

Advanced English

Lesson 2 Book 1

Unit II Hiroshima---the “Liveliest” City in Japan

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Unit II Hiroshima---the “Liveliest” City in Japan

- **I. The study of the title**
- How about Hiroshima?---the **“liveliest”**
irony---expresses the opposite of what is meant by the term.
- e.g. When people are in trouble we must leave them alone and not bother them.
That’s my idea of friendship and I am sure I am right.

- “Liveliest” --- “lifeless”
- **Pun** --- is a play on words which may have the same or similar sound or spelling but usually conveys various meanings.
- e.g. Waitress: “You’re not eating your fish. Anything wrong with it?”
- Man: “Long time no sea.”
- c.f. “long time no see”

- **2. The cultural background knowledge**
- **1) Japan** ('Nippon' in Japanese) in the World War II
- In 1937, launched the Chinese-Japanese War;
- joined the Axis powers; attacked the Pearl Harbor;
- In 1945, atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- on August 15, 1945, unconditional surrender

The cul



- influences from China

‘Shodo’ (书道),
‘Sumi-e’ (墨绘),
‘sculpture’, etc.)

- typical Japanese culture

manga (漫画),
Ikebana (插花),
Kimono (和服),
Sumo (相扑) and
tatami (榻榻米),
geisha (艺妓)



- **2) Hiroshima**
- strategic post during [World War II](#):
- headquarter ; military supplies; center for shipping;
- Aug.6, 1945, atomic bomb ;
70,000 people – ashes; 50,000 people --
died of the effect of the radiation;
90,000-140,000 -- dying of leukemia (白血病) ,
pernicious anemia (恶性贫血症)

Atomic Bomb

atom – split and energy –



- 3) **Atomic Bomb**
- the nucleus of a heavy atom – split; energy – release -- 100 million times larger per atom than in a chemical reaction
- three main types of effects: blast, thermal radiation, and nuclear radiation

- **Blast :**

- air pressure -- 35 tons per square meter shock wave -- 440 meters per second
- were thrown through the air; crushed ; shattered windows -- glass fragments -- penetrated into the victim bodies



- **Thermal radiation** -- high temperatures -- serious burns

the temperature on the ground -- 5,000 centigrade; turned into ash; melted glass and metal;

Nuclear radiation -- results from the neutrons and gamma rays associated with fission; it causes death and injury as a result of damage to living tissue.



- **The post-war development:**
- the second largest economy
- the world's fourth largest exporter and the sixth largest importer



3. The text study

1) Comprehension questions:

What is the purpose of the interview?

What did the author do in his interview?

How did he feel? Why?

2) The classification of the text

(four sections)

Section I (Pa. 1)

The author's preoccupations as he stepped onto the land of Hiroshima

Paragraph 1

1. **must** : very probably (in an affirmative sentence)

e.g. She's absent today. She must be ill.

e.g. I think they must have left early.

(strong probability)

c.f.

- **Can** he still be alive after the earthquake?
(doubt about the possibility)
- He was familiar with the topography of that area. He **couldn't have lost** his way.
(improbability)
- c.f.
- That **was** what the man in the Japanese stationmaster's uniform shouted.
(certainty of the fact)

- 2. Special usages of “in”
- in the stationmaster’s uniform; in red;
- shout in Japanese / in a harsh voice;
- He’s been in politics/ marketing / power for fifteen years.
- One in every ten children suffers the separation from the parents.
- The children are only allowed to write in pencil, not in ink.
- The situation is rather complicated in that we have many competitors.

3. **on** one's mind / **in** one's mind

on one's mind: (worries, anxiety, etc.)

occupying one's thought

e.g. You look worried. Is there something on your mind?

in one's mind: remembering a fact or a piece of information

e.g. After that, his name is kept in my mind.

4. **very** (only before a noun to emphasize a noun)

e.g. He died in this **very room**.

e.g. The cab driver popped open the door of his car **at the very sight of** the traveler.

5. Was I not at the scene of the crime?

A rhetorical question usually asked for effect, without any need to be answered.

e.g. Is not that a challenge to us? Is it not true that into our education have come slackness and softness?

e.g. “If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

e.g. “Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended.

- **Section II (Pa.2—7) :**
- By describing the peaceful normal life of the Hiroshima people and the traveling by taxi from the outside of the station to the meeting place, the author presents to the reader a newly-established modern city with some conflicts between the old and the new.

6. appear, seem, look

- **Appear** implies that the opinion is based on a visual impression. It sometimes suggests a twisted impression produced by visual illusion, a restricted point of view, etc.
 - a) It appears+ that clause
 - b) somebody / something appears (to be)...
 - c) there appears to be...
- **Seem** suggests a personal opinion based on evidence that satisfies the judgment.

- The common patterns with “seem” are the same as those with “appear” (see appear”).
- **look** focuses on the visual-based impression.
- a) somebody / something looks (to be)...
- e.g. He looks (to be) very strong.
- b) somebody / something looks like + n.
- c) It looks + as if clause

- Exercises:

1. It ---- that we'll have fine weather today.
(appears)

2. There ----- to be every hope that the
business will get better. (seems)

3. The cause of death ----- clear—it ----- as if
he was poisoned. (seems; looks)

- 7. ... to rub shoulders with ...: (informal) to meet and mix with (people)
e.g. He loves teaching by which he can rub shoulders with young people and make himself return to his college life.
- “Rub shoulders with...” --- a pun:
- 1) People walked shoulder by shoulder in the crowded streets
- 2) The Japanese traditional style and the western style exist side by side in modern Hiroshima.

Kimonos and **western dress**: a piece of traditional Japanese clothing like a long coat and a very short western style skirt

Here are used symbolically to denote the Japanese traditional style and the western style .

- 8. this **intermezzo**-- a metaphor
- The puzzling traveling by taxi between the railway station and the City Hall is compared to a short piece of music played between the main parts of a concert, opera, etc.
- 9. **musical sigh**-- a metaphor
- The usher's sigh is compared to a piece of music.

- **Section III (Pa.8—27)** : the interview with the mayor and a small Japanese
- 10. **cautiously / carefully**
- **Cautious** suggests a carefully holding back from action until all possibilities have been considered to avoid failure or danger.
- **Careful** implies that attention is cast to details with efforts.
e.g. The students watched the teacher carefully and then followed the suit

- 11. be familiar to somebody;
 - e.g. His face is familiar to me, but I can't recall his name.
 - cf. be familiar with something
 - e.g. Are you familiar with these technical terms?
- 12. sink in: to be fully understood
 - e.g. It was after he finished his talk that his words sank in.
 - Jointing me out f my sad reverie: shaking me awake from my sad dreamy feeling.

- 13. a town known throughout the world for its—oysters (**anti-climax**)
- The fame of Hiroshima is stated in a descending order : world famous—common oysters, from bigger to smaller, weightier to lighter.
e.g. He spent all his large fortune endowing a college or a cat. (a college—a cat)
- c.f. (Pa.23) No one talks about it any more, and no one wants to.

e.g. *I came, I saw, I conquered.*

(**climax**)

- **Section IV** (Pa.28—end): the interview with a patient in the atomic section, which highlights the theme in an open way

14. **earthly cares**: the concern from the authentic life on the earth; figuratively, the suffering of sorrow, pain and the threat of death from the present life

15. **improve my character** : to purify my soul and make myself brave and calm facing the coming death

- **The theme:** The post-war Hiroshima people, hiding great wounds in their bottom hearts, were building up a peaceful and lively modern Hiroshima with strong will and high spirits.

Comments on the text

- What was the answer the author read in every eye/
- What does the quoted word of the title imply? Can you explain its implied meaning with some supporting facts from the text?
-

The discourse analysis

a narration embedded in some description

An narration is telling a story and is concerned with the processes of activities, actions and events. An narration replies to “what”, revealing moving pictures, objects and the rolling life.

- Common model of a narration
- 1). **beginning** -- the time, the place, the character and the activity; often unsteady
- 2). **developing** -- a set of processes including complex relations, suspense, conflicts, climax, etc.
- 3). **ending** -- not only means the end of an action, but explores the theme and constructs a new idea which is revealed directly or indirectly in the action.

- Other items of a narration
- 1) Order
- 2) Topic correlativity and direct correlativity
- **Topic correlativity** -- highlights the main idea and makes the theme prominent ; the details should correlate to the topics.
- **Direct correlativity** – increases the realistic imagination; the details should be correlative to the true facts.

- 3) Author's attitude
- hidden ; borrow ; not agree with each other ;
- from the theme of the whole writing

- **The summary of the text**

the angle of an American reporter

the time order

developed in conflicts and suspense:

the author's preoccupations vs a peaceful and modern city;

on the very spot vs a floating boat;

the bombardment vs oysters;

two schools of thought

- The “liveliest” :
- 1) the physical world of Hiroshima city: lively, prosperous and modern;
- 2) the spiritual world of the Hiroshima people: brave, vigorous, yet with deeply hidden wounds and sadness.
- 3) something hopeful and hopeless, something strong and weak, and something sad and gay

• 4. Writing techniques

- 1) From the angle of the first person “I”, the author draws himself closer to the reader and makes his narration more authentic. The description of “I”’s psychological work increases the effect of the writing and thus deepens the theme.

- 2). The combination of topic correlativity and direct correlativity of the details increases the authenticity of the description and highlights the significance of the narration.
- details correlating to the topic: Pa.2 / 3 / 28 / 34
- details correlating to the authentic facts: 2 / 5 / 8

- 3). The rhetorical means play an important role of emphasis and attraction.
- (1) Pun (双关语) (see I : the title study)
- (2) Anti-climax (突降) states one's thought or certain phenomenon in a descending order of significance or intensity, from stronger to weaker, weightier to lighter.
e.g. (Pa.17) "...a town known throughout the world for its---oysters"

- e.g. He spent all his large fortune endowing a college or a cat.
- (3) Climax (渐进): opposite to anti-climax
- e.g. (Pa.23) “No one talks about it any more, and no one wants to.” (the heightening order: talk about---want)
- e.g. Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. (the heightening order: full---ready---exact)

- (4) Symbolic means -- represents a person, idea, value, etc. with a sign, shape, object, etc.
- e.g. (Pa. 7) “little old Japan adrift amid beige concrete skyscrapers”
- “the incessant struggle between the kimono and the miniskirt”
- the symbols of the old and the modern, or the eastern culture and the western culture.

Exercises

- V, VII, VIII, IX
- **Prep-work of L.4**
 1. Think about the narration order and classify the text into sections;
 2. Comment on the three major characters, finding out their characteristics;
 3. Study the title and think about what “the everyday use for your grandmama” symbolizes.