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Consult the English Oracle



By Kevin Kirk

In the majority of grammar books, you are told that adjectives ‘modify’ the noun. But do they? They do not change the noun in any way; it still stays the same; a label that evokes a picture of the object described in the listener’s or reader’s mind. What adjectives do is to add further interest to the noun and to help characterize it. For example the sentence ‘I saw a girl’ is pretty bland, it does nothing to give the qualities to the girl, so in order to add extra interest we add an adjective, or two, so we now have a sentence that reads “I saw a beautiful, Asian girl”. Immediately we start to ‘see’ in our mind the notion of a beautiful, Asian girl – she may look completely different to the one being described but we have our own idealized view of what beauty consists of and so we immediately increase our interest. Advertisers know and understand this, so most advertising consists mainly of adjectives (unless the advertisement is describing how a machine works, for example in cars, washing machines or computers, in which case manner adverbs are used: smoothly, quietly, powerfully). So advertisers use adjectives which evoke a (hopefully positive) subconscious image in our minds. Look at a list of adjectives and then allow the mental image of the word to be created in your mind and you’ll understand the emotional pull of adjectives. Below is the word order for adjective placement, from top to bottom. Note that adjectives are separated by a comma but do not put a comma between an adjective and the noun. If there are two adjectives of the same type use 'and' to separate them, example: She is a *beautiful and clever girl*. Further note that 'purpose' adjectives are generally present participials of verbs ('ing' words).

Observation	what you think about something	Funny, beautiful, clever, angry,
Size	explains how big or small it is	Huge, tiny, enormous, small. Petite, big
Shape	describes the shape of something.	Square, round, flat, rotund, rectangular
Age	describes the age of something	Ancient, modern, new, old, young, aged
Colour	describes the colour of something.	Blue, yellow, pink, red, grey, green
Origin	where something comes from.	British, Chinese, American, Asian, Thai
Material	is what something is made from.	Steel, wood, cotton, paper, bamboo
Purpose	describes what something is used for.	Eating, sleeping, frying, roasting, sitting
Classifying	categorizes the noun it describes	Annual, daily, constantly, official, legal



Learning Strategies

The best strategies and techniques for learning English

Why Learners can't Speak English?

If you think that English isn't interesting, you won't want to learn English. On the other hand, if you think English is interesting, you want to learn it.



Why are learners shy and quiet?

Learners aren't shy and quiet out of class, but they are shy and quiet in class. Why?

- ☞ They are ashamed to say something in English.
- ☞ They are afraid of their mistakes.
- ☞ The classroom is a little silent.

Increase your Vocabulary

- ☞ Choose one vocabulary book.
- ☞ Don't worry if you can't understand it the first time.
- ☞ Do not just check the meaning of words: learn how to use them.
- ☞ Begin a second time (review and study).
- ☞ Keep going until you remember all the vocabulary.

Practice at Low Level

- ☞ Practicing English at a low level is very important, as understanding difficult material takes a lot of time.
- ☞ Learners need English knowledge input, which means a lot of reading and listening.
- ☞ Choose easy material: learning will be more enjoyable.

Immerse Yourself in English.

- ☞ Go to your teacher's office and ask her/him to check your English.
- ☞ Have conversations with your teacher.
- ☞ Be positive.
- ☞ Have a partner join you when learning English.

Another Way to Immerse Yourself in English

- ☞ Choose one movie or CD.
- ☞ Watch it and listen to it.
- ☞ Write down sentences and phrases.



How to create an English environment?

Learners speak English in class, but they speak their mother tongue after class or at home. Learners would be trying to create an English environment.

How?

- ☞ Go abroad.
- ☞ Go to clubs.
- ☞ Send foreigners an E-mail.
- ☞ Watch movies with subtitles.
- ☞ Listen to your foreign music...and so on.



Input

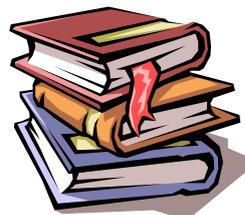
- ☞ Watch a movie.
- ☞ Listen to music.

Output

- ☞ Have a conversation.
- ☞ Write down your ideas.

Summary

- ☞ Find your appropriate method.
- ☞ Keep practicing English.
- ☞ Balance the study of all four skills.
- ☞ Have enough time for input.



By Traisuda



Culture Corner



General World Wide Gift Etiquette



Preparing for a business meeting requires a working knowledge of the information to be discussed or presented, careful attention to all details on the printed material to be distributed, and perhaps a gift. This gift is a social gesture that may be expected in some countries, and could be considered a bribe in others. Knowing the gift guidelines for the country you will be visiting will help make your meeting a success.

Some multi-national companies and some governments have very strict policies regarding their employees accepting gifts. To avoid creating a problem, it is imperative you learn the policies for the companies you do business with.



Countries like Malaysia and Paraguay, concerned with corruption, frown upon any gift that could be construed as a bribe. In Malaysia you would not give a gift until you had established a relationship with the person. In Singapore, government employees are not allowed to accept gifts, and the United States limits the acceptable dollar value to \$25.

However, in some countries like Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines, exchanging gifts is strongly rooted in tradition. Part of the tradition is the gracious style used to present and receive them. It's important to plan the time and focus on the process.



It is very important in Asia and the Middle East to only use your right hand, or both hands, to offer or accept a gift. In Japan and Hong Kong, use both hands.

In Singapore a recipient may "graciously refuse three times" before accepting your gift. But in Chile, gifts are accepted and opened immediately. And in Indonesia, small gifts are given on a frequent basis.

A standard to keep in mind for any gift you select is quality. Choose quality items that are not ostentatious. If you have gifts with your company logo, it's better if the logo is discreet. And do not give company logo gifts in Greece, Spain and Portugal.



Hosting a meal at a nice restaurant is always a good business practice. A fine dinner is a wonderful way to give a "gift to your hosts", to show your guests you appreciate the business relationship you have with them, and an opportunity to build rapport. People in Brazil, England, Panama, and Peru enjoy being invited guests for a meal, and the Greeks look forward to an evening filled with dining. In China, plan a banquet, especially if you are being honored with one.

To be continued...

By Piyaporn



ASEAN CORNER

Asian Countries Celebrate Valentine's Day

In Korea - If you do not receive any gift on Valentine's day then all the singles go to Korean restaurants and eat black noodles to mourn their single status.

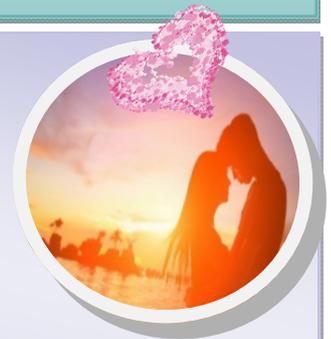


In Japan - Women are expected to give chocolate and other gifts to men on Valentine's Day. This tradition was started as a marketing campaign by Japanese chocolate companies. This has become for many women – especially those who work in offices – an obligation, and they give chocolates to all their male co-workers (especially the boss), sometimes at significant personal expense. This chocolate is known as *giri-choco*, which translates as "chocolate of obligation." This contrasts with *Honmei-choko* chocolate given to a lover (Honmei). Valentine's day is a special day for girls, when they confess love to their loved ones. *Honmei-choko* is usually higher-quality and more expensive than *giri choco*. Friends, especially girls, may exchange chocolate referred to as *Tomo-choko* - *Tomo* means friends. In recent years, women also buy chocolates or other gifts for themselves, as a reward to herself. Men are not off the hook, unfortunately. They are expected to return the favor on March 14th, commonly known as White Day. Many men, however, give only to their girlfriends. The gift should be white (hence the name) and is often lingerie.



In china - Valentine's day is also celebrated in China. Please bear in mind that do not give an umbrella or fan in Chinese Valentine's day - Umbrella or Fan both like the one Chinese character “散”, which means leave, separation.

In the Philippines - While Valentine's Day celebrations in the Philippines are similar to celebrations in Western countries, one tradition has swept the country and led to thousands of couples sharing a wedding day on February 14th. Mass wedding ceremonies have gained popularity in the Philippines in recent years, leading hundreds of couples to gather at malls or other public areas around the country to get married or renew their vows en masse.





Bits and Pieces

Story of St. Valentine



"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.



During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day.

"Yes, my child, He hears each one."

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!"

"God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand.

They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!"



On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world."



Adapted from <https://www.oirl.org/lives/valentine.shtml>

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www.mfa.go.th/dvifa

By Pimravee