

6. Buddha The Reclining Buddha
The Reclining Buddha represents the Lord Buddha passing into Nirvana.
7. boxes donation boxes
There are also donation boxes near the shelves.
8. contribution make a contribution
Please feel free to make a contribution.
9. image Buddha image
Can I stay here a little longer to admire the beautiful Buddha image?
10. hurry in a hurry
We aren't in a hurry, are we?

B. Listen to the conversation carefully and fill in the missing word(s).

Tourist : What does "wat" _____ ?

Guide : "Wat" is a Thai word. It means a Buddhist temple or monastery. As _____ is the predominant religion of Thailand, there are about 31,200 temples in _____ .
Out of this total, 411 are in Bangkok.

Tourist : Why are there so many _____ in Thailand?

Guide : A temple is one of the things that Thais most like to build. Building a temple is one of the highest methods of _____. A temple is built not only for _____ reasons but also for _____ purposes. It provides a shelter for the _____ to live, to study, to meditate and to preach as well as being a _____ for laymen to do their merit-making and to conduct some _____ and festivals. In other words, it plays _____ in the Thai society.

Tourist : I see. Are all Thai temples _____ important?

Guide : Well, temples in Thailand fall into two main categories : a _____ temple and a _____ temple. A royal temple, or wat luang, is a temple built by _____ or accepted to be under royal patronage. A _____, or wat rath, is any temple built by common people. Sometimes, a common temple can change its status into a royal temple if it becomes accepted under _____.

Tourist : Are the royal temples more _____ than the common temples?

Guide : Not necessarily. Generally, the royal temples are bigger and more refined. But, I've seen _____ that are very lovely and peaceful.

Tourist : Do Thai monks live _____ the temple?

Guide : Yes, they do. Usually, a temple is divided into two _____ . One section, containing the chapel and other buildings used for public _____ , is called the Buddhavas . The other section, containing _____ , is called the Sangkhavas. However, _____ is an exception. It has no monks' living quarters or the Sannkhavas, as it is the royal chapel in the Grand Palace compound. It consists of the Buddhavas only.

Tourist : Thanks for the good _____

Guide : That's what I'm here for.

C. Listen to the conversation between a guide and a tourist at the Marble Temple. Then answer the questions.

1. From where did the marble at the Marble Temple come?

2. Who ordered the Marble Temple to be built?

3. What is King Chulalongkorn also called?

4. What is the meaning of "Wat Benchamabophit"?

5. In which style is the principal Buddha image at the Marble Temple?

6. What were placed underneath the principal Buddha image at the Marble Temple?

Vocabulary 1

predominant	most noticeable or important
religion	a particular system of faith and worship based on religious belief
making merit	doing something good for a temple or for monks
meditate	to think deeply, usually in silence, especially for religious purposes or in order to relax
layman	a Church member who is not a priest or a member of the clergy
play an important role	have an important function.
category	a class or group of people or things regarded as having certain features, etc. in common
exception	a thing that does not follow a rule.

gallery	a covered walk or corridor partly open at one side
courtyard	a space without a roof but enclosed by walls, especially forming part of a castle, hotel, etc.
Buddha image	Buddha statue
replica	a close or exact copy of something

II. Reading Task

The following reading passage is about Wat Benchamabophit or the Marble Temple. Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions.

WAT BENCHAMABOPHIT

The Marble Temple

This beautiful little monastery, often called "Wat Bencha" by Thais, is built of white Italian marble from Carrara. Constructed in 1899 by order of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V, 1868 - 1910), it is the finest example of modern Thai architecture in the whole country.

The Marble Monastery is located on the bank of a still-used canal, not far from the King's Palace and the National Assembly Building. In May and June, its beauty is greatly enhanced by the fiery blooms of the many royal poinciana, also called flame trees, lining the nearby streets.

The spectacular roof is covered with golden Chinese tiles, and the windows are stained-glass set in gilded frames. Snaggle-toothed demons in bronze relief act as supports under the windows.

The gables are intricately carved and exquisitely inlaid. Each represents a different figure in Thailand's Hindu-Buddhist pantheon. On the east gable, there is the Hindu god Vishnu, mounted on Garuda, a figure half-bird, half-man. The northernmost gable depicts Erawan, the three-headed elephant. On the western gable appears the mantra OM, the Sanskrit symbol of the universe and its universal vibration. Lastly, on the south gable, there appears the Buddhist Wheel of Law.

The main entrance to the bot is guarded by stylized lions of white marble. The inside is magnificently decorated with cross-beams of lacquer and gold. The beautiful image of Buddha is surrounded by fine tapestry.

A collection of bronze Buddha images, including one of the Buddha emaciated after a 40-day fast, lines the walls of the cloisters enclosing the spacious and beautiful inner courtyard.

1. Why is Wat Benchamabophit called the Marble Temple?
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2. Where is the Marble Temple located?
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3. What is represented on the east gable of the Marble Temple?

4. What is a "Garuda"?

5. What is depicted on the northernmost gable of the Marble Temple?

6. What is "Erawan"?

7. What can be seen on the western gable of the Marble Temple?

8. What can be seen on the south gable of the Marble Temple?

9. By what is the main entrance to the bot of the Marble Temple guarded?

10. What can be seen in the inner courtyard of the Marble Temple?

Vocabulary 2

architecture	the design or style of a building or buildings
enhance	to increase or improve further the good quality, value or status of somebody or something
fiery	like or consisting of fire.
bloom	a flower
tile	a flat piece of baked clay or other material used in rows for covering roofs, walls, floors, etc.
stained glass	colored glass, used especially to make windows in churches.
gild	to cover something with a thin layer of gold or with gold paint.
snaggle-toothed	teeth that are crooked and sticking out.
demon	a wicked or cruel spirit
relief	a design or carving that projects from a flat surface.
gable	the triangular upper part of the side or end of a building, under a sloping roof.
intricately	composed of many small parts put together in a complex way.

exquisitely	finely or skillfully
inlay	to make a design on a surface by putting pieces of wood or metal into it, so that the resulting surface is smooth
pantheon	all the gods of a nation or people
depict	to show or represent somebody or something as a picture
magnificently	splendidly; impressively
cross-beam	a long piece of wood, metal, concrete, etc. placed across, especially one that supports parts of a structure or a building.
tapestry	a large piece of cloth into which threads of colored wool are woven or sewn by hand to make pictures or designs
emaciated	thin and weak
fast	a period of not eating food.
cloister	a covered passage round an open court or square.

III. Speaking Tasks



A. Practice these conversations aloud with your friend(s), making sure you understand the situations, and then trade roles.

1. Dara, a guide, is explaining to her tourist, John West, about the Reclining Buddha in Wat Po.

Dara : We are now in front of the viharn of the famous Reclining Buddha...

John : Excuse me, what is the viharn?

Dara : It's the image hall, or the building which is used to keep Buddha images. Before we go inside, I'd like to explain something about the great Reclining Buddha. This image is 46 meters long and 15 meters high. Built of cement-covered brick, the image is covered with gold leaf. The soles of the feet, 5 ½ meters high, are marvelously inlaid with mother-of-pearl designs depicting the 108 auspicious Buddhist signs. The toes are all the same length. The Reclining Buddha represents the Lord Buddha passing into Nirvana.

John : Could you please explain the term, Nirvana?

Dara : Well, it's rather difficult to clarify. I would say it's liberation. It's a state in which one is free from anxieties, passions or rebirth. Are you ready to go inside?

John : Yes, I can't wait to get a close-up look at the Buddha image.

Dara : Before going inside, please take off your shoes and leave them on one of the shelves over there.

John : Why do we have to take off our shoes?

Dara : Well, it's a gesture of showing respect, and it also helps to keep the floor clean.

John : Do I have to pay for leaving my shoes on the shelf?

Dara : No, it's free of charge. There are also donation boxes near the shelves. Please feel free to make a contribution.

John: All right, I'm ready. Let's go inside.

Answer the questions.

(a) What is the viharn?

(b) What is Nirvana?

(c) Why does John have to take off his shoes before entering the viharn?

(d) Where will John leave his shoes?

2. Montri, a guide, and Linda, a tourist, are inside the hall that houses the famous Golden Buddha.

Montri : In front of us is the great Golden Buddha. When the Buddha image was found accidentally by a construction company, it was entirely covered in stucco. Thought to be an ordinary Buddha image, it was kept at Wat Chotikaram. It was then moved to Wat Traimit where a new building was built to house it. While being moved by crane to the new building, the stucco cracked, revealing the pure gold underneath. The Buddha image, made of solid gold, is three meters high and weighs five and one-half tons.

Linda : My goodness! It must be the most expensive Buddha image in Thailand.

Montri : Well, it can't be measured in terms of money. But, it would be extremely expensive to have one of this size made today if it were possible to do so.

Linda : I like the gentle, kind and smiling face of the Buddha image. It makes me feel calm and peaceful.

Montri : The Golden Buddha is in the Sukhothai style. We can tell it from the smiling face, the top of the head and the robe.

Linda : Can I stay here a little longer to admire the beautiful Buddha image? We aren't in a hurry, are we?

Montri : No, you can stay here as long as you wish.

Answer the questions.

(a) How large is the golden Buddha?

(b) How does Linda feel when she looks at the Golden Buddha?

(c) How can Montri tell that the Buddha image is in the Sukhothai style?

(d) Why does Linda want to stay there a little longer?

3. Dara and John West are inside the Temple of the Dawn or Wat Arun.

Dara : Here we are at Wat Arun or the Temple of the Dawn.

John : Does "Arun" mean "Dawn"?

Dara : Yes, that's correct. Wat Arun is also called Wat Chaeng, an ancient temple on this site. When King Taksin established his capital at Thonburi, he ordered the temple to be restored and used it as the royal chapel. His palace was located nearby.

John : Did King Taksin build these majestic towers?

Dara : No. Construction of the tall prang and the four smaller ones was started by King Rama II of Bangkok in the early years of the 19th century, and completed by his successor, King Rama III. The five prang stand high on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River, and a multicolored array of Chinese porcelain and glass inlay makes the towering prang sparkle from the first rays of the morning sun.

John : Have you ever seen the tall prang silhouetted against the sky at dawn?

Dara : No, I have never gotten up that early. It's a shame, I know.

John : How high is the central prang?

Dara : It's about 76 meters high.

John : Can we go up to its top?

Dara : Yes, there are steep and narrow steps leading up to the top of the prang. The view up there is magnificent. You can see Bangkok far across the river with the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the Grand Palace and Wat Po in the background. I still remember the excitement and fun when I climbed up the central prang for the first time with my uncle, my mother's younger brother. It was when I was a little girl.

John : Are you going up to the top with me today?

Dara : Yes, of course. Whenever I come here, I always climb up to the top. Are you ready?

John : Yes, let's go.

Answer the questions.

(a) Who ordered Wat Arun to be restored?

(b) How many prang are there at Wat Arun?

(c) Who built these prang?

(d) Can Dara and John climb up to the top of the central prang?

B. Match the following exchanges between the tourist in column A and the guide in column B.

The Tourist

The Guide

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Is a <u>chedi</u> the same as a <u>prang</u> ? | (a) It is easy to reach Wat Arun by water-taxi from any pier along the Chao Phraya River. |
| (2) Are tourists allowed to go inside the chapel? | (b) It is in Wat Sraket, on the east side of the old city wall. |
| (3) What is the <u>bot</u> ? | |
| (4) How can I go to Wat Arun? | |
| (5) Where is the Golden Mount? | |

(6) Can tourist climb up the Golden Mount?

- (c) Yes, but they have to take off their shoes before entering the chapel.
- (d) Yes, tourists are allowed to climb to the summit of the Golden Mount.
- (e) The bot is the main chapel. Usually, it is marked by the boundary stones at the four corners of the walls surrounding the building.
- (f) No, the top of a chedi is in the shape of a cone whereas the top of a prang is in the shape of a corn cob.

C. Complete the dialogue.

Tourist : _____.

Guide : The name of this temple is Wat Rachabophit. It was built by King Chulalongkorn in 1863, and it's one of my favorite temples.

Tourist : _____.

Guide : Well, it may be because of its architecture. It's a wonderful mixture of the western art and the traditional Thai forms. I also fell in love with the refined chapel completely covered with decorative pieces of colored Chinese porcelain.

Tourist : _____.

Guide : Yes, the decorative pieces of porcelain are still very shiny and vivid in color. I have a lot of personal feeling for this temple. When I was a young girl, I went to school in this area. My friends and I used to come here after school to feed pigeons.

Tourist : _____.

Guide : Oh, I went to Thewet Witthayalai School on Bamrung Muang Road. As for high school, I attended Benjamarachalai School which is also in the same area.

Tourist : _____.

Guide : Yes, the pigeons are still there. But, I'm sure they aren't the same ones that my friends and I used to feed more than 15 years ago.

Vocabulary 3

sole	the bottom part of the foot, on which one walks and stands
marvellously	wonderfully
mother-of-pearl	the hard smooth shiny substance in various colors that forms a layer inside the shells of certain shellfish and is used for making buttons, ornaments, etc.
auspicious	showing signs of future success; favorable; promising.
clarify	to make something clearer or easier to understand.
liberation	setting free
anxiety	worry
passion	a strong feeling of hate, love or anger
rebirth	the process of coming or bringing something back into existence or use.
gesture	a movement of a part of the body, especially the hand or head, intended to suggest a certain meaning
free of charge	without payment
donation	making a gift of money, clothes, food, etc. for a good cause, especially to a charity

contribution	a thing, especially money, that is given to a person or an organization
stucco	plaster or cement used for covering or decorating walls or ceilings
crane	a machine with a long arm which is used to lift and move heavy weights
crack	to break or make something break without dividing into separate parts.
reveal	to cause or allow something to be seen
underneath	beneath something; below something.
solid	of the same substance throughout.
robe	long, loose garment worn as a sign of rank or office
restore	to bring somebody or something back to a former condition
successor	a person or thing that comes after and takes the place of somebody or something
sparkle	to shine brightly with flashes of light
silhouette	to make something appear as a dark outline seen against a light background
steep	rising or falling sharply, not gradually
pier	a low structure of wood or iron built from the land out into the sea or a lake, where boats can stop and load or unload passengers or goods.

summit	the highest point; the top, especially of a mountain.
boundary stone	a stone that marks a limit.
cone	a solid figure that slopes up to a point from a circular flat base
corn cob	the long hard part at the top of a maize plant, on which the grains grow.

IV. Language Focus

Question tags

- Question tags are used to ask for agreement or confirmation. Usually, positive statements have negative question tags, and negative statements have positive question tags. The question tag usually uses the same auxiliary verb as the statement:

We aren't in a hurry, are we?

We are in a hurry, aren't we?

They couldn't lose, could they?

- The question tag after *let's* is *shall*:

Let's go inside, shall we?

- After the imperative the tag is *will you*:

Open the window, will you?

Don't tell the teacher, will you?

A. You want the person you are talking to agree with these sentences. Add question tags.

1. That program was really great, _____ ?
2. He can't be a guide, _____ ?
3. We must get a move on, _____ ?
4. She's living in Chiang Mai now, _____ ?
5. You didn't get the answer to that question, _____ ?

B. Choose the words from the list to complete the question tags.

can't they?, will you?, shall we?, isn't it?, mustn't we?

1. Let's go to Pattaya, _____ ?
2. Tourists can climb up the Golden Mount, _____ ?
3. The Buddha image is made of solid gold, _____ ?
4. Turn on the light, _____ ?
5. We must take our shoes off, _____ ?

V. Communicative Tasks

A. Write out the sentences in complete form. Change the verb form where necessary.

Example : capital / Thailand / be / Bangkok / of / the.

Bangkok is the capital of Thailand.

1. characteristic / honesty / be / his / predominant.

2. exam / before / important / I / meditate / to / an / like.

3. must / entering / chapel / visitors / the / their / take off / shoes / before.

4. Wat Sraket / be / the / in / Golden Mount.

5. water-taxi / reach / by / from / along / pier / any / the / tourists / Chao Phraya River / Wat Arun / can.

6. eyes / sparkle / her / excitement / with.

7. climb / the / mountain / the / of / summit / to / we.

8. necklace / a / gold / wear / she / solid.

9. entirely / gesture / communicate / they / by.

10. underneath / dust / the / a lot of / be / there / bed.

B. Use the following words and expressions to write a complete sentence.

Example : look up

She looked up the meaning of the word in an English –
Thai dictionary.

1. contribution

2. free of charge

3. solid gold

4. making merit

5. play an important role
