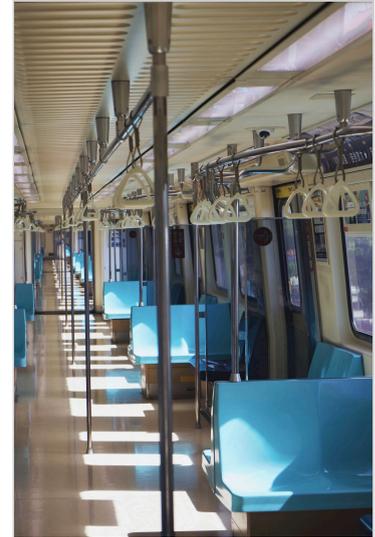


# Taiwan's MRT System

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Taiwan's Mass Rapid Transit system, commonly known as the MRT, has **revolutionized** urban transportation across the island. The Taipei MRT opened its first line in nineteen ninety-six and has since expanded to six major colored lines. Kaohsiung launched its own MRT system in two thousand eight, connecting the southern city's key **districts** efficiently. Together, these systems carry millions of passengers every single day through underground tunnels and elevated tracks above. The MRT has dramatically reduced traffic **congestion** and air pollution in Taiwan's busiest metropolitan areas over the decades.



The Taipei MRT is famous worldwide for being one of the cleanest and most **efficient** transit systems anywhere. Trains arrive every two to five minutes during peak hours, so passengers rarely experience long waiting times daily. Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are strictly **prohibited** on trains and in station areas at all times. Violators face fines of up to seventy-five hundred New Taiwan Dollars for breaking these important cleanliness rules strictly. This strict enforcement has helped maintain the **pristine** condition that makes the Taipei MRT stand out internationally.

Technology plays a central role in making Taiwan's MRT systems convenient and easy for everyone to use. The EasyCard, a **rechargeable** contactless smart card, allows passengers to tap in and out of stations seamlessly. This same card can also be used to pay at convenience stores, parking meters, and many restaurants. Digital display boards show real-time train arrival information in Mandarin, English, Japanese, and Korean for travelers. The MRT's mobile application provides route planning, fare **calculations**, and service announcements directly to passengers' smartphones.

The MRT has fundamentally changed how Taiwanese people commute and plan their daily lives around transportation needs. Before the MRT, Taipei's streets were overwhelmed with cars, buses, and **scooters** creating massive daily traffic jams. Property values near MRT stations have increased significantly as people prefer the **accessibility** of living near rapid transit. Shopping malls, restaurants, and entertainment centers have clustered around major stations, creating vibrant commercial neighborhoods nearby. The MRT has encouraged a shift from private vehicles to public transportation that benefits the environment and communities.

Future **expansion** plans will extend the MRT network to more cities and suburban areas across all of Taiwan. New lines are currently under construction in Taoyuan, Taichung, and other growing metropolitan regions throughout the island. Driverless train technology is being tested to further improve safety and service frequency on several planned routes. The Circular Line and Airport MRT have already added important connections for commuters and international travelers recently. Taiwan's continued investment in MRT infrastructure demonstrates its commitment to sustainable and modern urban **development** for generations.

## A. Vocabulary

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1. revolutionized \_\_\_\_\_
  2. districts \_\_\_\_\_
  3. congestion \_\_\_\_\_
  4. efficient \_\_\_\_\_
  5. prohibited \_\_\_\_\_
  6. pristine \_\_\_\_\_
- a. not allowed by rules or laws
  - b. able to be refilled with money or energy
  - c. the process of computing amounts
  - d. two-wheeled motorized vehicles
  - e. completely changed in a dramatic way
  - f. the act of growing or becoming larger

7. rechargeable \_\_\_\_\_

8. calculations \_\_\_\_\_

9. scooters \_\_\_\_\_

10. expansion \_\_\_\_\_

g. perfectly clean and in original condition

h. separate areas within a city

i. the quality of being easy to reach

j. too many things crowded in one space

## B. True or False

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- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. The Taipei MRT opened its first line in 1996. _____ | 2. Kaohsiung does not have an MRT system. _____                     | 3. Eating is prohibited on the MRT. _____                |
| 4. The EasyCard can only be used on the MRT. _____     | 5. Trains arrive every two to five minutes during peak hours. _____ | 6. The MRT increased traffic congestion in Taipei. _____ |
| 7. Property values have risen near MRT stations. _____ | 8. Driverless train technology is being tested in Taiwan. _____     | 9. The MRT only displays information in Mandarin. _____  |

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** revolutionized, congestion, efficient, prohibited, pristine, rechargeable, expansion

- The MRT has \_\_\_\_\_ urban transportation across Taiwan.
- The MRT has dramatically reduced traffic \_\_\_\_\_ in busy areas.
- The Taipei MRT is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ transit systems in the world.
- Eating and drinking are strictly \_\_\_\_\_ on the trains.
- Future \_\_\_\_\_ plans will extend the MRT to more cities.

## D. Comprehension Questions

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- When did the Taipei MRT open its first line?
- What happens if someone eats on the MRT?
- What is the EasyCard and how does it work?
- How has the MRT changed life in Taipei?
- What new technology is being tested for future MRT lines?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- What are the advantages of public transportation over private cars?
- Should all cities have strict rules about eating on trains? Why or why not?
- How do you think transportation will change in the next twenty years?

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## Answer Key

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-e, 2-h, 3-j, 4-d, 5-a, 6-g, 7-b, 8-c, 9-i, 10-f

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-revolutionized, 2-congestion, 3-efficient, 4-prohibited, 5-expansion

**D. Comprehension:** 1. In 1996; 2. They face a fine of up to NT\$7,500; 3. A rechargeable contactless smart card for tapping in/out; 4. Reduced traffic, increased property values, created commercial areas; 5. Driverless train technology