

Reading Level 2: a visit to Carinthia

Monday 5th November

Topics: family, halloween

Learning points:

- adjectives, comparatives and superlatives
- adverbs

1 Last Thursday we drove to Carinthia to visit my sister-in-law and our nephew and nieces who live near the
2 Lake Millstatt. In the last few years we have quite often visited them at this time of year, because of All Saints
3 Day and the long bank holiday weekend. Although All Saints Day does exist in England, All Souls Day is much
4 more important, because that is Halloween.

5
6 As it snowed hard on Wednesday night, we decided to take the motorway route through the Tauern tunnel,
7 instead of¹ going over the Felber Tauern. The motorway is a longer route and less interesting than the Felber
8 Tauern road, but it is safer in winter and is a quicker journey. The sun was shining until we drove through the
9 Tauern tunnel. On the other side the weather was suddenly grey and cloudy, and there was a lot of snow
10 beside the road and on the trees. A snow plough² had already cleared the road, so it wasn't more dangerous
11 although I had to drive more carefully. The yellow beech and larch trees and the white snow looked very
12 pretty. It was snowing gently again while we were driving along Lake Millstatt, so I drove even more slowly
13 than before.

14
15 We had a very pleasant time in Carinthia. There are not many tourists in Millstatt now, which means that the
16 town is quiet and peaceful. We walked slowly under the trees, kicking up the brown autumn leaves, and
17 along the lake shore. One day we went to an indoor swimming pool, where the children played noisily in the
18 warm water. My oldest niece can swim quite well underwater. She wears swimming goggles so that the
19 chlorine doesn't hurt her eyes. The other children wear armbands because they are still quite young and
20 can't swim well on their own. They especially enjoyed it when a strong, fast water current³ came on, which
21 swept them quickly through the water. Unfortunately, the swimming pool was quite busy because of the bad
22 weather and so I think the children enjoyed the experience more than the adults.

23
24 The children went to a halloween party on Thursday evening. They dressed up as zombies and looked quite
25 scary. Spiders, bats, witches' broomsticks⁴ and pumpkins scarily decorated the room. On the menu there
26 were chopped-off fingers (sausages), pumpkin soup with eyeballs in, and other horrible food, which the
27 children thought was very funny and which all tasted really delicious.

28
29 Did you have a halloween party? Some people like halloween and some people don't. Personally, I don't like
30 it when children play 'trick-or-treat' on their neighbours, because I think it can frighten people, but I don't
31 mind fancy-dress parties. I like to see the carved⁵ pumpkins with bright candles in them outside the front
32 doors of houses. Unfortunately, halloween is like the start of winter, because the clocks have gone back, the
33 evenings are darker and the weather is getting colder.

34
35 When we came back from Carinthia, we were quite tired. We caught a bad cold there, and so since we came
36 back I have had a sore throat and have been sneezing and coughing badly.
37 I am going to take some cough medicine, drink a herbal tea and then get a good night's sleep!

¹ instead of = statt

² snowplough = Schneepflug

³ current = Strömung

⁴ broomstick = Besenstiel

⁵ to carve = etw schnitzen / zerschneiden

Level 2 questions

Adjectives

Adjectives describe the property/characteristic⁶ of a noun.

The comparative is usually formed with -er and the superlative with -est.

Some are irregular:

- bad – worse – worst / good – better – best
- friendly – more friendly – most friendly

If the adjective is long (2-3 syllables or more) then we don't use -er or -est, but 'more ____' and 'most ____'.

Adverbs

Adverbs describe the property/characteristic of:

- verbs, adjectives, adverbs and clauses and sentences

Adverbs are usually formed by adding -ly to the adjective.

The comparatives and superlatives are formed with 'more ____' and 'most ____'.

There are exceptions:

- some adverbs are exactly the same as the adjective: hard / fast
- some adverbs are irregular: 'well' is the adverb of 'good'
- 'in a friendly way' is the adverb of 'friendly' (the adjective already uses -ly)
- some verbs (like taste/look/hear/become) don't use adverbs – only adjectives
- sometimes there are two adverbs that are nearly the same (direct / directly) but they mean different things.

Can you fill in the gaps with the correct adjective or adverb (using the word given in brackets)?

1. All Souls Day is much _____ (important) than All Saints Day, because it is Halloween.
2. It snowed _____ (hard) on Wednesday night.
3. The motorway is a _____ (long) route and _____ (interesting) than the Felber Tauern road, but it is _____ (safe) in winter and is a _____ (quick) journey than the Felber Tauern road.
4. On the other side the weather was _____ (sudden) _____ (grey) and _____ (cloudy)
5. The road after the tunnel wasn't _____ (dangerous) than before, although I had to drive _____ (careful).
6. The yellow beech and larch trees and the white snow looked very _____ (pretty).
7. It was snowing _____ (gentle) again, so I drove even _____ (slow) than before.
8. The town was _____ (quiet) and _____ (peaceful).
9. We walked _____ (slow) under the trees, kicking up the _____ (brown) autumn leaves
10. The children played _____ (noisy) in the warm water.
11. My _____ (old) niece can swim quite _____ (good) underwater.
12. _____ (unfortunate), the swimming pool was _____ (busy) because of the _____ (bad) weather.
13. The children looked quite _____ (scary).
14. Spiders, bats, witches' broomsticks and pumpkins _____ (scary) decorated the room.
15. The children thought the _____ (horrible) food was very _____ (funny) and it all tasted _____ (real) _____ (delicious).
16. Around Halloween the evenings become _____ (dark) than in summer and the weather gets _____ (cold).
17. We caught a _____ (bad) cold there, and I have been sneezing and coughing _____ (bad).

⁶ property / characteristic = Eigenschaft

Level 2 answers

1. All Souls Day is much more important (important) than All Saints Day, because it is Halloween.
2. It snowed hard (hard) on Wednesday night.
3. The motorway is a longer (long) route and more interesting (interesting) than the Felber Tauern road, but it is safer (safe) in winter and is a quicker (quick) journey than the Felber Tauern road.
4. On the other side the weather was suddenly (sudden) grey (grey) and cloudy (cloudy)
5. The road after the tunnel wasn't more dangerous (dangerous) than before, although I had to drive more carefully (careful).
6. The yellow beech and larch trees and the white snow looked very pretty (pretty).
7. It was snowing gently (gentle) again, so I drove even more slowly (slow) than before.
8. The town was quiet (quiet) and peaceful (peaceful).
9. We walked slowly (slow) under the trees, kicking up the brown (brown) autumn leaves
10. The children played noisily (noisy) in the warm water.
11. My oldest (old) niece can swim quite well (good) underwater.
12. Unfortunately (unfortunate), the swimming pool was busy (busy) because of the bad (bad) weather.
13. The children looked quite scary (scary).
14. Spiders, bats, witches' broomsticks and pumpkins scarily (scary) decorated the room.
15. The children thought the horrible (horrible) food was very funny (funny) and it all tasted really (real) delicious (delicious).
16. Around Halloween the evenings become darker (dark) than in summer and the weather gets colder (cold).
17. We caught a bad (bad) cold there, and I have been sneezing and coughing badly (bad).