



Whale Sharks: Gentle* Giants of the Seas

鯨鯊：海中的溫柔巨人

課文朗讀》正常 Track 53 慢速 Track 89
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Whale sharks are the gentle giants of the seas. They aren't whales, though. They're actually sharks, and they're the largest fish in the sea. They're called whale sharks because of their size² and their habit of eating like some whales.

Whale sharks are really big. Most of them grow to around 40 feet.³ That's around the size of a yellow school bus. However, some whale sharks can grow to around 60 feet.

These big fish are easy to spot.* That's because they have white spots* and lines⁴ on their gray bodies. Those are special to each whale shark, so no whale sharks have the same spots and lines. Also, their heads are wide⁵ and flat,* and they look like squares⁶ from the top.

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Whale sharks have more than 300 rows of teeth¹ in their mouths.² They're not big or really sharp³ like in other sharks. That's because they don't use them to bite or eat their food. Whale sharks feed themselves in a different way.

The large fish swim⁴ with their mouths open. That moves water over the filters* in their mouths. These filters catch⁵ plankton.* They're tiny* plants and animals in the water. Whale sharks eat a lot of plankton, but they also eat small fish.

Whale sharks live in areas with warm water. So, you can see them around Taiwan. You can even swim with them because they aren't dangerous to people. Just remember not to get too close to the whale sharks or touch⁵ them. **ABC**

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