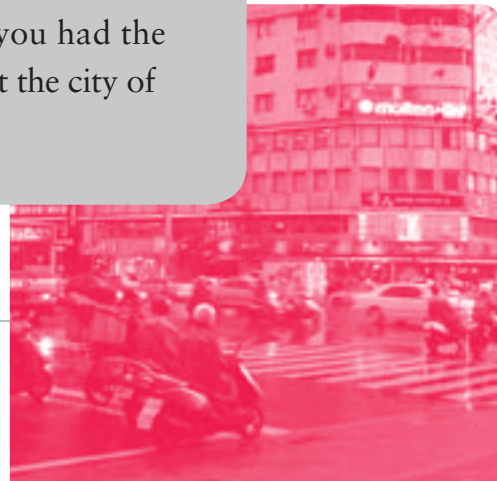


LESSON

1

**Pre-Reading Preparation**

1. How much do you know about Taipei? Go online and find 5 facts about Taipei that you didn't know before.
2. What city would you like to travel to if you had the chance? Go online and tell us 5 things about the city of your choice.



Crossing the River

1 I step off the plane and into a world of Chinese faces. All the signs are in Chinese, and I look around the airport through **fatigued** eyes for English notices. “**Holders** of passports from other countries.” I step into the line.

Chris meets me holding a sign with my name and a cartoon of a teacher. After two months of **swapping** emails with him, I am glad to be able to put a face to his name. He tells me the hotel is in a nice place. In fact, it is a **congested** building on a **bustling** street, but the river beside it looks interesting.

15 After my long flight, I really want to sleep, but Chris wants to show me how to use the underground trains. I know I need to learn how as soon as possible, so over the river we go, across a large bridge with red **railings**. Chris says the river is called Bi Tan, which means “blue water” in Chinese. But in this early spring, everything looks gray, **including** Bi Tan.

- I look down from the bridge and see lots of little boats **moored** in **neat** rows along the river banks.
- 25 They **remind** me of the river boats at home, and yet they are completely different. These boats look like swans. They have long necks and swan heads, eyes and wings.
- 30 The next day, the boats are all over the river. People are having a good time on Bi Tan. They **paddle** the swan boats up and down and **sideways** on the water. The bridge **rocks** under a thousand footsteps. I cross it several times that
- 35 day and the next, taking videos and catching the underground train to nowhere in **particular**. I do some shopping. Slowly, I begin to feel more familiar with life in Taipei.
- 40 The swan boats somehow help me **connect** my life in South Africa with my new, foreign home. I think of them again when I start my job as an English teacher and my **pupils** sing for me. The children have little understanding of what
- 45 they are singing, but the feeling is good. They sing: “Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream; **merrily**, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream!”

bustling *adj.* busy; full of activity.

The bustling market was filled with shoppers.

congested *adj.* stuffed; packed; crowded.

Cars moved slowly through the congested streets.

connect *v.* to join two or more things together; to form an association between two or more things.

Mary connects the smell of cinnamon with memories of her grandmother's house.

fatigued *adj.* tired; weary. Michael was fatigued from his all-night study session.

holder *n.* someone who is in possession of something.

The season's ticket holders were assigned the best seats in the stadium.

include *v.* to make something or someone part of a group.

The list of ingredients includes onions and celery.

merrily *adv.* gladly; happily; joyfully.

Because she likes her work, Amanda merrily does her job.

moor *v.* to anchor; to tie up.

Before the windstorm struck, the pilot moored his small airplane to the field.

neat *adj.* tidy; systematic; orderly; formal.

David is very well groomed; his hair always looks neat.

paddle *v.* to propel a watercraft; to row.

The boys paddled the boat to their favorite fishing spot.

particular *adj.* specific, worth noting.

Anna has no particular objection to going to the French restaurant.

pupil *n.* student; trainee. Edward has enrolled as a pupil at the new business school.

railing *n.* banister; upper, longitudinal part of a balustrade.

Sarah was afraid that she would slip on the wet steps, so she held the railing tightly.

remind *v.* to cause someone to think of someone or something.

Remind me to buy milk this afternoon.

rock *v.* to move back and forth or from side to side; to sway; to bounce.

So many people were dancing that the disco floor rocked.

sideways *adv.* to the side; laterally; crosswise.

Thomas squeezed sideways through the narrow opening in the fence.

swap *v.* to trade; to exchange. When Diane and Jennifer get tired of their wardrobes, they sometimes swap clothes.

Vocabulary Exercise

A. Fill in the Blanks:

bustle *remind* *congest* *swap* *railing*
include *connect* *paddle* *merrily* *sideways*

1. The price of the vacation package _____ the airfare and accommodation.
2. These stairs are steep. You should hold the _____.
3. The young boys in my class are always _____ items from their lunch bags.
4. After one rowing lesson, Jake _____ his canoe more efficiently.
5. Traffic in New York is _____ even very late at night.
6. During the shopping season, stores are _____ with people looking for bargains.
7. In the spring, we enjoy hearing the birds singing _____ in the trees by the river.
8. The teacher spoiled our weekend by _____ us that our papers are due Monday.
9. The streets were so congested, we couldn't move forward, backward or _____.
10. I _____ the scent of coconut with sunny vacations at the beach.

B. Analogies:

congested *paddle* *neat* *sideways* *fatigued*

1. *Small is to large* as _____ is to **messy**.
2. *Sweet is to sugary* as _____ is to **row**.
3. *High is to elevated* as _____ is to **tired**.
4. *Hungry is to satisfied* as _____ is to **empty**.
5. *East is to North* as _____ is to **straight ahead**.

Grammar Point

Practice **active** voice and **passive** voice by filling in the blanks for the rewritten sentences with appropriate verbs.

1. write

Chris _____ my name in Chinese on a greeting sign.

My name _____ in Chinese on a greeting sign.

2. call

People _____ the river Bi Tan.

The river _____ Bi Tan.

3. tell

Chris _____ me the hotel is in a nice place.

I _____ the hotel is in a nice place.

4. show

He _____ her how to use the underground trains.

She _____ how to use the underground trains.

5. remind

They _____ me of the riverboats at home.

I _____ of the river boats at home.

6. paddle

They _____ the swan boats up and down and sideways on the water.

The swan boats _____ up and down and sideways on the water.

7. cross

I _____ the bridge several times that day.

The bridge _____ several times that day.

8. sing

The children _____ the song merrily.

The song _____ merrily by the children.

Comprehension

A. True or False:

- ___ 1. The author's eyes feel very tired after the long plane flight.
- ___ 2. The bridge shakes as thousands of people walk over it.
- ___ 3. The railings of the large bridge are blue.
- ___ 4. On the river, people paddle the boats in all directions.
- ___ 5. The children understand the words of the song they are singing.

B. Multiple Choice:

1. After two months of swapping e-mails with Chris, I am glad to be able to put a face to his name.
 - a. I don't like exchanging emails with Chris.
 - b. I am happy to finally meet Chris in person.
 - c. Chris looks exactly like he described himself in his email.
2. "Holders of passports from other countries" means...
 - a. anyone coming to Taiwan from other countries.
 - b. anyone with a Taiwanese passport.
 - c. anyone with a passport from a foreign country.
3. The author spends some time catching the underground train to nowhere in particular, because:
 - a. The author wants to explore the new city.
 - b. The author keeps getting on the wrong train.
 - c. The author does not think there is anyplace to go.
4. The bridge "rocks under a thousand footsteps." What does this mean?
 - a. The bridge shakes and moves as thousands of people walk over it.
 - b. The bridge makes a lot of noise, like a thousand people walking over it.
 - c. The bridge is a thousand footsteps above the river.
5. The story tells you:
 - a. You can only find happiness in a dream.
 - b. Life is full of amazing things, like in a dream.
 - c. Rowing a boat is like a dream come true.

Discussion & Writing

Discussion:

1. The river is called Bi Tan, which means "blue water" in Chinese. But the author says everything, including the river, looks gray. What does this mean?
2. If you were in a new city, what would you do to help yourself feel more at home there?

Writing:

Write a short essay about a city that you have visited before.

