

Learning English Through Japan – Daibutsu

Focus: Grammar (Present Simple, Past Simple), Listening (Comprehension), Vocabulary (different words).

1) Complete the text below. In the first paragraph, use the correct tense of the to be verb. In the second paragraph, use the Present Simple of the verbs in brackets.

Shinto and Buddhism _____ Japan's two major religions. Shinto _____ as old as the Japanese culture, while Buddhism _____ imported from the mainland in the 6th century. Since then, the coexistence Shinto and Buddhism _____ harmonious.

Although most Japanese _____ (consider) themselves Buddhist, Shintoist or both, religion _____ (not play) a big role in the everyday life of most Japanese people today. The average person typically _____ (follow) the religious rituals at ceremonies like birth, weddings and funerals, _____ (visit) a shrine or temple on New Year and _____ (participate) at local festivals (matsuri), most of which _____ (have) a religious background.

2) While in Japan, I visited two of the Japan's Largest Buddha Statues. Listen about it.

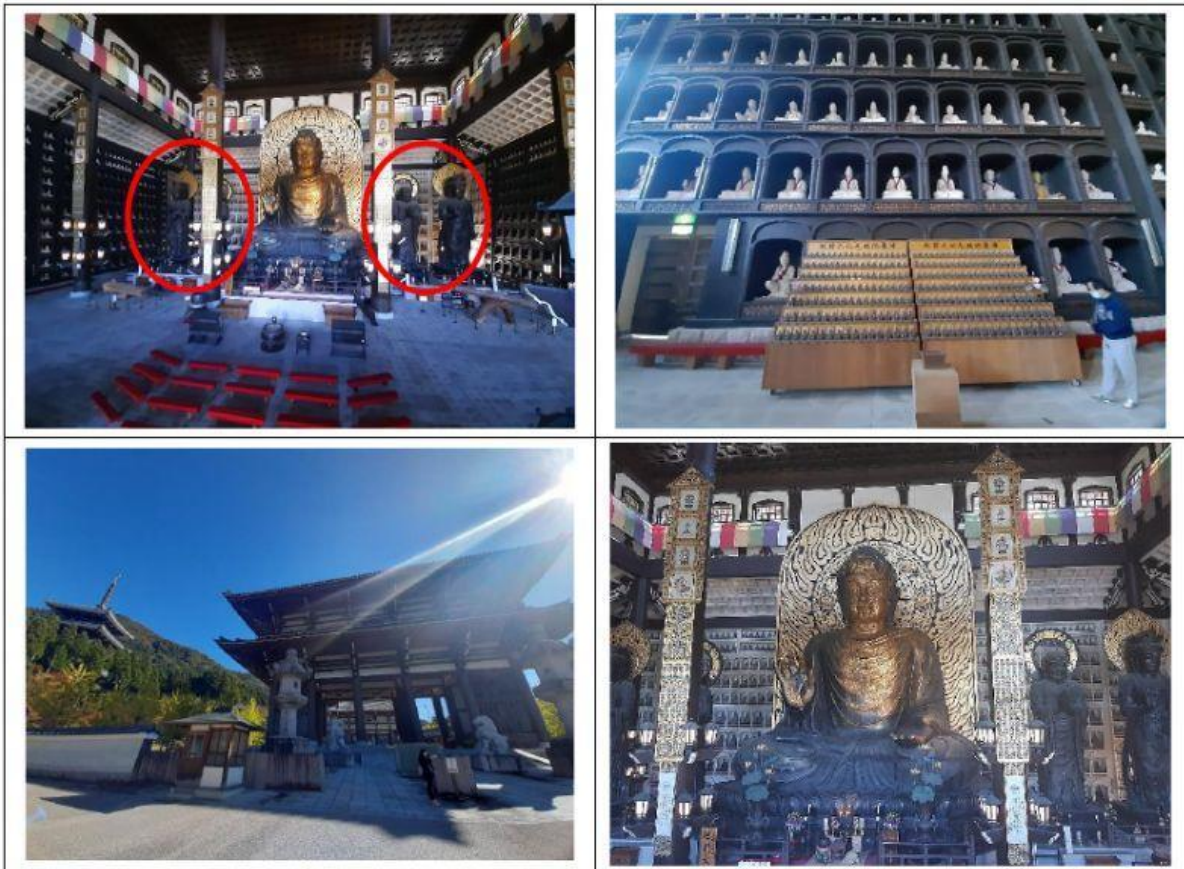
a) Match the sentences to their endings:

| | |
|---|--|
| The Present Simple Tense is used to talk about... | actions that happened before the speech. |
| The Past Simple Tense is used to talk about... | things that exist in some place. |
| The structure 'There + be' is used to talk about... | facts about something. |

b) Choose True or False.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1 Echizen Daibutsu is the tallest statue of Great Buddha in Japan. | True | False |
| 2 Echizen Daibutsu is an indoor Buddha statue. | True | False |
| 3 There are two signs next to the Buddha with engraved characters. | True | False |
| 4 There are more than one thousand small buddhas around the big one. | True | False |

c) Put the images in the same order they were mentioned on the audio.



| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | | 2 | |
| 3 | | 4 | |

d) Read about the second Great Buddha visited and complete the text with the correct tenses of the verbs in brackets (Present Simple or Past Simple).



The second statue that I _____ (visit) was Takaoka Daibutsu. It _____ (be) a large statue of Amida Nyorai (the Amitabha Buddha) in a seated posture, approximately 16 meters high, located in the Hotoku-san Daibutsu-ji Temple near Takaoka Station in Toyama Prefecture.

The circular halo that _____ (rise) up behind the Buddha's back _____ (make) this a particularly distinctive statue. It _____ (rank) alongside the Great Buddha of Nara and the Great Buddha of Kamakura as one of the "Three Great Buddhas of Japan."

In 1900, a great fire _____ (destroy) completely the last wooden Daibutsu in Takaoka. Construction on this current copper rendition _____ (begin) in 1907 and _____ (be) completed in 1933. Matsuki Sozaemon and local people _____ (build) the third statue that visitors see today.

e) Find on the text words or expressions that meet the concepts below:

- a) more or less (1 word, adverb) _____
- b) people who visit (1 word, noun) _____
- c) made of wood (1 word, adjective) _____
- d) most recent (1 word, adjective) _____
- e) a circle above the head of a divine personage (1 word, noun) _____
- f) having a special quality (1 word, adjective) _____
- g) at the same time as (1 word, preposition) _____