

LIFE & STYLE

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Waygo: Translation Made Easy



Have you ever stared at a bill for 10 minutes, completely perplexed as to its meaning? Is it the gas? Electricity? Water? Is it even a bill? Translation apps are essential when living in a foreign land, helping the linguistically challenged expat get day-to-day chores done. While there are no shortage of options available for tablets, smart phones and computers, one jumped out at us as being particularly revolutionary: Waygo.

Available from both the Apple and Google Play stores, Waygo allows you to translate Chinese, Japanese and Korean into English by simply pointing your phone's camera at the characters you wish to convert – no need to look up pinyin anymore.

The app requires no Internet connection to function (perfect for the data-deprived, Wi-Fi-wandering tourist) and takes up a reasonable 76.22 megabytes of phone storage, compared to 96.88 megabytes for QQ Music or 373 megabytes for iQiyi.

Based on our experimentation with the application, it is highly accurate – and fast. The only notable downside is that users only get 10 free translations per day, unless they upgrade to receive unlimited assistance for USD6.99.

Whether you're in Los Angeles nosily deciphering someone's tattoo or in a pesky Hainan restaurant where menus are written only in Chinese and Russian, Waygo gives you the tools to decode characters with a wave of the hand. (It hasn't yet mastered Russian though – you're on your own there.)

CHEAP CHIC VS LUX LABEL

Embroidered Skirts



Embroidered clothing and accessories are incredibly trendy right now, with even Gucci releasing embroidered handbags last season. As the season changes, we've selected two embroidered skirts ideal for the autumnal weather: a Saint Laurent number with a leaf imprint clocks in on the luxury end, while Guangzhou-based brand Rimless offers a much more affordable – if less flashy – option sporting a pine tree branch depicted in traditional Chinese style.

INSPECT-A-GADGET

The Rolly Bluetooth Keyboard



We've seen Bluetooth keyboards before – connect one to your iPad and boom, you get a mini-computer – but this gadget takes the classic folding form and puts a twist on it. Or should we say roll? LG's Rolly keyboard feels distinctively solid and durable in your hand when furled up, taking the form of a stick and held closed by magnets. When opened, it turns on and automatically connects to your tablet or mobile phone, which can be held in the keyboard's stand.

The obvious downside of a flexible keyboard is that it must be used on hard surfaces. LG has advertised its product as 'full-sized,' but in practice the dimensions feel a bit off, though the 'impact resistant' material makes the typing experience more tactile than on a silicon keyboard.

