

1 Read the article and choose

The perfect picture

Last autumn I was helping my sister to find a photographer for her wedding. I was looking at wedding photographs online when I saw my first sakura picture. Sakura, or cherry blossom, are light pink flowers that arrive in spring on cherry trees. The flowers are very beautiful, and very popular in wedding photos in Japan. In fact, the sakura flowers are very popular with everyone in Japan.

After my sister's wedding, I needed a quiet holiday. I decided to visit Tokyo and see the cherry blossom. I booked a week in a hotel at the end of April. I bought a new camera and searched online for the best places to look at the trees. I arrived safely and checked into my clean, comfortable hotel. I slept well and got ready for my first day of sakura photography.

Then the problems started. Although it was morning, when I arrived at Inokashira Park it was already very busy. Large families were having picnics. Couples were on dates. I couldn't get near to the trees. My pictures were a disaster. At the end of the day, I went back to my hotel feeling quite sad. But when I was looking at my photos that evening, I found one picture of a little boy looking at the flowers. He was laughing. It was a great picture.

The next day I returned to Inokashira Park but this time I only took pictures of people. I spoke to people who I thought looked interesting – people with colourful hats, or unusual hair, or nice faces – and I asked to take their picture with the flowers. I had fun and I met lots of friendly people. Now when I look at my sakura pictures, I remember the cherry blossom but I also remember the stories.

1. The writer helped his sister with her birthday party.
2. Cherry blossom flowers arrive in spring.
3. Everyone in Japan has cherry blossom parties.
4. The writer wanted a busy, noisy holiday.
5. The writer stayed in Tokyo for two weeks.
6. Inokashira Park was crowded.
7. The writer couldn't find the river.
8. The writer was not happy with his pictures on the first day.
9. On the second day, the writer went to a new place.
10. The writer met many friendly people.

2 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 What was the writer doing when he saw a sakura photo for the first time?
- 2 What do sakura flowers look like?
- 3 What did the writer buy before he travelled to Japan?
- 4 How did the writer sleep in Tokyo?
- 5 Which picture did the writer think was great?