

Vocabulary List: *Nainai's Mountain* / 奶奶的山

For Heritage Speakers · Weekend Chinese School · Taiwan Mandarin · HSK 3.0 (2021)

● HSK 1–2 · Beginner

● HSK 3–4 · Lower Intermediate

● HSK 5 · Intermediate

● HSK 6 · Upper Intermediate

● HSK 7–9 · Advanced

● Beyond HSK

HSK 1–2 · Beginner

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
日出 / 日出 <i>rì chū</i>	sunrise	我們可以去山上看日出。 <i>wǒ men kě yǐ qù shān shàng kàn rì chū.</i> We can watch the sunrise from the mountain.
稻田 / 稻田 <i>dào tián</i>	rice paddy; rice field	人行道變成了稻田。 <i>rén xíng dào biàn chéng le dào tián.</i> Sidewalks turned into rice paddies.
山顶 / 山頂 <i>shān dǐng</i>	the top of a mountain; the summit	我們終於到了山頂。 <i>wǒ men zhōng yú dào le shān dǐng.</i> We finally reached the top.
孙女 / 孫女 <i>sūn nǚ</i>	granddaughter	「你的孫女！」 「 <i>nǐ de sūn nǚ!</i> 」 "Your granddaughter!"
加油 / 加油 <i>jiā yóu</i>	cheer someone on; "you can do it!" (literally: add fuel)	「加油！」大家喊道。 「 <i>jiā yóu!</i> 」 "Jia you!" everyone shouted. <i>Already in the English original — one of those Chinese phrases with no real English equivalent.</i>
勇气 / 勇氣 <i>yǒng qì</i>	courage; bravery	大家都在對我微笑，這讓我有勇氣。 <i>dà jiā dōu zài duì wǒ wēi xiào, zhè ràng wǒ yǒu le yǒng qì.</i> Everyone was smiling at me, and it made me brave.

HSK 3–4 · Lower Intermediate

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
紧张 / 緊張 <i>jǐn zhāng</i>	nervous; anxious	我很緊張，但飛行其實還好。 <i>wǒ hěn jǐn zhāng, dàn fēi xíng qí shí hái hǎo.</i> I was nervous, but the flight wasn't bad.
温室 / 溫室 <i>wēn shì</i>	greenhouse	聞起來像溫室——還是有煙味的那種。 <i>wén qì lǎi xiàng wēn shì—hái shì yǒu yān wèi de nà zhǒng.</i> It smells like a greenhouse — a smoky one.
想象 / 想像 <i>xiǎng xiàng</i>	to imagine	我試著想像奶奶小時候的樣子。 <i>wǒ shì zhe xiǎng xiàng nǎi nai xiǎo shí hòu de yàng zi.</i>

I tried to imagine Nainai as a little girl.

Taiwan uses 想像 (xiǎng xiàng); Mainland Chinese often uses 想象 (xiǎng xiàng) — same pronunciation, different character.

攤販 / 攤販 <i>tān fàn</i>	street vendor; someone who sells things from a cart or stall	攤販們推出了推車。 <i>tān fàn men tuī chū le tuī chē.</i> Vendors pushed out their carts.
橡皮筋 / 橡皮筋 <i>xiàng pí jīn</i>	rubber band	把橡皮筋一個一個串起來做跳繩。 <i>bǎ xiàng pí jīn yī gè yī gè chuàn qǐ lái zuò tiào shéng.</i> Stringing rubber bands together to make a jump rope.
青苔 / 青苔 <i>qīng tái</i>	moss	一段長了青苔的石階。 <i>yī duàn zhǎng le qīng tái de shí jiē.</i> Some mossy stone steps.
想念 / 想念 <i>xiǎng niàn</i>	to miss (a person or place)	她有沒有想念這些綠色的山和雨水？ <i>tā yǒu méi yǒu xiǎng niàn zhè xiè lǜ sè de shān hé yǔ shuǐ?</i> Did she miss the green mountains and the rain?

HSK 5 · Intermediate

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
蟑螂 / 蟑螂 <i>zhāng láng</i>	cockroach	「蟑螂！」我叫了出來。 「zhāng láng!」 wǒ jiào le chū lái. "A cockroach!" I squeaked.
蟋蟀 / 蟋蟀 <i>xī shuài</i>	cricket (the insect)	「蟋蟀。」 「xī shuài。」 "A cricket."
螳螂 / 螳螂 <i>táng láng</i>	praying mantis	一隻停在樹枝上的大螳螂。 <i>yī zhī tíng zài shù zhī shàng de dà táng láng.</i> A giant praying mantis on a branch.
觸角 / 觸角 <i>chù jiǎo</i>	antennae; feelers (of an insect)	蟋蟀停在她的手心，觸角輕輕搖著。 <i>xī shuài tíng zài tā de shǒu xīn, chù jiǎo qīng qīng yáo zhe.</i> The cricket sat in her palm, antennae waving.
蜘蛛網 / 蜘蛛網 <i>zhī zhū wǎng</i>	spiderweb	兩棵樹之間掛著露水的蜘蛛網。 <i>liǎng kē shù zhī jiān guà zhe lù shuǐ de zhī zhū wǎng.</i> A dewy spiderweb between two trees.
呼拉圈 / 呼拉圈 <i>hū lā quān</i>	hula hoop	奶奶拿起一個呼拉圈遞給我。 <i>nǎi nai ná qǐ yī gè hū lā quān dì gěi wǒ.</i> Nainai picked up a hula hoop and handed it to me.

HSK 6 · Upper Intermediate

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
高樓大廈 / 高樓大廈 <i>gāo lóu dà shà</i>	skyscrapers; tall buildings	高樓大廈變成了老舊的房子。 <i>gāo lóu dà shà biàn chéng le lǎo jiù de fáng zi.</i> Skyscrapers turned into old houses.
光芒 / 光芒 <i>guāng máng</i>	a gleam; a sparkle; a glow of light	我們眼神裡有一樣的光芒。 <i>wǒ men yǎn shén lǐ yǒu yī yàng de guāng máng.</i> We both have the same sparkle in our gaze.

HSK 7-9 · Advanced

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
撲面而來 / 撲面而來 <i>pū miàn ér lái</i>	to hit you in the face; to rush at you all at once (used for smells, heat, wind)	熱烘烘、濕答答的空氣就撲面而來。 <i>rè hōng hōng, shī dā dā de kōng qì jiù pū miàn ér lái.</i> Hot, wet air hit my face.
一模一樣 / 一模一樣 <i>yī mú yī yàng</i>	exactly the same; identical	「你跟我一模一樣。」 <i>「nǐ gēn wǒ yī mú yī yàng.」</i> "You're just like me."

Beyond HSK · Cultural & Taiwan-Specific

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
奶奶 / 奶奶 <i>nǎi nai</i>	paternal grandmother (warm, informal — like "Grandma" or "Nana")	奶奶說，是因為我的身體以為自己還在加州。 <i>nǎi nai shuō, shì yīn wèi wǒ de shēn tǐ yǐ wéi zì jǐ hái zài jiā zhōu.</i> Nainai says it's because my body thinks it's still in California. <i>Compare with 婆婆 (pó po) from I Dream of Popo — 奶奶 is paternal grandmother, 婆婆 is typically paternal grandmother too but used more broadly as a warm nickname.</i>
計程車 / 計程車 <i>jì chéng chē</i>	taxi (Taiwan word; Mainland Chinese says 出租車 chū zū chē)	一輛計程車就像變魔術一樣停下來。 <i>yī liàng jì chéng chē jiù xiàng biàn mó shù yī yàng tíng xià lái.</i> A taxi stopped like magic.
腳踏車 / 腳踏車 <i>jiǎo tà chē</i>	bicycle (Taiwan word; Mainland Chinese says 自行車 zì xíng chē)	計程車是用腳踏車拉的。 <i>jì chéng chē shì yòng jiǎo tà chē lā de.</i> The taxis were pulled by bicycles.
機車 / 機車 <i>jī chē</i>	scooter; motorcycle (Taiwan word; very common on Taiwan streets)	四周是高樓大廈、機車和喇叭聲。 <i>sì zhōu shì gāo lóu dà shà, jī chē hé lǎ bā shēng.</i> Around us were skyscrapers, scooters, and honking cars. <i>Taiwan has one of the highest scooter densities in the world — 機車 is a word you hear constantly there.</i>
米漿 / 米漿		奶奶幫我買了一袋米漿。

mǐ jiāng

rice milk; a sweet, warm drink made from ground rice, common at Taiwan breakfast stalls

nǎi nai bāng wǒ mǎi le yī dài mǐ jiāng.
Nainai bought me a bag of rice milk.

包子 / 包子

bāo zi

steamed bun with filling (meat, vegetables, or sweet paste inside)

我已經把整個包子塞進嘴裡了。
wǒ yǐ jīng bǎ zhěng gè bāo zi sāi jìn zuǐ li le.
I'd stuffed an entire bao into my mouth.

彈珠台 / 彈珠台

dàn zhū tái

pinball machine (a classic feature of old Taiwan street food stalls)

賣香腸的攤販有彈珠台。
mài xiāng cháng de tān fàn yǒu dàn zhū tái.
The sausage vendors had pinball machines.

鳳梨 / 鳳梨

fèng lí

pineapple (Taiwan word; Mainland Chinese says 菠蘿 bō luó)

到對面的攤子買冰鳳梨心。
dào duì miàn de tān zi mǎi bīng fèng lí xīn.
Buy frozen pineapple cores across the street.
鳳梨 *literally means "phoenix pear."* The Taiwan pineapple cake (鳳梨酥) is one of the most famous souvenirs from Taiwan.