

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

If you're looking to push yourself, try making sentences with words from the vocabulary list. There's also a "Questions and Discussion" section 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 Grand aunt 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.

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

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## 人物 Characters

- 安安 (Ān'ān) : 3 岁 , 睡觉前喜欢听故事。

*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[变成 \[2\]](#) 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 岁。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 岁。美美的弟弟。

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

- 妈妈 (Māmā) : 美美和小明的妈妈。

*The mom of Meimei and Xiaoming.*

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1. 老虎    lǎohǔ    n.    tiger
  2. 变成    biànréng    vc.    to change into; become

## 1. 说故事

有一天晚上，三岁的安安躺在床上，要准备睡觉了。爸爸念了一本故事书、唱了一首歌给他听，平常[3]安安这个时候就会睡着[4]了，可是今晚他特别兴奋 [5]，怎么都睡不着 [6]。

「好了，该睡觉了。」爸爸说，摸 [7]了摸安安的头。

「不要，我还不想睡！」安安兴奋地说。

「你不睡觉的话，要做什么？爸爸已经很累了。」爸爸说。他今天上班很累，只想赶快 [8]回自己的房间，躺下来看电视。

「我还想要听故事。你再念别的故事给我听。」安安说。

- 
3. 平常    pínɡchánɡ    *adv.*    normally
  4. 睡着    shuìzháo    *vc.*    to fall asleep
  5. 兴奋    xīnɡfèn    *adj.*    excited
  6. 睡不着    shuìbùzháo    *vc.*    cannot fall asleep
  7. 摸    mō    *v.*    to touch ( gently )
  8. 赶快    gǎnkuài    *adv.*    hurriedly; immediately

「我已经念了你最喜欢的那本故事书，还唱了你最喜欢的歌了。」  
爸爸觉得有一点烦[9]，也开始想睡觉了，但是他还是说：「你还想听什么呢？」

「念你小时候的故事给我听。」安安说。

爸爸没办法，只好想了一下，然后说：「我小时候听的故事喔……  
好吧，就念虎姑婆 [10] 好了。」

「虎姑婆！」安安高兴地说。「好！我最喜欢老虎！」

「你听了不要害怕 [11] 喔！」爸爸笑着说。

「我才不会害怕！」安安大声地说。

爸爸喝了一口水，开始说起了故事：「很久很久以前……」

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9. 烦 fán *adj.* annoyed; annoying

10. 姑婆 gūpó *n.* great-aunt

11. 害怕 hàipà *v.* be afraid



## 2. 想变成人的老虎

很久很久以前，有一只住在山上的老虎，他很想要变成 人类[12]。因为他非常地认真[13]，几十年后，他已经有了人的身体和脸，只是他还不是真的人类，他的屁股 [14] 有老虎尾巴 [15]，头上有老虎耳朵[16]。

有一天，有一个奇怪的人跟老虎说：「如果你想要变成真的人类，我可以教你怎么做。」

「真的吗？」老虎兴奋地说，「我很想变成真的人类！快跟我说！」

「你只要[17]再吃几个小孩，就能变成真的人类了。」奇怪的人说。他一说完，就走了。

老虎听了很兴奋，他决定到山下去找小孩吃。

- 
- |        |         |       |                       |
|--------|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| 12. 人类 | rénlèi  | n.    | human                 |
| 13. 认真 | rènzhēn | adj.  | serious               |
| 14. 屁股 | pìgǔ    | n.    | butt; buttocks        |
| 15. 尾巴 | wěibā   | n.    | tail                  |
| 16. 耳朵 | ěrdō    | n.    | ear                   |
| 17. 只要 | zhǐyào  | conj. | [with就...] as long as |

有一天，他下了山，走着走着，他看到一个简单的小房子。这个房子小小的、没有什么特别的，里面住着一家人。他偷偷[18]地站在门外听里面的人说话。他听到一个妈妈在和两个小孩子说话，是一个姐姐和一个弟弟。

「美美，小明，你们过来一下。」妈妈说。

美美和小明走到妈妈面前[19]，美美问妈妈：「什么事？」

「我跟你们说，你们的外婆[20]生病了，我要去看她。」妈妈说，她的脸看起来很像担心 [21]。

「外婆生病了？我也要去看看她！」小明大声地说。

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

[sample]

## 问题 & 讨论 Questions & Discussion

1. 虎姑婆是怎么让美美和小明相信他、帮他开门的？

[sample]

## 生词表 The list of key words

1. 老虎 lǎohǔ *n.* tiger
2. 变成 biànchéng *vc.* to change into; become
3. 平常 píngcháng *adv.* normally
4. 睡着 shuìzháo *vc.* to fall asleep
5. 兴奋 xīngfèn *adj.* excited
6. 睡不着 shuìbùzháo *vc.* cannot fall asleep
7. 摸 mō *v.* to touch ( gently )
8. 赶快 gǎnkuài *adv.* hurriedly; immediately
9. 烦 fán *adj.* annoyed; annoying
10. 姑婆 gūpó *n.* great-aunt
11. 害怕 hàipà *v.* be afraid
12. 人类 rénlèi *n.* human
13. 认真 rènzhēn *adj.* serious
14. 屁股 pìgǔ *n.* butt; buttocks
15. 尾巴 wěibā *n.* tail
16. 耳朵 ěrduo *n.* ear
17. 只要 zhǐyào *conj.* [with就...] as long as

[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 : 吃饭、睡觉)

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

# Credits

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# 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.

For more information, please visit [www.TalkTaiwaneseMandarin.com](http://www.TalkTaiwaneseMandarin.com)

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