Major Noun-Classifiers Used in Spoken Taiwanese

English words in quotation marks translate the Taiwanese classifier. Those words not in quotation marks indicate the object that the noun-classifier is used to count.

au 杯 "cup", cupful
bî 味 "flavor, odor"
bió 秒 "a second of time"
bê, bôe 尾 "fish, worms, dragons"
chàn 層 "step of a ladder or stairway"
châng 束 "bundle", rice stalks
châng 樹 "trees, plants"
chat 節 "verse", stick of sugar cane
chhioh 尺 "foot" (Chinese unit of length)
chhun 寸 "inch" (Chinese unit of length)
chhut 齒 "movies", "course" (of food)
chû 叠 "stack, package", paper, money
chiah 色 "animals, insects"
chiong, chêng 種 "kind" or "type"
chiu 章 "chapter"
chô 座 "buildings, statues"
ê 個 general classifier used when none of the others applies
ê 下 "games", "course" (of food), breath
eng-chhioh 吋 "foot" (English unit of length)
eng-lî "mile" (English unit of length)
hak-kî 學期 "semester, term"
han 漢 "big or little" people
hâng 項 "kind, sort", affairs
ho 系 "department, division" (as in a university)
hê, hòe 歲 "age (in Chinese years)
hòng-bin "direction, respect, aspect"
hun, hun-chêng 分 "minute" of time
iâh 頁 "page"

im 音 "note", music
ji 只 "bananas"
ji 字 "word", words, letters
jiah 跡 "marks and smears"
ât 拆 "day"
ka-lûn 加仑 "gallon" (equal to four liters)
kak 角 "ten cents", ice
keng 間 "buildings"
kha 個 "baskets, suitcases, trunks, cases, finger-rings"
khâm 家 "shops"
khang 洞 "holes"
kho 科 "course, subject of study"
khoán 款 "kind, sort" (subcategory of hàng)
kho 元 "dollar", "piece"
khu 區 "district"
ki 支 "telephones, writing tools, tools, knives, fans, electric fans, things held in the hand, medical infections"
kîn, kun 斤 "catty, 600 gm. one and one-third pounds"
kôa 些 "some", 變 "plural"
chit-kôa 一些 "a few (generalized)
hit-kôa 那些 "those there (generalized)
koân 瓶 "bottle", "can"
kong-chhioh 公尺 "meter" (of length)
kong-lî 公里 "kilometer"
kû 句 "sentences"
kun 斤 "catty" (Used most often of the tài-
Noun Classifiers

kun or Taiwanese catty which equals .6 kg or 1.32 lbs.

lāu 樓： "floor, storey"

lê-pài 星期： "week"

liâp 颗： flashlight batteries, fruit, pills, round things (if small)

lúi 色, 花： eyes, flowers, mushrooms

mì 夜： "night"

miâ 名： "name" (after tê plus a number to show rank in a contest

nǐ 年： "year"

niá 件： clothes

niú 兩： "ounces" (Chinese unit of weight, one sixteenth of a tāi-kun)

ngeh 條： bananas

oá 碗： "bowls"

pak 滾： scrolls and pictures

pang 狀： 次： trips of or by vehicles

pau 包： packages

pê, pêi 槓： theatricals

pê 把： "bundle" (of wood)

pha 燈： lamps, electric lights

phah 拍： beat, meter (in music, poetry)

pôa 盤： "dish", food

poe 杯： "cup", cupful

pô 部： "department, section"

pûn 本： books

sang 雙： "pair"

sek 室： rooms in public buildings

siè 廊： doors and windows

sîn 分： "cent"

siâng 雙： "pair"

sîo-chat, sîo-chiat 小節： "measure" (in music)

siú 首： songs, odes, hymns

sòa 線： thread, line, fine cord

su 套： "suit" (of clothes)

tâ 擺： stands, stalls (of merchants)

tài 台： radios, bikes and vehicles, Catholic Masses, machines

tang 年： "years"

tê 塊, 片： "pane" (of glass), "piece", dishes, tables and chairs

têng 頂： hats, sedan chairs and palanquins

thâu 端： "end"

tiá "panful"

tiâm 點： "o'clock", hours, "dot" (in music)

="point" (in school)

tiâu 條： songs, belts, roads, streets, railroads, long objects, airplanes

tiu 張： "sheet" (of paper), tickets, pictures

têng 領： meals

tō 度： "degrees" (of temperature)

tûi 對： "pair"

ûi 位： seats, people (in polite contexts)

Note: This list was kindly supplied by Dr. David K. Jordan, University of California.