

# YouBike: Taiwan's Amazing Bike Sharing System

ESL Reading Worksheet — Intermediate | tahricteaches.com

Taiwan has one of the **best** bike sharing systems in the world. It is called YouBike, and you can find bright yellow and silver bike stations all over major cities like Taipei, New Taipei City, Taichung, and Kaohsiung. The bikes are very easy to spot on the streets, and the whole system makes getting around Taiwan both easy and **affordable** for everyone—tourists and locals alike.



To use YouBike, you first need to get an Easy Card, which Taiwanese people often call a "Yo-Yo Card." This is a **rechargeable** card that works like a debit card. You can purchase one at any MRT station, **convenience** store like 7-Eleven or FamilyMart, or even at the airport. The Easy Card is incredibly useful in Taiwan because it **integrates** so many different services into one card. You can use it to pay for buses, the MRT subway system, purchases at convenience stores, and YouBike rentals.

Using the bike sharing system is very **simple** and takes only a few seconds. Walk to any YouBike station and choose a bike. Then, tap your Easy Card on the sensor at the back of the bike seat. Wait for the green light and beep sound. Finally, pull the bike out and you are ready to ride! Each bike comes equipped with three gears, a front basket, a bell to warn pedestrians, and lights for safe night riding. Sometimes the brakes or gears are not **perfect** because thousands of people use these bikes every day, but the overall system works extremely well.

Recently, Taiwan introduced YouBike 2.0, which includes **electric**-assisted bikes for longer trips or hilly areas. Another fantastic feature is the **temporary** lock. If you need to stop at a store or restaurant, you can press a button to lock your bike wherever you are—no need to find a station. Just tap your card again to unlock it.

Perhaps the best part about YouBike is the price—it is almost **free**! If you ride for less than thirty minutes, you pay nothing or just NT\$5 (about 15 cents USD). This makes YouBike one of the cheapest and most **convenient** ways to explore Taiwan's beautiful cities.

## A. Vocabulary Matching

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- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. affordable ____   | a. combine many things together    |
| 2. rechargeable ____ | b. easy to use or access           |
| 3. integrate ____    | c. not permanent; for a short time |
| 4. temporary ____    | d. can add money or power again    |
| 5. convenient ____   | e. cheap; not expensive            |

## B. True or False

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1. YouBike is expensive. \_\_\_\_
2. You need an Easy Card. \_\_\_\_
3. Return to same station. \_\_\_\_
4. Bikes have three gears. \_\_\_\_
5. 30 min = free or NT\$5. \_\_\_\_
6. Card only for YouBike. \_\_\_\_
7. YouBike 2.0 is electric. \_\_\_\_
8. Has temporary lock. \_\_\_\_
9. Only in Taipei. \_\_\_\_

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** affordable, recharge, temporary, integrates, convenient, simple, electric

1. The Easy Card \_\_\_\_\_ many services like MRT, buses, and stores.
2. YouBike 2.0 has \_\_\_\_\_ bikes for longer trips.
3. The system is very \_\_\_\_\_ for tourists visiting Taiwan.
4. You can \_\_\_\_\_ your Easy Card at any convenience store.
5. Using the bike is \_\_\_\_\_—just tap and ride!

## D. Comprehension Questions

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1. Where can you buy an Easy Card? (Name 3 places)
2. What equipment does each YouBike have? (Name 4 things)
3. Why might the brakes sometimes not work perfectly?
4. What is special about YouBike 2.0?
5. How much does a 30-minute ride usually cost?

## E. Discussion Questions

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1. Would a bike sharing system work in your city? Why or why not?
  2. What are the benefits of riding a bike compared to driving a car?
  3. Have you ever visited Taiwan? Would you like to try YouBike?
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## Answer Key

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-e, 2-d, 3-a, 4-c, 5-b

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

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-integrates, 2-electric, 3-convenient, 4-recharge, 5-simple

**D. Comprehension:** 1) MRT station, convenience store, airport 2) gears, basket, bell, lights 3) thousands use them daily 4) electric-assisted bikes 5) free or NT\$5