

YouBike: Taiwan's Bike Sharing System

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Taiwan has one of the **best** bike sharing systems in the world. It is called YouBike, and you can find stations all over cities like Taipei and Kaohsiung. The yellow and silver bikes are easy to spot, and the system makes getting around both easy and **affordable**.

To use YouBike, you need an Easy Card, which most people call a "Yo-Yo Card." This is a **rechargeable** card that works like a debit card. Buy one at any MRT station or **convenience** store. The card **integrates** many services—buses, MRT subway, stores, and YouBike.

Using the system is **simple**. Walk to any station, tap your card on the sensor, and pull the bike out. The bikes have three gears, a basket, a bell, and lights for night riding. Sometimes the brakes aren't **perfect**, but the system works very well overall.

Taiwan also has YouBike 2.0 with **electric** bikes for longer trips. One great feature is the **temporary** lock—stop at a store, press a button to lock without returning it.

The best part? It's almost **free**! A 30-minute ride costs nothing or just NT\$5 (about 15 cents USD). This makes YouBike one of the cheapest and most **convenient** ways to explore Taiwan.



Vocabulary

affordable — cheap, not expensive

integrate — combine together

convenient — easy to use

rechargeable — can add money again

temporary — not permanent

simple — easy, not complicated

True or False

1. YouBike is expensive to use. _____
2. You need an Easy Card to rent a bike. _____
3. You must return bikes to the same station. _____
4. The bikes have three gears. _____
5. A 30-minute ride is usually free or NT\$5. _____

Fill in the Blanks

1. YouBike is very _____ to use.
2. You can _____ your Easy Card.
3. The lock is _____, not permanent.
4. The card _____ many services.
5. It is very _____ to rent a bike.

6. The Easy Card only works for YouBike. _____

7. YouBike 2.0 has electric bikes. _____

8. You can lock the bike temporarily. _____

Discussion Questions

1. Would a bike sharing system work well in your city? Why or why not?
2. What are the advantages of bikes compared to cars or buses?
3. Have you ever been to Taiwan? Would you like to try YouBike?

Answer Key

True or False

1. F (It's almost free) 2. T 3. F (Any station) 4. T 5. T 6. F (MRT, buses, stores too) 7. T 8. T

Fill in the Blanks

1. affordable / simple 2. recharge 3. temporary 4. integrates 5. convenient / simple

Discussion Questions

Answers will vary. Encourage students to explain their reasoning and use vocabulary from the article.