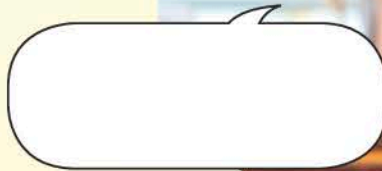


The Politest Phrase in Taiwan

1

You want to ask the teacher to repeat the question.



2

You want to ask where the train station is.



3

It is too noisy to hear what your friend is saying on the phone.



BEFORE YOU READ

In the situations below, which Chinese phrase would you use to start the conversation?

不好意思

對不起

4

You want to stop a man to return his lost wallet.



5

You want to explain why you are late.





*An Island That 'Apologizes' Nonstop**

by Anthony Brady

1 When I first came to Taiwan, I observed an interesting phenomenon*: Taiwanese people seem to like the phrase “buhaoyisi” a lot. For example, one day, I was walking along a sidewalk where busy people were passing. A man almost **bumped into** me. He was **in a hurry**, but he still turned and said “buhaoyisi” to me. I guessed he was trying to say “sorry,” and it was nice of him to do so.

2 Another day, I heard “buhaoyisi” again in a restaurant. I saw a woman waving to a waiter and saying “buhaoyisi” in a gentle voice. **Apparently**², she was calling him.

3 I have heard this **expression**³ **plenty**⁴ more times in Taiwan—on the streets, on the MRT, and in stores. It is interesting that Taiwanese people use this expression in so many different situations. It seems that the people here apologize all the time.

1. apologize [əˈpɒləˌdaɪz] *vi.* 道歉

* nonstop [ˌnɒnˈstɒp] *adv.* 不停地

* phenomenon [fəˈnɒmənən] *n.* [C] 現象

• bump into 撞上

• in a hurry 匆忙地

2. apparently [əˈpærəntli] *adv.* 顯然

3. expression [ɪkˈspresjən] *n.* [C] 詞句

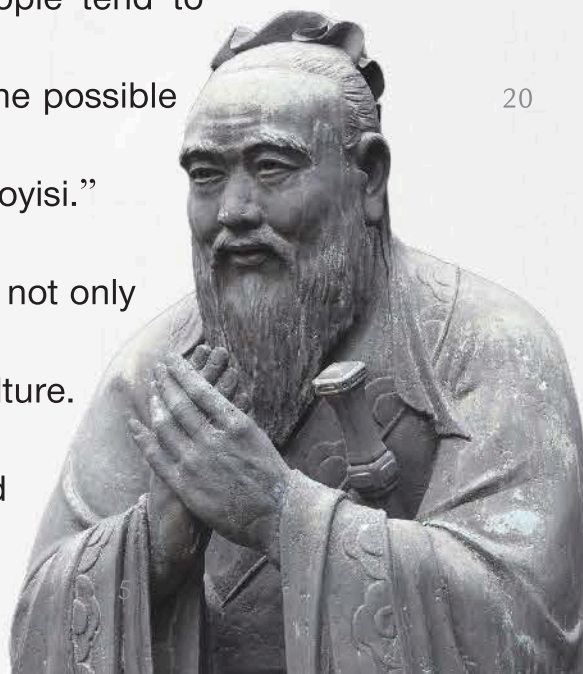
4. plenty [ˈplenti] *adv.* 很多

4 As a Taiwanese, have you noticed this phenomenon? Do you agree with the writer or not? Taiwanese people use “buaoyisi” a lot to **avoid**⁵ trouble. 15

Experts⁶ **point out** that this has something to do with **ancient**⁷ Chinese culture. Confucius* taught people to live **peacefully**⁸ together, and polite language can **more or less** help to achieve this. In addition, Taiwan has been **influenced**⁹ by Japanese culture, so people tend to behave in a polite and **formal**¹⁰ way. These are the possible reasons why Taiwanese people often use “buaoyisi.” 20

5 To many Taiwanese people, “buaoyisi” is not only a phrase but also a **significant**¹¹ part of the culture.

Some **residents**¹² in Taiwan think that it is a good



5. avoid [əˈvɔɪd] vt. 避免

6. expert [ˈɛkspɜːt] n. [C] 專家

• point out 指出

7. ancient [ˈɛnfənt] adj. 古老的

* Confucius [kənˈfjuːʃəs] n. 孔子

8. peacefully [ˈpiːsfəli] adv. 和平地

• more or less 或多或少

9. influence [ˈɪnfluəns] vt. 影響

10. formal [ˈfɔːml] adj. 正式的

11. significant [sɪɡˈnɪfəkənt] adj. 重要的

12. resident [ˈrezɪdənt] n. [C] 居民

expression when you want to say “excuse me” or “sorry,” while others think it can even help to **build up** social relationships. However, as for being “an island that apologizes nonstop,” not everyone thinks this is true.

6 ¹³ **Anyway**, we can't ¹⁴ **deny** that using “buhaoyisi” is a truly special feature of
 30 Taiwanese ¹⁵ **society**. It is interesting that this common ¹⁶ **usage** in a small island can become a topic of discussion in the world.

Cultural Note

你知道「不好意思」文化是臺灣獨有的嗎？在其他華語地區，如中國或馬來西亞，都沒有這樣的文化。臺灣的禮貌文化或許也反映在接待外國人上。根據調查，臺灣被評為全球最友善的國家之一，約有90% 外籍人士對臺灣人的待客之道給予高度評價。



• build up 建立

13. anyway [ˈeni,we] *adv.* 無論如何

14. deny [diˈnai] *vt.* 否認

15. society [səˈsaɪəti] *n.* [U] 社會

16. usage [ˈjuːsɪdʒ] *n.* [C] 用法

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

1

Fill in the blanks with correct words.

Situations

- A man said “buaoyisi” when he almost ¹ _____ someone.
→ It means “sorry.”
- A woman said “buaoyisi” when she waved to a waiter.
→ She said it to call the waiter.

Causes of this Phenomenon

- Ancient Chinese Culture
→ Confucius taught people to ² _____ together.
- Japanese Culture
→ Influenced by Japanese culture, Taiwanese people behave in a ³ _____.

The Politest Phrase in Taiwan

Meaning

“Buaoyisi” is not only a phrase but also ⁴ _____ of Taiwanese culture.

Conclusion

Using “buaoyisi” is a truly special feature of ⁵ _____.
This becomes a topic of discussion in the world.

AFTER YOU READ

I. Reading Skill: Topic Sentence

主題句 (topic sentence)：點出段落中心思想的句子。

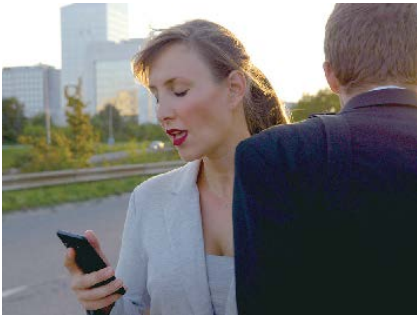
Hint 可藉由思考：「這一段主要在講什麼？」，以及留意段落中反覆出現的字彙和概念來找出主題句。

Check (✓) the topic sentence of the fifth paragraph.

- ☐ (A) To many Taiwanese people, “buhaoyisi” is not only a phrase but also a significant part of the culture.
- ☐ (B) Some residents in Taiwan think that it is a good expression when you want to say “excuse me” or “sorry.”
- ☐ (C) However, as for being “an island that apologizes nonstop,” not everyone thinks this is true.

II. Details

Check (✓) the situations that are mentioned in the reading.



- ☐ 1. “Buhaoyisi, I’m hurrying back to work.”



- ☐ 2. “Buhaoyisi, do you have the time?”



☐ 3. “Buhaoyisi, there was heavy traffic.”



☐ 4. “Buhaoyisi, I’m ready to order.”



Do you often say “buhaoyisi” in your daily life?
In what situations?

NOTE 

VOCABULARY



I. Words for Production

1

apologize

[əˈpɒləˌdʒaɪz]

apology

[əˈpɒlədʒi]

vi. 道歉 (to say sorry)

► Mary **apologized** for stepping on Jack's white shoes.

n. [C][U] 道歉

► Janet made an **apology** for her impolite comments about her brother's photos.

2

apparently

[əˈpærəntli]

apparent

[əˈpærənt]

adv. 顯然 (showing something that seems to be true)

► The man was reading the map in confusion.

Apparently, he got lost.

adj. 明顯的 **SYN** obvious

► There are tears on Michael's face. It is **apparent** that he is crying.



3

expression

[ɪkˈspreʃən]

n. [C] 詞句 (a word or phrase)

► Sofia likes to use strange **expressions** in conversations, so people cannot understand her.



4

plenty

[ˈplenti]

adv.; pron. 很多，大量 (a lot)

► My dad just got back from the supermarket, so there is **plenty** of food in our refrigerator.



5

avoid

[əˈvɔɪd]

vt. 避免，避開 (to prevent or keep away from something)

► After he failed the math test, Jason tried to **avoid** seeing his father.



6

expert

[ˈɛkspɜːt]

n. [C] 專家 (a person with a certain skill or knowledge)

► Audrey is an **expert** in marketing. She knows the best way to sell products.

7

ancient

[ˈɛnfənt]

adj. 古老的，古代的 **ANT** modern

(very old or having been there for a long time)

- In **ancient** China, women with small feet were seen as beautiful.



1

8

peacefully

[ˈpiːsfəli]

adv. 和平地；平靜地 (with peace)

- Rachel can sleep **peacefully** even when the classroom is noisy.

**peace**

[piːs]

n. [U] 平靜

- Henry finally enjoyed some **peace** after a long day of work.

9

influence

[ˈɪnfluəns]

vt. 影響 (to have an effect)

- The salesperson is trying to **influence** me to buy a more expensive smartphone.

influence

[ˈɪnfluəns]

n. [C][U] 影響 **SYN** effect

- Smiling has a good **influence** on people. They often become happier when they see a smile.

10

formal

[ˈfɔːml]

adj. 正式的 **ANT** informal

(very correct and polite)

- The interview today is very important, so I need to wear **formal** clothes.



11

significant

[sɪɡˈnɪfəkənt]

adj. 重要的 **ANT** insignificant

(very important)

- Choosing a good leader is highly **significant** for the future of this company.

significance

[sɪɡˈnɪfəkəns]

n. [U][sing.] 重要性 **ANT** insignificance

- This is the first hospital in this town, so it is of great **significance** to the people here.

12

resident

[ˈrezədənt]

n. [C] 居民 (a person who lives in a place)

► Only **residents** in this area can join the local baseball team.



13

anyway

[ˈeni,we]

adv. 無論如何 **SYN** anyhow

(even so)

► The soup was hot, but I ate it **anyway**.



14

deny

[diˈnaɪ]

vt. 否認，否定 (deny—denied—denied) **ANT** admit

(to say something is not true)

► Dylan **denied** that he took the snacks from the store.

15

society

[səˈsaɪəti]

n. [U][C] 社會

(a certain group of people who share the same custom)

► “Fish and chips” is a common dish in British **society**.



16

usage

[ˈjuːsɪdʒ]

n. [C][U] 用法 (the way something is used)

► Betty thinks the different **usage** between British and American English is interesting.

II. Words for Recognition

1. nonstop [ˌnɒnˈstɒp] *adv.* 不停地，不斷地
2. phenomenon [fəˈnɒmənən] *n.* [C] 現象 (複數 phenomena)
3. Confucius [kənˈfjuːʃəs] *n.* 孔子

PHRASES



1

bump into

撞上；巧遇 **SYN** run into

(to hit something; to meet someone unexpectedly)

► My brother **bumped into** the sofa when he was about to turn on the light.

2

in a hurry

匆忙地 **SYN** in a rush (very quickly)

► Tim checked his emails **in a hurry** when he arrived at the office.



3

point out

指出，提出 (to mention something)

► Chris **pointed out** my mistake at work and helped me correct it.



4

more or less

或多或少，多少有些 (almost, not completely)

► Henry was **more or less** unhappy when his good neighbor moved away.



5

build up

建立；增加 (to develop or become greater)

► Cathy's goal is to **build up** her farm business and make it successful.



Word Smart

-al 為形容詞字尾，加在名詞後。

Practice

nation → _____ 國家的

tradition → _____ 傳統的

-al

form + al → formal

正式的

person + al → personal

個人的

function + al → functional

功能的

education + al → educational

教育的

GRAMMAR

1. 修飾人：It + be + Adj + of sb + to V

▲ 圈出句中的形容詞和人名。

1. It is crazy of Jill to always drive so fast on the street.
2. It was polite of Ryan to open the door for me.
3. It was nice of James to make this chicken soup for us.

-
1. 表示「某人做……很……」。
 2. 修飾「人」的形容詞，搭配「of sb」強調人的特質。
 3. 不定詞 (to V) 當主詞時，可用 it 代替，而將 to V 移到句尾。



◆ It was **kind** of **Sandy** to bring the drinks for everyone.

▲ 找出課文中使用到此句型的句子：

Let's Try!

A. 重組句子，並加上適當標點符號。

1. the experience of others / Amber / wise of / to learn from / It was

1

2. kind of / to give me a ride home / Frank / It was / yesterday

3. Susan / the job interview / It was / to be late for / impolite of

4. to help me / It was / prepare for my speech / nice of / Mary

5. to save people from / It was / the man / the burning house / brave of

B. Todd 和 Elsa 被老師找去談話，以下是他們的對話。改寫畫底線的句子，第一題為範例。



1. Elsa, you were lazy. You copied Todd's homework.

→ it was lazy of you to copy Todd's homework



2. Todd, you were unwise. You helped Elsa do that.

→

Sir, but Elsa was seriously sick.



3. Todd, you are nice. You speak for me.

→



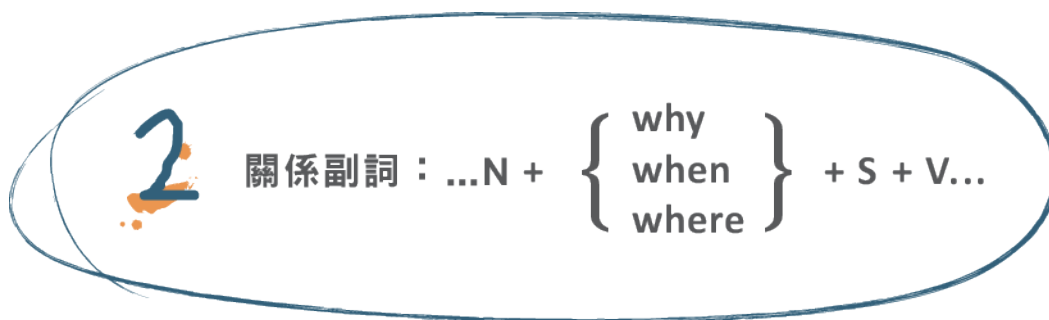
4. Sorry, sir. I was foolish. I shouldn't copy Todd's homework. It has nothing to do with him.

→



5. Alright. Both of you are kind. You think for each other. Just don't make the same mistake again!

→



1

▲ 判斷句中標示字的性質，並填入正確的副詞。

why	when	where
-----	------	-------

1. Last Friday was the **day** the meeting was held.
2. There is a **reason** fast food isn't so popular these days.
3. This is the **place** all the residents can get together.

1. 關係副詞 why、when、where 具有連接詞功能，引導完整的子句。



2. 關係副詞依不同的意思，搭配不同類型的名詞：

搭配名詞	關係副詞	表示
reason	why	原因
time、day、year 等	when	時間
house、school、place 等	where	地點



◆ Yesterday was the day **when** I first met Simba.

↑ 時間

◆ This is the place **where** I first met Simba.

↑ 地點

◆ Simba was cute. That was the reason **why** it attracted me.

↑ 原因

▲ 找出兩句課文中使用到此句型的句子：

1. _____

2. _____



Let's Try!

A. 根據句型合併句子。

1

1. { Nobody knew the reason.
Paul walked out of the room angrily.

→

2. { I always remember the day.
I met my best friend Lora on that day.

→

3. { This is the house.
The famous writer once lived in it.

→

4. { I went to the restaurant.
My cousin works at it.


→

5. { Do you know the reason?
Helen didn't go to school today.

→

B. Linda 正在手機上記錄旅遊心得，但她對某些句子沒有把握。填入適當的關係副詞，幫 Linda 順利完成日記。

Sun Moon Lake ❤️ *August 11*



❤️ 💬 📍 📌

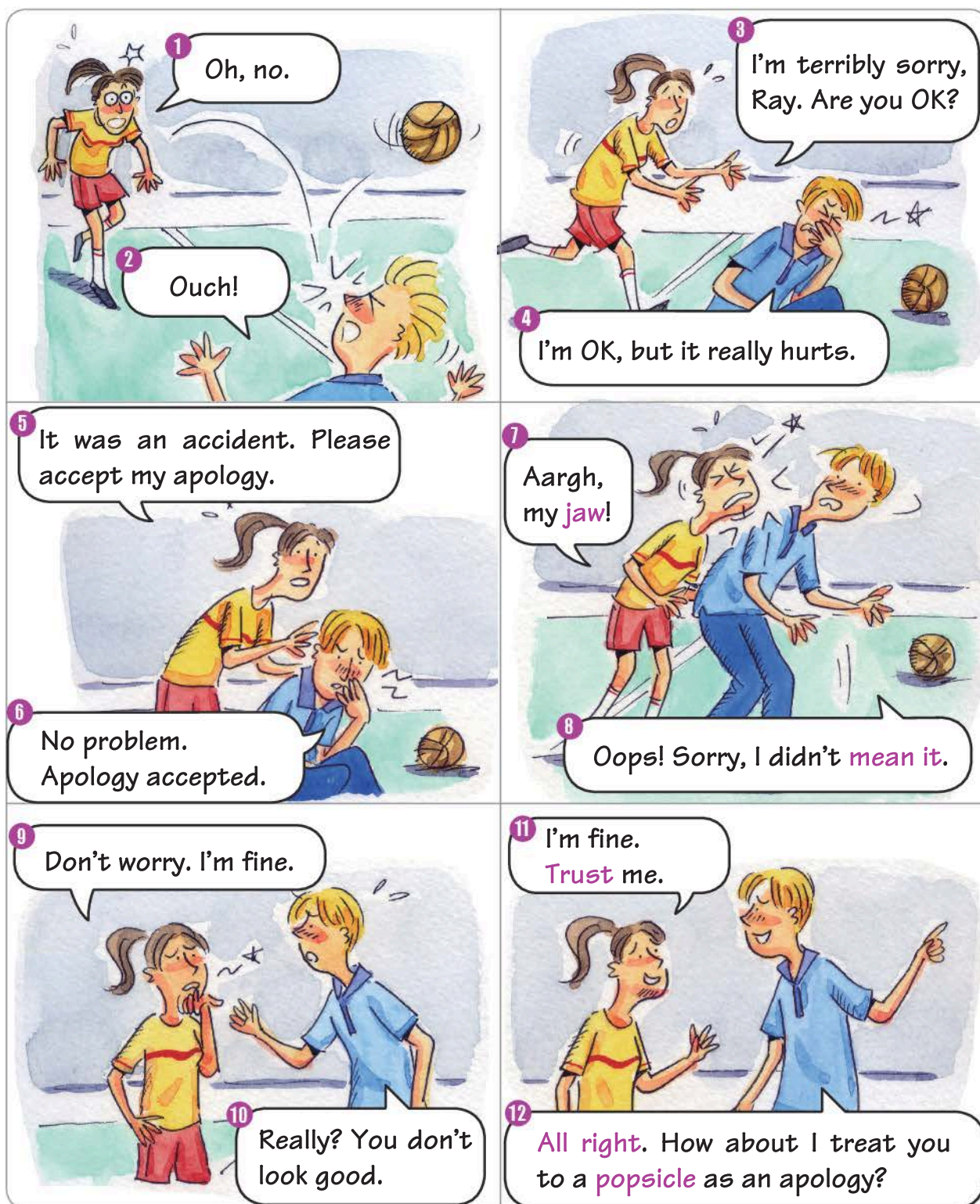
I just came back from Sun Moon Lake in Nantou County. It's a beautiful place ¹ _____ you can see many tourists from around the world. I was one of them! The best time to visit is in the late afternoon. That's the time ² _____ most of the tour buses have left. I tried to go around the lake by bike, but it was not easy. It was still hot, so I took a break at a temple. That was the place ³ _____ I was thinking if I should continue. Then, I decided to keep going because biking around the lake was the reason ⁴ _____ I went there. After several hours, I made it! It was a great experience. I think it's the main reason ⁵ _____ I'll remember this trip forever.

CONVERSATION

Apologizing

Maya accidentally hit Ray on the nose with a *dodgeball*.

1



1. dodgeball [ˈdɒdʒbɔːl] *n.* [C] 躲避球

2. jaw [dʒɔː] *n.* [C] 下巴

3. mean it 故意

4. trust [trʌst] *vt.* 相信

5. all right 好吧

6. popsicle [ˈpɒpsəkəl] *n.* [C] 冰棒

Level Up!

1 My bad!

這是我的錯！

2 I'm sorry for being rude to you.

我很抱歉對你這麼沒禮貌。

3 I owe you an apology.

我欠你一個道歉。

4 Can you forgive me?

你可以原諒我嗎？

5 It's really not necessary.

你真的不必道歉。

6 It's no one's fault.

誰都沒錯。

Role Play

The girl is apologizing to the boy.



7. rude [rud] *adj.* 無禮的

8. owe [o] *vt.* 欠

9. forgive [fə-`gɪv] *vt.* 原諒

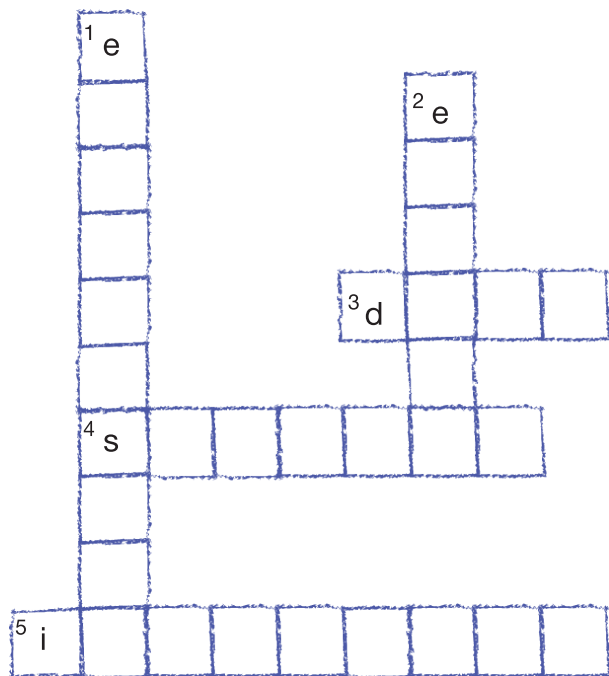
10. necessary [ˈnesə,seri] *adj.* 必要的

11. fault [fɔlt] *n.* [C] 錯誤

DO IT YOURSELF

I. Vocabulary

根據字首提示與例句，將答案填入框內。



Down:

1. “How are you?” is a common _____ for Americans to say hello.
2. Jess is considered an _____ in science. She knows much about it.

Across:

3. Frank broke the cup, but he tried to _____ it.
4. Night markets are important to many people in Taiwanese _____.
5. Adults can _____ kids’ behavior greatly.

II. Cloze Test

根據文意，選出最適當的答案。

When Anthony visited Taiwan, he heard people saying “buaoyisi” a lot. For example, on the first day 1 he came to Taiwan, he almost knocked against a man on a street. The man seemed to hurry somewhere, but he still stopped and said “buaoyisi” to Anthony. On another day, Anthony saw a woman 2 a waiter in a restaurant, and she also said “buaoyisi” to the waiter. He thought it was polite 3 the people to do so all the time.

Anthony’s experience shows that “buaoyisi” is not only a phrase but also an important part of Taiwanese culture. Some people think that saying “buaoyisi” is a good way to express “excuse me” or “sorry,” 4 others think it can even help build up social relationships. Clearly, using “buaoyisi” 5 a special feature of Taiwanese culture. As a Taiwanese, what do you think?

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| () 1. (A) why | (B) that | (C) when | (D) where |
| () 2. (A) calls | (B) calling | (C) to calling | (D) be called |
| () 3. (A) of | (B) to | (C) in | (D) for |
| () 4. (A) so | (B) whether | (C) while | (D) because |
| () 5. (A) does | (B) be | (C) are | (D) is |

III. Guided Translation

根據中文及提示字首，寫出完整字詞。每格限填一字。

1. 雖然我不喜歡苦瓜，但當它們出現在我的餐點裡，我或多或少還是會吃。

Although I don't like bitter gourds, I still eat them m
o l when they are in my meals.

2. Henry 臉上的瘀青和昨天的意外有關。

The bruises on Henry's face h something t
d w the accident yesterday.

3. 有個小男孩指出了國王沒穿任何衣服的事實。

A little boy p o the fact that the king did not
wear any clothes.

4. 當我正在用智慧型手機時，我不小心撞到一位老先生。

While I was using my smartphone, I b i an old
man by accident.

5. Sarah 匆忙地穿上衣服，沒有注意到她的襯衫穿反了。

Sarah got dressed i a h and didn't notice that
her blouse was inside out.

IV. Grammar

1

重組句子，並加上適當標點符號。

1. is chubby / Thomas / are thin / while / his brothers

2. on his own / Jason / finish the job / seems to

3. It was / of / kind / to help the lost child / you

4. is / where / That restaurant / I had my first job / the place

5. don't want to / why / the reason / you / Can you tell me / go to the party

V. Translation

根據中文，翻譯出英文。

1. 你穿正式服裝去參加面試很有禮貌。

2. Kevin 會照顧弟弟、妹妹很棒。

3. 這位專家知道這個古王國消失的原因。

4. 這個房間是當地居民舉行會議的地方。

5. 我避免見到 Bill，因為他拒絕道歉。
