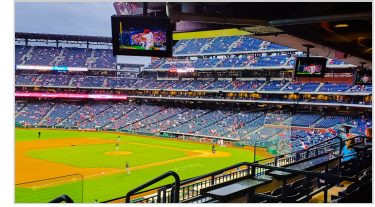


Baseball in Taiwan

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com



Baseball has been the most **passionate** sport in Taiwan for over a century of exciting play. The Japanese introduced the game during their colonial rule, and it quickly became Taiwan's favorite **pastime**. Today, professional and amateur baseball games draw enormous crowds across the entire island nation. From small rural towns to the busy streets of Taipei, baseball connects Taiwanese people together. The sport is deeply woven into Taiwan's cultural **identity** and continues to grow each year.

The Chinese Professional Baseball League, known as the CPBL, is Taiwan's top **professional** baseball organization today. Founded in nineteen ninety, the league currently has six competitive teams that play exciting games regularly. Each team has a loyal **fanbase** that fills stadiums with incredible energy and loud cheering sections. Fans bring drums, trumpets, and coordinated chants that create an **atmosphere** unlike anywhere else in the world. Cheerleading squads perform dances between innings, making every game a complete entertainment experience for families.

Taiwan's greatest baseball achievement is its remarkable success in Little League World Series **tournaments** internationally. Taiwanese youth teams have won seventeen Little League World Series championships since nineteen sixty-nine total. These young players demonstrate extraordinary skill, discipline, and teamwork that amazes audiences around the entire globe. Many former Little League stars have gone on to play professionally in Taiwan, Japan, and America. The country takes tremendous pride in developing talented young players who **represent** Taiwan on the world stage.

Several Taiwanese players have achieved fame in Major League Baseball in the United States of America. Chien-Ming Wang pitched for the New York Yankees and became a **sensation** across both countries immediately. Wei-Yin Chen and others followed, proving that Taiwanese players can compete at the highest professional level. These international stars inspire young Taiwanese children to dream big and work hard at improving their skills. Their success has strengthened baseball's position as Taiwan's most beloved and celebrated sport across generations.

Fan culture at Taiwanese baseball games is uniquely **vibrant** and energetic compared to other countries globally. Organized cheering sections coordinate songs, dances, and thunderstick rhythms throughout every single exciting inning played. Street food vendors sell traditional Taiwanese snacks like fried chicken and bubble tea outside every stadium entrance. Attending a CPBL game is considered a must-do **spectacle** for any visitor exploring Taiwan's rich culture today. Baseball truly represents the heart and soul of Taiwanese sports culture and national pride beautifully.

A. Vocabulary

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. passionate ____ | a. a person or thing that causes great excitement |
| 2. pastime ____ | b. competitions where teams play to win |
| 3. identity ____ | c. full of life, energy, and color |
| 4. professional ____ | d. an activity done for enjoyment during free time |
| 5. fanbase ____ | e. who a person or group really is |
| 6. atmosphere ____ | f. to act or speak officially for a group |
| 7. tournaments ____ | g. having very strong feelings about something |

8. represent ____

9. sensation ____

10. vibrant ____

h. doing something as a paid job

i. the group of fans who support a team

j. the feeling or mood of a place

B. True or False

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. The Japanese introduced baseball to Taiwan. _____ | 2. The CPBL was founded in 1980. _____ | 3. Taiwan has won seventeen Little League World Series titles. _____ |
| 4. The CPBL currently has four teams. _____ | 5. Chien-Ming Wang played for the New York Yankees. _____ | 6. Fans are usually quiet at CPBL games. _____ |
| 7. Baseball has been popular in Taiwan for over a century. _____ | 8. No Taiwanese player has ever played in Major League Baseball. _____ | 9. Cheerleading squads perform at CPBL games. _____ |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: passionate, pastime, professional, tournaments, represent, sensation, vibrant

- Baseball has been Taiwan's most _____ sport for over a century.
- Baseball quickly became Taiwan's favorite _____ after the Japanese introduced it.
- The CPBL is Taiwan's top _____ baseball league.
- Taiwanese youth teams have won many international _____.
- Fan culture at Taiwanese baseball games is uniquely _____.

D. Comprehension Questions

- Who introduced baseball to Taiwan?
- How many teams are in the CPBL?
- How many Little League World Series has Taiwan won?
- Name one Taiwanese player who played in Major League Baseball.
- What makes the fan culture at CPBL games special?

E. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think baseball became more popular than other sports in Taiwan?
 - How does having international sports stars help a country's image?
 - What role does fan culture play in making a sport enjoyable?
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Answer Key

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

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

C. Fill Blanks: 1-passionate, 2-pastime, 3-professional, 4-tournaments, 5-vibrant

D. Comprehension: 1. The Japanese during colonial rule; 2. Six teams; 3. Seventeen championships; 4. Chien-Ming Wang (or Wei-Yin Chen); 5. Organized cheering sections, drums, trumpets, chants, cheerleading squads