



All About Taiwan

Welcome to Taiwan!

Today we're going to explore Taiwan while improving your English fluency. You'll learn how to describe past events using the past continuous tense and expand your vocabulary about places and nature.

By the end of the lesson, you'll be able to:

- Describe actions in the past clearly
- Use travel and culture vocabulary confidently
- Compare English words with your language



What Do You Know About Taiwan?

Discuss:

- Have you heard of Taiwan before?
- Do you know any cities, foods, or traditions?
- Would you like to visit? Why?

Tip: Try to say your full thoughts, using phrases like:
“I think...”, “Maybe it’s...”, “I know...”



Spoken Facts: Taiwan in Brief

Read the information below with your tutor:

- Capital city: **Taipei**
- Known for: **night markets, bubble tea, mountains, technology**
- Famous landmarks: **Taipei 101, Sun Moon Lake, Taroko Gorge**
- Languages spoken: **Mandarin Chinese (official), Taiwanese Hokkien, English (common in cities)**

Fun Fact:

Taipei 101 used to be the tallest building in the world!



Vocabulary: Travel & Nature

Review the vocabulary below with your tutor:

Word	Meaning
Night market	An outdoor market open in the evening, full of food and shops
Bubble tea	A sweet tea drink with chewy tapioca balls
Lantern	A decorative light, often used in festivals
Mountain trail	A path for walking in the mountains
Street food	Quick, tasty food sold outdoors
Temple	A peaceful religious building
Island	Land surrounded by water
Volcano	A mountain that can erupt with lava

Discuss: Have you ever tried ‘Bubble Tea’? If yes, can you describe what it tastes like?

If not, what do you think it might taste like?



Vocabulary Practice: Real-Life Use

Answer the questions below with your tutor, focusing on vocabulary progress:

- Would you try street food?
- Do you enjoy walking in nature or on trails?
- Are there street food markets in your country?
- What's the most interesting food you've seen outdoors?

Tip: try to give full responses: **“I would...”, “We have...”, “Yes, I’ve tried...”**



Grammar Rule: Past Continuous

Grammar Rule:

We use the **past continuous** to talk about actions happening at a specific time in the past.

Structure: *was/were + verb-ing*

- Examples:
- “I was walking through the night market at 8pm.”
- “They were eating dumplings when it started raining.”
- “He was drinking bubble tea during the tour.”
- “We were visiting a temple while the sun was setting.”

Grammar Add-On: While & When

- Use “**while**” to describe two things happening at the same time
- Use “**when**” to show interruption or a short action

Examples:

- “I was eating noodles **when** I saw a parade.”
- “They were walking in the market **while** it was raining.”

Task: Complete the sentences with your own ideas:

- I was _____ when I heard _____.
- They were _____ while _____.
- She was _____ when _____.
- We were _____ while _____.

Tip:

- Use **when** for a short action that interrupts.
- Use **while** for two actions happening at the same time.



Speaking Practice: Describe the Scene

Imagine these situations and describe them using **past continuous**:

- A night market in Taipei.
- The beach in Kenting on a sunny day.
- A tea plantation in the mountains.

Example:

- *At the night market, people were buying snacks and vendors were calling out to customers.*

Tip: Add **specific details** about Taiwanese culture, food, or places that we learnt from today's lesson

Pronunciation: Past Continuous Rhythm

We connect words when speaking: *was eating, were walking, was watching.*

Practice reading out the following phrases to your tutor:

- “I was eating noodles.”
- “They were watching the lanterns.”
- “She was walking by the temple.”
- “We were talking about the food.”

Tip: Focus on rhythm, not each word separately



Reading: An Evening in Taipei

Have a go at reading the passage below with your tutor or independently:

“Last weekend, I was walking in a night market in Taipei. It was very crowded. People were eating snacks and buying souvenirs. I was drinking bubble tea while watching a lantern parade. It was exciting and colourful.”

Questions:

- Where was the person?
- What were people doing?
- What was happening during the lantern parade?

Then, retell the scenario using past continuous tense. Your tutor will support and guide you.



Quickfire Grammar Game: Past or Present?

Your tutor will read out the sentences below, your job is to decide whether the sentence is past continuous or present:

- “He was walking to the temple.”
- “She walks to school every day.”
- “They were eating dumplings.”
- “I drink tea every morning.”



Fun Facts About Taiwan

- Taiwan has over **250 mountains taller than 3,000 metres**
- The **lantern festival** is one of the most beautiful events in Asia
- **Bubble tea** was invented in Taiwan in the 1980s
- You can find **hot springs** all across the island
- Taiwan has a mix of **traditional temples** and modern technology