

# English Zine #1

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LISH

BY  
JAY

AND  
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Jay Goodall - Chang Le

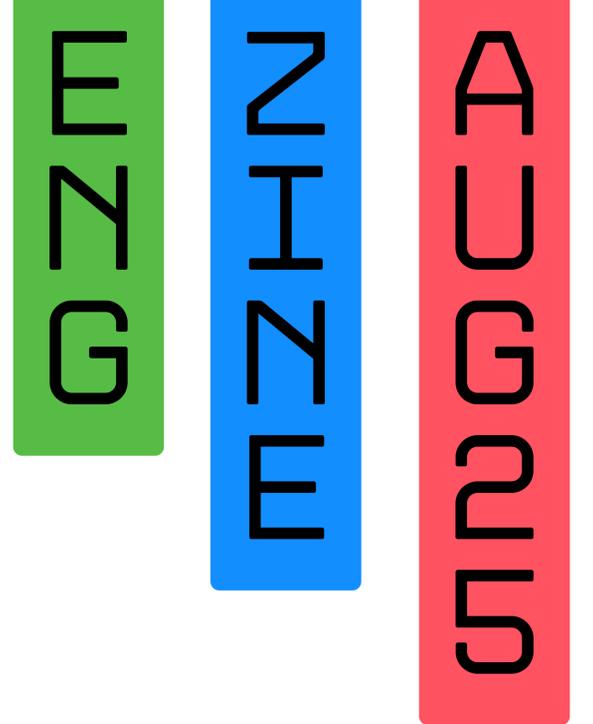
ENGLISH BY JAY

If you're reading this now, you're a legend and I appreciate you.

My intention is to help you learn English through these photos and stories.

Our lives are full of stories, but rarely do we notice them. I hope you can learn some new words from these stories, as well as discover a newfound appreciation for life and the myriad moments we often forget to notice.

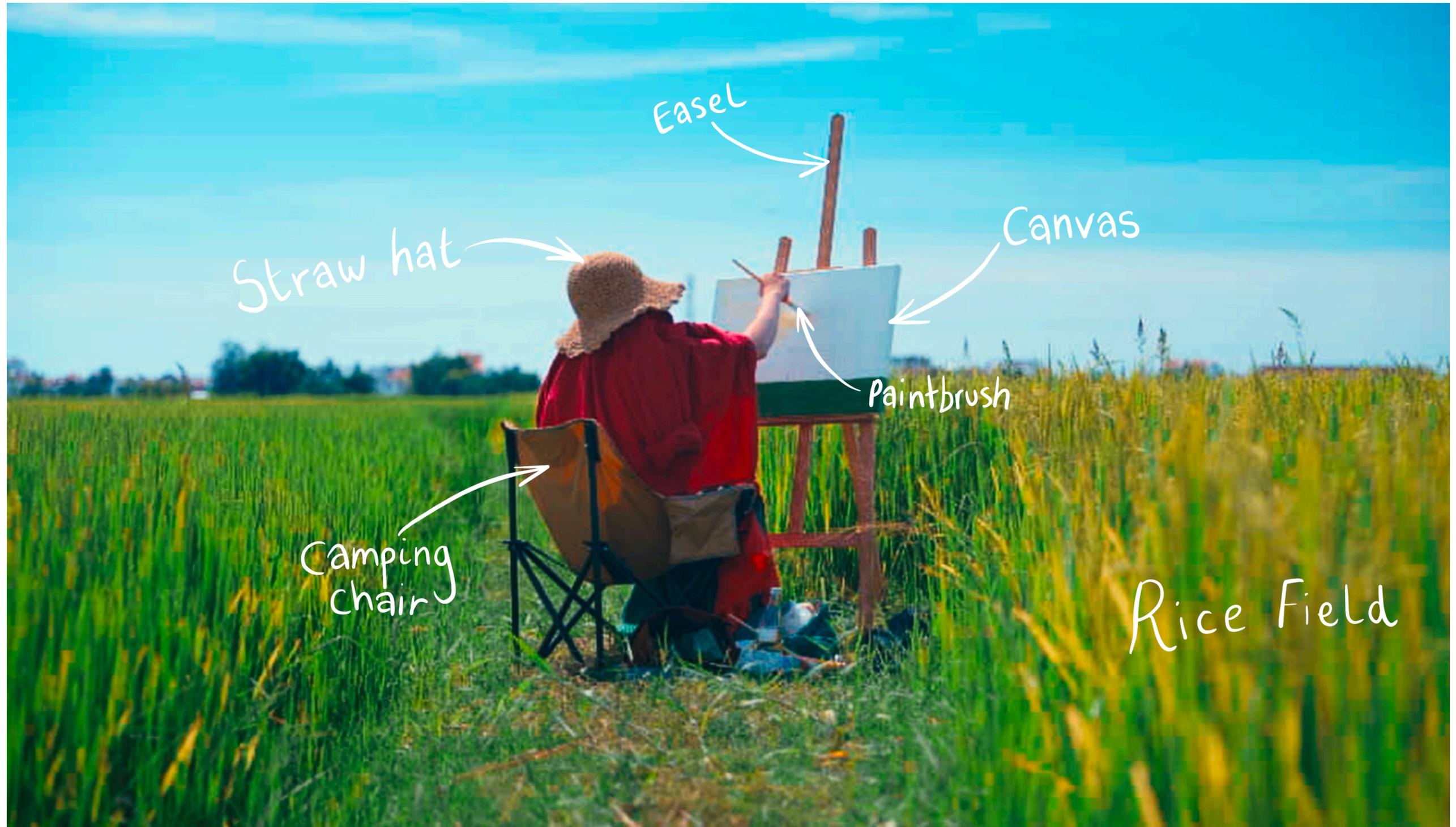
Feel free to read this zine at your own pace, preferably with a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit or two, and some soothing piano music.



[If you wanna watch the video to go along with this zine, here it is :\)](#)

**ENGLISH BY JAY**

# LADY IN RED



A lady is painting in the middle of the **rice field**. She is using a **paintbrush** on a **canvas**, and the canvas is resting on an **easel**. She is sitting on a **camping chair**. The sky is a beautiful **cerulean blue**. The rice field on the right is yellowing, while the left side is a deep green. The mysterious lady is wearing a **straw hat** to protect her head from the midday sun. She is also covering her skin with a red dress, which she is using as a cloak.

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Peculiar** – strange or unusual

**Snap** (n) – an informal word for a quick photo

**Wander** - walk and explore without a fixed plan

**Stuff** - fill something until it's full (often too full)

It was a morning like any other, until something **peculiar** happened. I had woken up at 5am to **wander around** and capture the beautiful sunrise in the rice fields. After getting my **snaps**, I was happy (and sweaty), so I walked back to the hotel, woke Chang up, and went downstairs for breakfast.

We **stuffed** our bellies with coffee, eggs, and fruit, then went for a mid morning nap. But just as I was about to rest my head, I spotted a strange sight from my hotel balcony, it was a figure wearing red. She appeared to be painting using a canvas and an easel, it was a genuine *eye-rub pinch-me-I'm-dreaming* moment. I had wanted more sunlight scenes for the video, and right in front of my eyes was the perfect subject.

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Puppy-dog excitement** – very enthusiastic, like a happy puppy

**Bolt** – run very fast and suddenly

**Blur** – something unclear, like a memory or a fast moment

**Drenched** – completely wet (from water or sweat)

**Miracle** – something wonderful and unexpected

So, after expressing my **puppy-dog excitement** to Chang, I grabbed my camera and **bolted** outside like a madman. I **sprinted** towards the woman and started filming her immediately (don't worry, I made sure to ask first).

I filmed her until my camera overheated. I was about to do the same. Thirty minutes went by so fast it was honestly all a **blur**. I came back **drenched** in sweat with a huge **grin** on my face. I like to believe in **miracles**, and I believe this was one.

Thank you, mysterious lady in red.



# SECOND LADY IN RED



A lady is waiting at the side of the road. She is wearing a white **vest top** and a long **red skirt**. To the left of her there is a **signpost** with **stickers** on it. A black **coach** and a **motorbike** are passing, both are blurred, neither in focus. On the left of the photo, there is some short **grass**. In the middle, a tree stands tall, its **trunk** holding it upright, and its **leaves** sprawling out to catch the sun's rays.

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Scripted** – planned or prepared ahead of time

**Mule** – a mix between a donkey and a horse (used for carrying heavy loads)

**Pedal** (v) – to push the pedals on a bike with your feet

**Cycle** - to ride a bicycle

**Venture** – to go somewhere or do something new or unknown

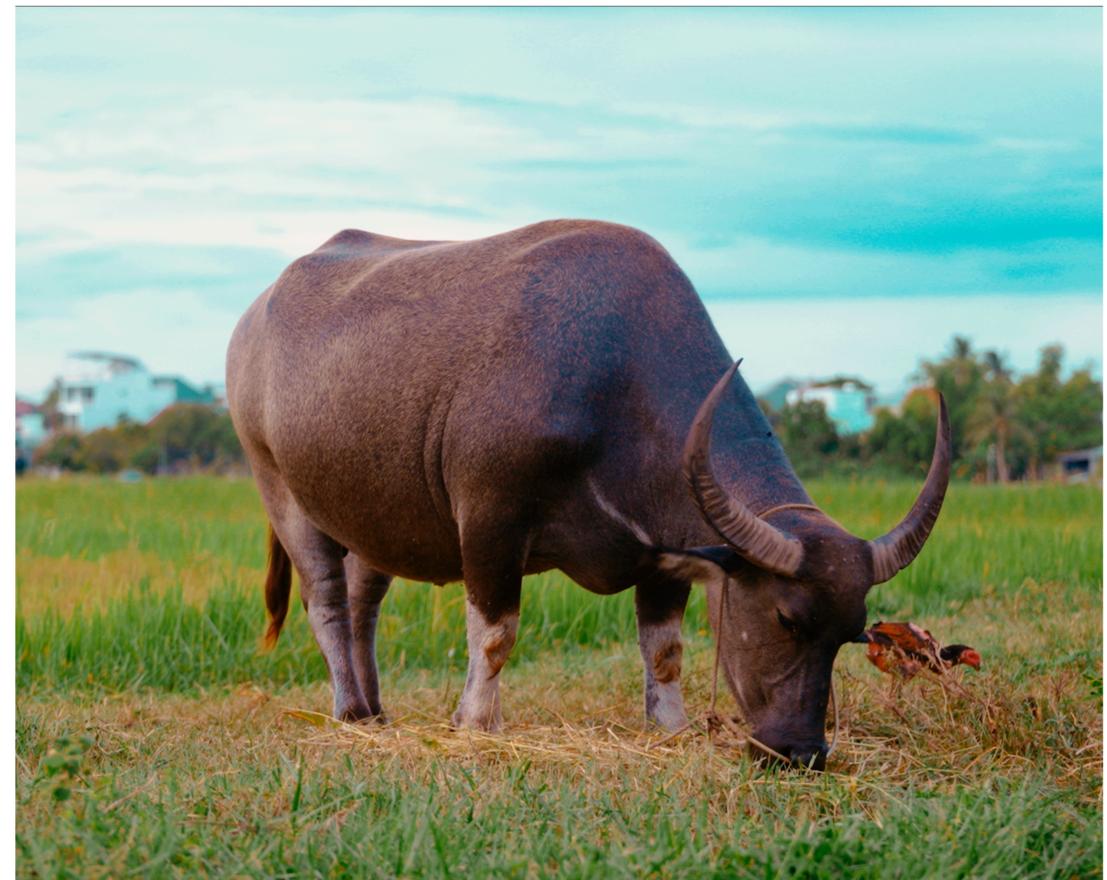
**Flawless** – perfect; with no mistakes

**Buffalo** – a large, strong animal similar to a cow

Unlike the first lady in red, this lady in red was a little more **scripted**. That morning, Chang and I rode around the rice fields on a bicycle we had borrowed from the hotel. Chang sat on the back while I **pedalled** (as usual, I was the **mule**).

We **cycled** around in search of beautiful photographs and videos to take. We got some pictures of buffalos that never made it into the final video (much to my sadness, because buffalos are pretty cool). Then we **ventured** away from the rice fields and up to the main road.

Chang noticed the odd shape of the trees, and I spotted this red and white sign. So I told her to go stand in my shot and look like she's waiting for someone to pick her up (her acting was **flawless**). Anyway, the heat got too much when the sun came out (shock), so I cycled us back to the hotel, once again sweaty, but happy.



The buffalo picture that never made it :')

# COLOURS OF SUMMER



This picture shows a busy street scene on a rainy day. **Pedestrians** are walking with colourful **umbrellas** (or brolleys as we say in British English). A woman in a red dress stands out in the middle of the crowd. You can see a **pedicab**, a black **bag**, and puddles on the wet **pavement**. The photo is taken from a bird's-eye view. There are rooftops with **gutters** which collect the rainwater. **Awnings** jut out from the shopfronts to provide shelter from the rain or shade from the sun. A cheeky **plant** is growing between the buildings (he doesn't need an umbrella, he loves the rain and the sun)

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Bird's-eye view** – a view from high above, like a bird flying in the sky

**Rooftop** – the flat surface at the top of a building

**Throwing it down** – (informal) raining very heavily

**Brolly** – (British) informal word for umbrella

It was a rainy night. Chang and I were searching for the perfect rooftop to get some **bird's eye view** shots. We were actually standing on another (much smaller) **rooftop** at the time, when we spotted one that was much higher and looked cooler. But there were about 30 people up there taking Instagram photos, so we waited.

Thankfully, the rain got heavier and scared them off, so we took our chance and climbed to the top while it was **throwing it down**. Chang stood with the **brolly** (protecting the camera, not me), while I filmed the scenes of the people below.

# THE STORY BEHIND

## LANGUAGE BANK

**Pitter-pattering** – the light tapping sound of rain

**Chilly** - slightly cold in an unpleasant way

**Out of principle** – doing something because you believe it's the right thing to do

**Fat waste of money** - a big or obvious waste of money

**Yorkshireman** - a man from Yorkshire, a region in northern England (often seen as practical, frugal, and no-nonsense)

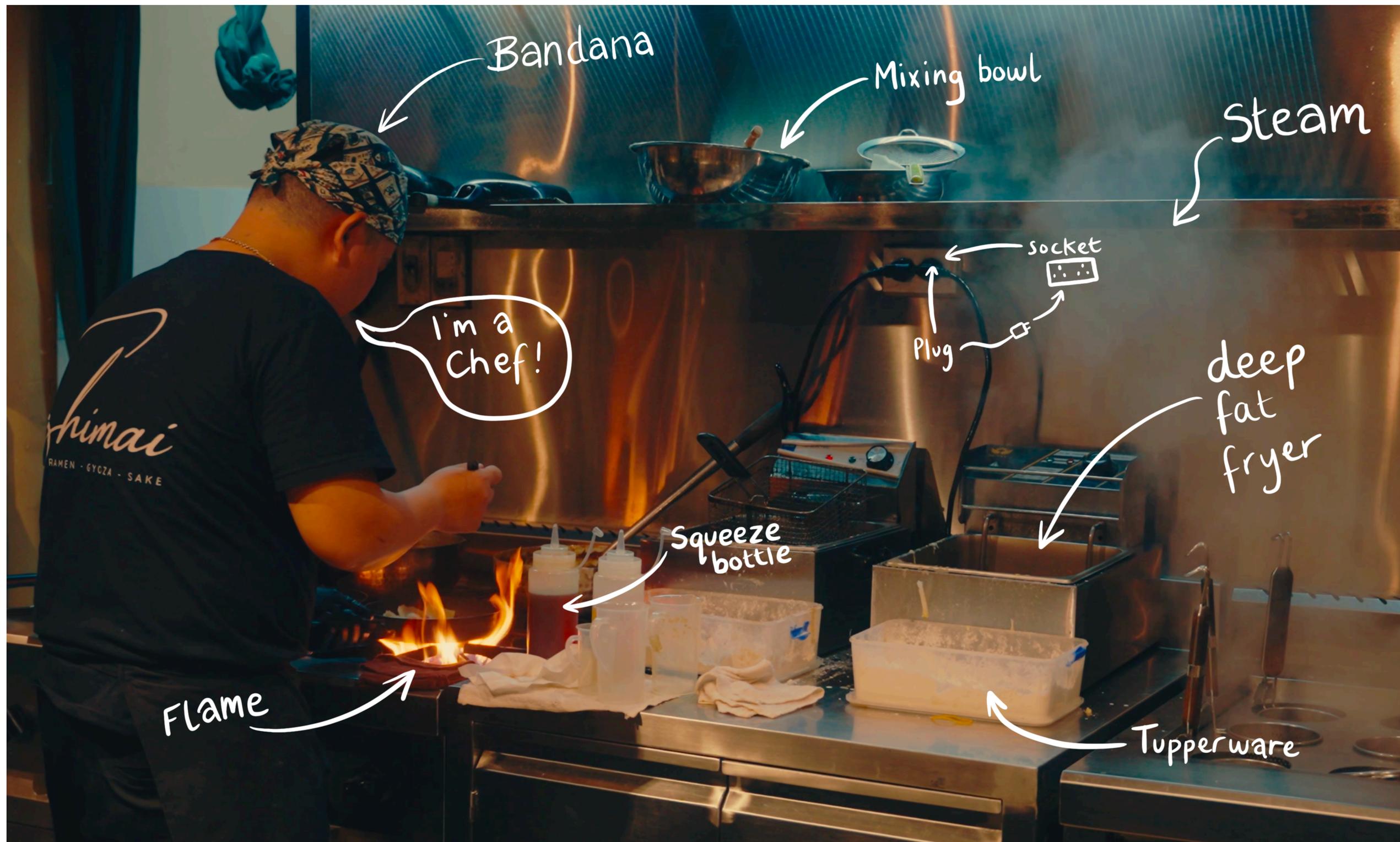


I remember the sound of the **pitter-pattering** rain on the umbrella, the **chilly** wind blowing in my face, and my freezing cold apple juice and Chang's coconut, both of which I drank **out of principle**, because I had to buy them to get access to the rooftop, and it would've been a **fat waste of money** if I didn't drink them (typical Yorkshireman).

Anyway, I think it's weird that most people dislike the rain. I love it. Or is it me who's the weird one?

Ah well. Weird is good.

# HOT CHEF



In this image, a chef is cooking over a hot **flame**. He's wearing a **bandana** and a black T-shirt with text printed on the back. To his right sits a **squeeze bottle** and a **Tupperware** container on his work station. A **mixing bowl** rests on the shelf above. On the right of the picture, **steam** is rising. Two **deep fat fryers** sit on the counter, they are plugged in to the **socket**, ready to fry some tantalisingly tasty tempura prawns for us to eat. Yum! :P

# THE STORY BEHIND



After a long, hot day of cycling in the rice fields, we were on the **hunt** for food. We **trudged** down a dark road for half an hour, guided by our **rumbling** bellies.

Then suddenly, in the middle of nowhere, we spotted a woman leaving a Japanese restaurant. The place glowed a warm orange, and looked cosy and inviting, so we **chanced** it.

## LANGUAGE BANK

**hunt** - search for something

**trudge** - walk slowly and heavily

**rumbling** - making a low, growling noise (like a hungry stomach)

**chance** (v) - take a risk or try something unsure

# THE STORY BEHIND

## LANGUAGE BANK



**observe** – watch carefully

**blowtorch (v)** - to apply intense heat using a blowtorch

**blowtorch (n)** - a tool that shoots a small, hot flame for heating or burning things.

**waft** – float gently through the air (like a smell)

**sizzle** – make a sharp, hissing sound while cooking

**hob** – the top part of a stove where you cook

**awe** – a feeling of wonder and amazement

**delectable** - very delicious or extremely tasty.

**dine** – eat a meal, often in a fancy or formal way

**pudding** - (UK): any dessert, often warm and sweet.

example: “What’s for pudding?” means “What’s for dessert?”

Sitting at the bar, we **observed** the hot chefs **blowtorching** meat. The smell of curried Udon noodles **wafted** through the air. Pork gyozas **sizzled** in the pan. Orange flames flashed from the **hob**. We watched in **awe** and amazement.

We ordered salmon sushi, curried udon noodles, and mixed tempura - it was all **delectable**. We **dined** like a king and queen. It was lovely to be mindful of all the senses - sounds, colours, textures, tastes, and smells.

We ate enough food to feed a small whale, but obviously had to get dessert (or **pudding**, as Brits say). Matcha panna cotta was on the cards. The perfect end to a perfect date.

Taxi. Home. Bed.



# MAN IN BLUE SILK



A man is singing into a **microphone**. He's wearing a **traditional dress** made of blue silk, with a yellow headband across his forehead. To his left, a woman is standing, smiling, and holding incense sticks. Above her, a red **lantern** hangs from the roof. The **tiles** on the roof are rounded. On the right side of the image, a teenage boy is playing a large **red drum**. In the foreground, there's a **bamboo ladder**. The steps on a ladder are called **rungs** (cool word).

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Capture** - to catch or record something (like a photo, feeling, or moment)

**Vibrancy** – strong, bright, and full of energy (like a colourful painting or lively city)

**Waddle** – the funny side-to-side walk that ducks do

**Asymmetrical** – not the same on both sides; uneven

**Smudge** – a dirty or messy mark (like when ink or makeup gets rubbed)

That night, Chang and I were wandering around Hoi An old town, enjoying the chance to **capture** its beauty and **vibrancy**. Hoi An really comes alive at night. It's honestly one of the coolest places on earth, so if you ever get the chance to visit, I couldn't recommend it more.

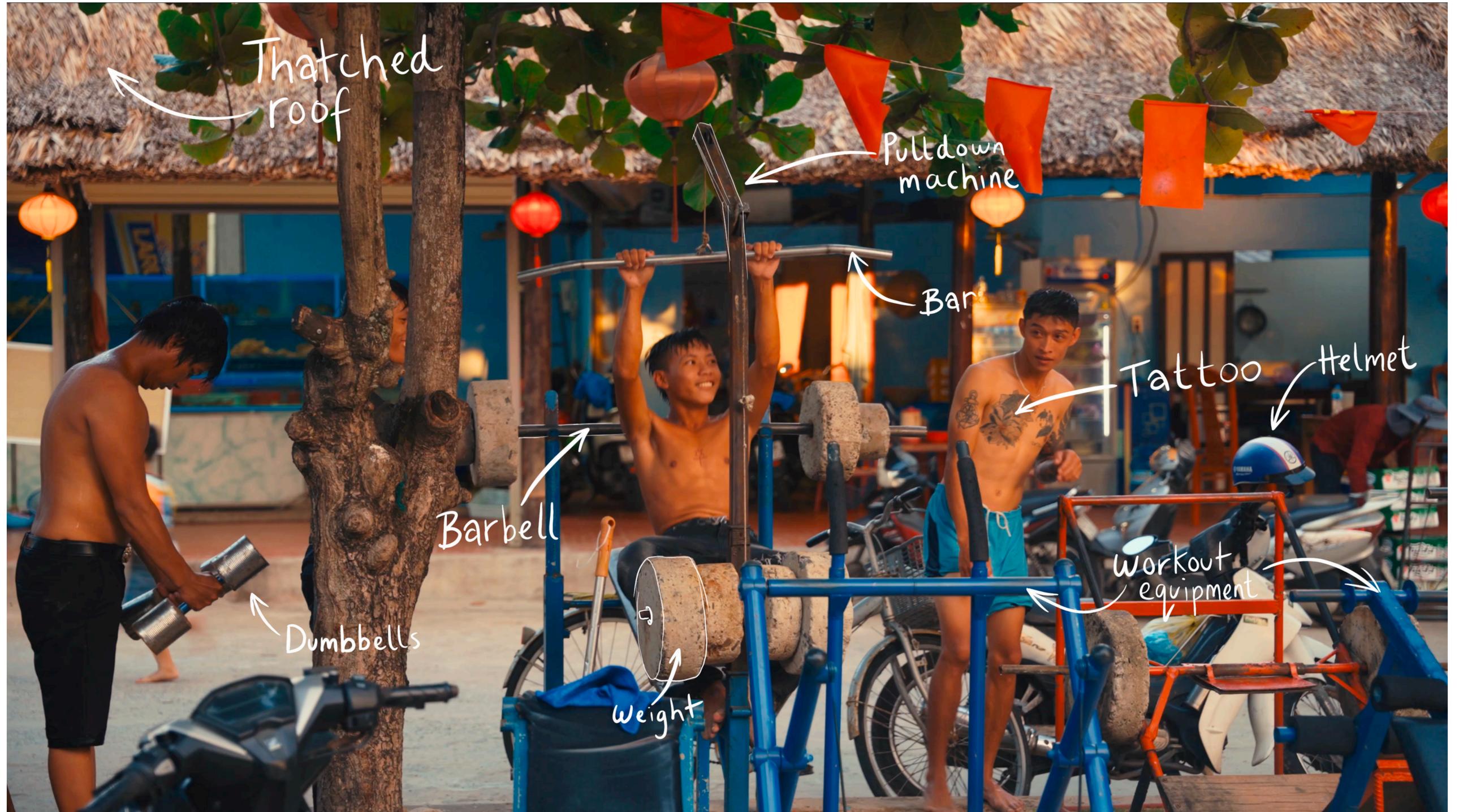
Anyway, that night I remember hearing a loud drum banging, crowds chattering, and people cheering. So I **waddled** over with my heavy camera, got into position, and started filming.

My initial shot was **asymmetrical**, and I was about to move, but then a little boy walked into the frame (you can see the dark **smudge** in the bottom-left corner). Strangely, it made the shot better.

Sometimes things happen that we don't expect. But that can be a good thing. It all depends on how we react and adjust.

So, thank you, little boy.

# THE THREE MUSKETEERS



Three young men are training under a **thatched roof**, surrounded by outdoor **workout equipment**: a **pull-down machine**, **barbells**, and **dumbbells**. The man on the left is lifting **weights**, the middle boy is pulling down the **bar**, while the third is standing by, showing off his cool **tattoos**. To his right, a **helmet** rests on a bike, waiting to be worn.

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Capture** - to catch or record something (like a photo, feeling, or moment)

**Tempted** - feeling the desire to do something

It was a beautiful sunset that night, we had spent the entire day relaxing at a beach bar, drinking coconuts, swimming in the ocean, and editing videos.

After our long, hard day, we **wandered** through the beachside alleys. The light was low and the sun was glowing. In the busy area by the beach, people were working out.

At first I saw a man doing pull-ups, I was **tempted** to go do a few myself, but no! I had a job to do. After filming the pull up man, I spotted these happy young gentlemen lifting weights.

How it is to have health and happiness - the two most valuable things.

# MONKEY BUSINESS



A **monkey**! I bloody love monkeys! This little cutie is crouched down on the **ground**, looking both curious and cautious. She has brown **fur** all over her body (just like me). Behind her, a **vine** is trailing down the **stone wall**. To her right, you can see a small pile of **dry leaves**. If only she had a banana...

# THE STORY BEHIND

## LANGUAGE BANK



**Glimpse** – see something for a very short time

**Tangerine** – a small, sweet orange fruit; also a bright orange colour

**Whip out** – quickly take something out

**Enthusiast** – someone who really loves or is excited about something

**Intimate** – very close, personal, or special

On Friday at 4 p.m, Chang and I rode up to Son Tra Mountain in search of a sweet **tangerine** sunset. But I wasn't expecting to see any monkeys - so when we **glimpsed** a small family, I immediately stopped the bike and Chang **whipped out** the camera.

However, being the crazed monkey **enthusiast** I am, Chang was being too slow, so I snatched the camera from her (like a monkey snatching a banana), ran across the road, crouched down, and hit record...

But just as I did, a motorbike sped past and scared her away (and out of my damn shot). Thankfully, she came back (must be due to her curiosity towards her fellow ape).

I was over the moon to share this **intimate** moment with my favourite animal. A moment I'll never forget.

So, while we never caught the sunset that night, I did manage to catch my favourite Pokémon.

Result.

# BISCUIT IS LOVE



In this adorable image, a boy is handing his younger sister a **biscuit**. He is wearing a blue-green **T-shirt** with short **sleeves**. He's also wearing some black **shorts** (or **trunks** if they are for swimming). In the background, you can see the whitewater from the **waves**, behind that, there is the **horizon** (which is the line we see before the earth drops off into nothingness). Allow your eyes to glide left across the horizon and you will see a hazy blue-grey **mountain**, sitting beneath a pale orange and yellow sky. Dreamy.

# THE STORY BEHIND



## LANGUAGE BANK

**Innocence** – the quality of being pure and not having bad thoughts

**Bemused** – slightly confused or puzzled

**Appreciative** – feeling thankful or showing thanks

**Noble** – showing strong moral character or kindness

**Uplift** – to make someone feel happier or better

This might sound wrong, but I love taking photos of kids. Not in *that* way, you perve! I suppose it's something about their **innocence** and pureness that appeals to my own childlike nature.

Before this shot, I had seen the little girl playing in the shallow water, and I wanted to capture the moment - but just as I did, her brother showed up with a biscuit for her.

I've honestly never seen such a **bemused** and **appreciative** face. She was so happy to receive such a **noble** gift.

This moment really made me aware of how important giving is - how it can **uplift** both the giver and the receiver.

To give is truly the greatest gift one can receive.

# THANK YOU!



*If you have any thoughts, feedback, or ideas on how I can make this better, feel free to send me an email at:*

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