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Learning English Through Japan – Gold Leaf at Sakuda Store

Focus: Listening (Comprehension), Grammar (Past Simple), Reading (Comprehension), Writing (Free writing)

PART 1 - LISTENING AND GRAMMAR

Listen to Lisa talking about a workshop she attended.

Then, complete the exercises.

1) According to the steps she followed at the workshop, put the photos in order.



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2	
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6	
7	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2) Choose True or False.

a) She did not have any help or orientation.	True	False
b) She is not good at drawing.	True	False
c) She used a bond paper to create her piece.	True	False
d) She does not like animals.	True	False
e) She liked the day.	True	False
f) She mentions the place where she went.	True	False

3) To talk about a fact, we use the Present Simple, such as in Exercise 2 (b, d and f).

But if we want to express something we did in the past and it is already finished, we must use the Past Simple. That is why when Lisa talks about the workshop she attended, she uses the Past Simple.

Some of the verbs she used are called **Regular** (they end in -ed) and some are **Irregular** (they do not follow a rule, so it is necessary to memorize them).

Write the verbs she used next to their infinitive form and choose if they are regular or irregular.

Infinitive	Past Simple	Regular	Irregular
to be (2)			
to choose			
to cut			
to draw			
to finish			
to glue			
to go			
to hand			
to have			
to take			
to thank			

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PART 2 - READING AND WRITING

4) Complete the text below using the Present or Past Simple tense of the verbs in brackets.

(1) It _____**(be)** not clear when the first gold and silver leaves _____**(be)** produced in Japan. The record _____**(say)** that gold-leafed jewelry can go back all the way to the Kofun period (250-538 AD).

(2) In Kanazawa, the popular belief _____**(be)** that it started when the first lord of Kaga clan, Maeda Toshiie, _____**(order)** the production of gold and silver leaves in his territory of Kaga and Noto to decorate the spears of his troop by the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1593.

(3) Toyotomi Hideyoshi _____**(be)** a gold lover. He _____**(use)** to decorate castle towers and fixture with gold leaf. Many feudal lords _____**(use)** gold leaf in various places such as roof tiles and interior décor as the symbol of power.

(4) During Edo period, to solidify the financial base of the national government, the gold-silver-leaf production _____**(be)** prohibited. However, the Kaga clan secretly _____ (**continue)** the production in its own craft studios.

(5) In 1864, the Kaga clan _____**(obtain)** the metal-leaf production license and _____**(make)** a significant improvement in quantity and quality of the gold leaf in Kanazawa.

(6) Later, during Meiji period, the restriction on the gold leaf production was lost and the Kanazawa Gold Leaf _____**(gain)** a significant prestige. Now it _____**(be)** known as one of the leading traditional crafts of the craft kingdom of Kanazawa.

(7) In 2020, the production of gold leaf _____**(be)** recognized as a UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as one example of the protection and transmission of traditional techniques.

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5) Answer the questions with Yes or No and write the number of the paragraph where you located the information.

	Yes	No	Paragraph
a) The history of the gold-leaf is imprecise.			
b) The production of gold leaf was illegal during a period.			
c) There was no improvement in the production of gold leaf.			
d) The gold leaf is now a material heritage.			
e) The gold leaf is a very important craft in Kanazawa.			
f) The nobility used to hate gold.			

6) Coming to Kanazawa and being able to create my own piece with a gold leaf was a great experience. Here is the box I made. You can see that there is a cat, a moon and two sakuras. There were many different templates to choose. Answer: (1) Would you like to create your own piece? (2) What item and pictures would you choose?



7) Does your country have a Cultural Heritage recognized by Unesco? Search on the list (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/) and write about it.

If your country still does not have it, choose one of the list that caught your attention.

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