



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Adjectives and Adverbs 2 by K S Sandhu

A Wonderful Trip to Ginkakuji

Last summer, Ana and her family decided to visit Japan for two weeks. They wanted to see famous historical places, especially in beautiful ancient Kyoto. On their third day, the weather was really good – warm, sunny and clear – so they took a pleasant short bus trip to Ginkakuji, also known as the famous Silver Pavilion.

When they arrived, Ana felt immediately impressed. The entrance was through a lovely peaceful garden path lined with tall green trees. There were no loud crowds yet, just a calm quiet atmosphere that made everyone feel relaxed.

The main building, the Silver Pavilion, stood elegantly on a small hill. It was a graceful two-storey wooden structure with a simple traditional Japanese design. Although it was called “silver,” the pavilion had no shiny silver covering; its name came from an old plan that was never finished. Ana thought it looked more subtle beautiful than the famous golden one in the north of the city.

Around the pavilion stretched an exquisite large moss garden. Soft green moss covered the ground like a thick carpet. There was also a unique fascinating dry sand garden with carefully raked patterns that looked like waves on water. Ana’s little brother, Pablo, loved watching the big colourful koi fish swimming slowly in the clear deep ponds. The fish were bright orange, white and black, and some looked enormous!

They walked along a narrow winding path up a small hill. From the top, they had a magnificent panoramic view of the whole temple grounds. Pablo pointed excitedly at a tall elegant waterfall that fell gently into a pond below. “Look at that pretty sparkling water!” he shouted. Ana agreed – everything felt extremely peaceful and timeless.

They learned that a powerful shogun built Ginkakuji in the fifteenth century as his retirement villa. The gardens were designed to show Zen ideas: simplicity, harmony and beauty in nature. Ana took lots of photos of the old wooden buildings with their curved roofs and the delicate white sand patterns.

By late afternoon, they felt a bit tired from all the walking, but very happy. “It was rather expensive to get in,” Ana’s mum said, “but then everything is

expensive in Japan!” They all laughed because it was true. Still, they thought the experience was worth every yen.

On the bus back to the hotel, Ana wrote in her diary: “Today we saw a charming historic place full of serene natural beauty. Ginkakuji isn’t just an old temple – it’s a perfect peaceful escape from the busy modern world.”

That evening, as they ate delicious sushi in a small restaurant, the family talked excitedly about their next adventure. Japan was proving to be an incredible unforgettable journey.

Questions:

Question 1: Why did Ana and her family choose to visit Ginkakuji on their third day in Kyoto?

Question 2: Describe two things Ana noticed about the Silver Pavilion building itself.

Question 3: What did Pablo especially like in the gardens, and how did he describe the water?

Question 4: Why is the place called the “Silver Pavilion” even though it doesn’t look silver?

Question 5: At the end of the day, what did Ana’s mum say about the entrance fee, and how did the family feel about it?

Answers:

Answer 1: Ana and her family visited Ginkakuji on their third day because the weather was really good (warm, sunny and clear), so they decided to take a pleasant short bus trip there.

Answer 2: The Silver Pavilion was a graceful two-storey wooden structure with a simple traditional Japanese design. Ana thought it looked more subtle and beautiful than the famous golden one in the north of the city.

Answer 3: Pablo especially liked watching the big colourful koi fish swimming in the clear deep ponds. He described the water of the waterfall as pretty sparkling.

Answer 4: The place is called the Silver Pavilion because of an old plan to cover it with silver that was never finished, even though the building itself has no shiny silver covering.

Answer 5: Ana's mum said it was rather expensive to get in, but then everything is expensive in Japan. The family thought the experience was worth every yen and felt very happy despite the cost.

20 Order of adjectives; stronger and weaker meanings



1 Order of adjectives

We sometimes put more than one adjective in front of a noun. We put 'opinion' adjectives (what we think, not facts), e.g. *amazing*, *boring*, *comfortable*, before others:

Look at these **amazing multi-coloured tropical fish**.

I love my **comfortable old leather armchair**.

We put adjectives describing type or purpose (what something is for) next to the noun.

These adjectives are often part of the noun (► Unit 98.1):

Amazing multi-coloured tropical fish. (= type of fish)

A long steel hunting knife. (= knife used for hunting)

When we use other adjectives we usually put them in this order:

opinion	size	shape	age	colour	origin	material	type/purpose	NOUN
(a) valuable	large	round			Italian		bedroom	mirror
			(an) old	red		silk	wedding	dress

We don't usually use more than three or four adjectives in front of a noun. If we want to give more information we use another clause or sentence:

✗ *My uncle has a really valuable large old black Italian sports car.*

✓ *My uncle has a large black Italian sports car, which is old and really valuable.*

2 Making adjectives stronger or weaker

We can use adverbs of degree, e.g. *really*, to make most adjectives stronger or weaker:

'I think they're **beautiful**.' 'Yes, I think they're **really beautiful**.' (stronger meaning).

'That film was **boring**.' 'Well, it was **slightly boring**, but some parts were OK.' (weaker meaning)

WEAKER ←							→ STRONGER
a little/a bit/slightly	fairly	quite	rather/pretty	very	really	extremely	

• We don't use *a little* and *a bit* with adjectives which come before a noun:

✗ *I bought a bit expensive watch.* ✓ *The watch I bought was a bit expensive.*

• We often use *rather* with negative adjectives: *It's rather cold today. She's rather bossy.*

• When we use *quite* or *rather* with positive adjectives it often means something is surprising: *That lesson was rather interesting.* (more interesting than I expected)

• When a noun follows *quite/rather* + adjective we add *a/an*:

He was quite nice. → *He was quite a nice person.*

That's rather expensive. → *That's rather an expensive hotel.*

FORMALITY CHECK We don't usually use *a bit* or *pretty* in formal English:

✗ *The flight to Malaga will be a bit late due to bad weather.*

✓ *The flight to Malaga will be slightly late due to bad weather.*

Practice

1 Put the words in brackets in the correct order and complete the sentences.

⏮ 2.39 Listen and check.

- 0 Samira owns a *lovely old French* armchair. (French, lovely, old)
 1 Tom lives in a cottage by the sea. (stone, little, pleasant)
 2 We bought a chest of drawers for the bedroom. (wooden, big, new)
 3 Did Melinda wear her dress to the party? (pretty, silk, blue)
 4 Their new house has a room. (living, big, nice)
 5 David gave her a picture frame. (round, silver, small)
 6 Rembrandt was a artist. (seventeenth-century, Dutch, famous)
 7 It's one of those machines. (German, washing, expensive)
 8 Where's that T-shirt you used to wear? (cotton, red, horrible)

2 Read the sentences and choose the best words in *italics* for each meaning.

- 0 That meal was really expensive! *less / more* expensive than I expected
 1 I need something a little larger. *much / slightly* larger
 2 The weather's pretty hot here. *very / not very* hot
 3 I was shocked by that film – it was rather violent. *more violent than / not as violent as* I like
 4 I'm sorry I'm a bit late. *a few minutes / several hours* late
 5 She's quite a good artist, despite her lack of training. *better than / not as good as* I expected
 6 This train is extremely fast. *very / not very* fast

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the email with the words and phrases in the box. Be careful, only one of the phrases in each pair is correct. ⏮ 2.40 Listen and check.

red big / big red quite old / a quite old old wooden / wooden old
 really good / good really rather expensive / a quite expensive very / a bit
 tourist nice / nice tourist pretty late / late pretty lovely large / large lovely

Subject News from Kyoto

Hi Jordi

Today is our third day in Kyoto. Yesterday the weather was (0) *really good* so we took a (1) trip to a place called Ginkakuji, just outside the city. The place is amazing and has (2) gardens and a waterfall. The garden is (3) – it was built in 1460 by one of the Shoguns. There are lots of beautiful (4) buildings and ponds full of (5) fish. It's (6) peaceful. It was (7) to get in, but then everything is expensive in Japan! It was (8) when I got back to the hotel, so I didn't have time to send you an email.



Answers

UNIT 20

- 1** 1 pleasant little stone (cottage) 2 big new wooden (chest of drawers) 3 pretty blue silk (dress)
4 nice big living (room) 5 small round silver (picture frame) 6 famous seventeenth-century Dutch (artist) 7 expensive German washing (machines) 8 horrible red cotton (T-shirt)
- 2** 1 slightly 2 very 3 more violent than 4 a few minutes 5 better than 6 very
- 3** 1 nice tourist 2 lovely large 3 quite old
4 old wooden 5 big red 6 very 7 rather expensive 8 pretty late

Answers