**Adjective Explanations and Examples**

OK. So, the deal with adjectives is to remember

1. There are two kinds of adjectives
   1. な-Adjectives
   2. い-Adjectives
2. Adjectives have two places in a sentence/clause
   1. Directly before a noun, modifying it
   2. As the complement, modifying the subject
      1. These two functions, however, are secretly the same, though

Depending on (A) and (B), and (a) and (b), we have to remember a few different things.

One thing that might help keep things straight is

* な-Adjectives operate similarly to Nouns; and
* い-Adjectives operate similarly to Verbs.

OK, let’s get started.

**い-Adjectives**

い-Adjectives – just like verbs – can be directly conjugated. Here are the patterns:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| い | **Future/Habitual** | **Past/Completed** |
| **Positive** | い | かった |
| **Negative** | く ない・く ありません | く なかった・く ありません でした |

* *Notice that the negatives have two common forms. This is because ない is the plain form of ありません.*
* *Notice also that 高く is one word and ない・ありません is another.*
* *Notice that ありません forms are usually used at the end of a sentence/clause as the complement*

When we put an い-Adjective before a verb, it can come in any form above (but it will usually not have an ありません in it). When we use it as a complement at the end of a sentence/clause, *when being polite* they will have a です after them (except the ありませんでした form).

**な-Adjectives**

な-Adjectives, just like nouns, don’t really have conjugations. When they’re used as a complement at the end of a sentence/clause, the change to past-tense or negative via changes in the verb です – *just like a noun*.

When they are directly in front of a noun and modify a noun directly, we link the な-Adjective to the noun via a な (hence the name). Similarly, we modify a noun with another noun with the の-Particle.

See the similarities between な-Adjectives and Nouns? They link to a noun via a な or a の, and they are ‘conjugated’ via conjugations of です.

**ENOUGH CHAT, LET’S SEE SOME EXAMPLES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Before a Noun** | **As a Complement** |
| **い-Adjectives** | |
| おいしい べ が ある  There will be some good food | この べ は おいしい です  This food is good |
| この くない を います  I’ll buy this camera that’s not expensive | いや、あんまり くない よ  Nah, it’s not very expensive |
| かった の は どこ です か？  Where’s the one that was cheap?  (Notice: の operates like “one”) | かった です ね、この ノート は  It was cheap, wasn’t it? – this notebook.  (Notice: the predicate precedes the subject) |
| くなかった ケーキ を べた よ  I ate the cake that wasn’t red | の ドレス は く ありません でした  Yesterday’s dress wasn’t red. |
| It’s not important now, but you should take note that, in the last three examples here, we had to use a relative pronoun (“that”) when describing the nouns in the “Before a Noun” column. This is because the adjectives are technically sentences by themselves. | |
| **な-Adjectives** | |
| なといたいです  I want to meet a pretty lady | あの は です ね  That lady is pretty, don’t you agree. |
| だった の は です か？  Who’s the one that was good? | は でした ね  He was talented, eh? |
| で は ない だけ う  I only meet people who aren’t famous. | そんな に じゃ ない です  (He)’s not that famous. |
| き で は なかった ラーメン に  きたくない です。  I don’t want to go to the ramen shop that (he) didn’t like. | その ラーメン は あんまり き で は  ありません でした。  I didn’t like that ramen shop very much. |
| Just as before, the bottom three example sentences relied on relative pronouns in the “Before a Noun” section. This is for the same reason – the adjectives before a noun are secretly ‘mini-sentences’. It’s more obvious with the な-Adjectives because we’re modifying the verb, and not just the adjective. | |