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

bī 味 flavor, odor

bió 秒 a second of time

bé, bóe 尾 fish, worms, dragons

chàn 層 step of a ladder or stairway

cháng 束, 綑 "bundle", rice stalks

chǎng 樣, 棵 trees, plants

chat 節 "verse", stick of sugar cane

chhioh 尺 "foot" (Chinese unit of length)

chhùn 寸 "inch" (Chinese unit of length)

chhut 齣 movies, "course" (of food)

chí 疊 "stack, package", paper, money

chiah 隻 animals, insects

chiǒng, chéng 種 "kind" or "type"

chiuⁿ 章 "chapter"

chō 座 buildings, statues

ě 個 general classifier used when none of the others applies

ē 下 "games", "course" (of food), breath

eng-chhioh 呎 "foot" (English unit of length)

eng-lí 哩 "mile" (English unit of length)

ha̍k-ki̍ 學期 "semester, term"

hàn 漢 (big or little) people

hāng 項, 件 "kind, sort", affairs

hē 系 "department, division" (as in a university)

hè, hòe 歲 age (in Chinese years)

hong-bīn 方面 "direction, respect, aspect"

hun, hun-cheng 分 "minute" of time

iah 頁 "page"

im 音 "note", music

jí 只, 條 bananas

jī 字 "word", words, letters

jiah 跡, 痕 marks and smears

jit̍ 日 day

ka-lǔn 加侖 "gallon" (equal to four liters)

kak 角 "ten cents", ice

keng 間 buildings

kha 個, 只 baskets, suitcases, trunks, cases, finger-rings

khám 家 shops

khang 洞, 孔 holes

kho 科 course, subject of study)

khoán 款, 樣子 "kind, sort" (subcategory of hāng)

kho· 元 "dollar", "piece"

khu 區 "district"

ki 支 telephones, writing tools, tools, knives, fans, electric fans, things held in the hand, medical infections

kin, kun 斤 catty, 600 gm, one and one-third pounds

kóa 些, 少許 plural

chit̍-kóa 一些 a few (generalized)

hit-kóa 那些 those there (generalized)

koàn 瓶, 罐 "bottle", "can"

kong-chhioh 公尺 "meter" (of length)

kong-lí 公里 "kilometer"

kù 句 sentences

kun 斤 "catty" (Used most often of the tǎi-

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

lǎu 樓 "floor, storey"

lé-pài 星期 "week"

liap̍ 顆 flashlight batteries, fruit, pills, round things (if small)

lúi 蕊, 朵 eyes, flowers, mushrooms

mǐ 夜 "night"

mǐa 名 "name" (after tē 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 tǎi-kun)

ngeh 筴 bananas

oáⁿ 碗 "bowls"

pak 幅 scrolls and pictures

pang 班次 trips of or by vehicles

pau 包 packages

pĕⁿ, pǐⁿ 棚 theatricals

pé 把 "bundle" (of wood)

pha 盞 lamps, electric lights

phah 拍 beat, meter (in music, poetry)

pŏaⁿ 盤 "dish", food

poe 杯 "cup", cupful

pō· 部 "department, section"

pún 本 books

sang 雙 "pair"

sek 室 rooms in public buildings

sìⁿ 扇 doors and windows

sián 分 "cent"

siang 雙 "pair"

sió-chat, sió-chiat 小節 "measure" (in music)

siú 首 songs, odes, hymns

sòaⁿ 線 thread, line, fine cord

su 套 "suit" (of clothes)

tàⁿ 擔 stands, stalls (of merchants)

tǎi 台 radios, bikes and vehicles, Catholic Masses, machines

tang 年 "years"

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

téng 頂 hats, sedan chairs and palanquins

thǎu 頭 "end"

tiáⁿ 鍋 "panful"

tiám 點 "o'clock", hours, "dot" (in music) "point" (in school)

tiǎu 條 songs, belts, roads, streets, railroads, long objects, **airplanes**

tiuⁿ 張 "sheet" (of paper), tickets, pictures

tǹg 頓 meals

tō· 度 "degrees" (of temperature)

tùi 對 "pair"

ūi 位 seats, people (in polite contexts)

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