



Lesson 23: Winter Wonderland

Exercise 01

Vocabulary

freezing	(ADJ)	extremely cold	It is freezing during winter in Hokkaido.
sleigh	(N)	a vehicle pulled by animals used for traveling on snow	Santa Claus travels in a sleigh .
central square	(N)	a public space usually found at the heart of a town	Can you wait at the central square ? I'll go there later.
crunch	(V)	to make the loud sound of something being crushed	Every time I stepped on the ground, the snow crunched .
blow	(V)	if the wind blows, it moves with speed	The wind is blowing strongly today.
festive	(ADJ)	cheerful and bright because of a celebration	Before Christmas I feel very festive .
magical	(ADJ)	enjoyable and romantic in an unusual way	The boat ride at sunset was a magical experience.
a great deal of	(Phrase)	a lot of	He has a great deal of money.
midwinter	(N)	the middle of winter	I don't like midwinter .
gentle	(ADJ)	mild and calm	She gave her new little brother a gentle kiss.
mystical	(ADJ)	involving spiritual and magical powers	The slight sound of falling snow is sometimes mystical .



Exercise 02

Dialogue Practice

Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

As the snow begins to fall, Jane has a conversation with Jess.



Jane

Jess, the first snow is falling.



Jess

Yes, how wonderful! I never thought I would miss winter so much. Snow is just magical. However, after a while, it becomes so freezing that I don't want to go outside anymore.



Jane

I see. Have you ever tried riding a sleigh? It is kind of scary, but so much fun!



Jess

No, I haven't, but I imagine it costs a great deal of money. Anyway, where can I try it?



Jane

You can find them for rent in Central Square when the real winter starts. There is not enough snow for sleigh riding yet. Just wait for a few more days, and you will see some serious snow. You know, midwinter is just around the corner.



Jess

Yes, it's coming. Snow reminds me of the sound of bells. It is very festive yet gentle at the same time.



Jane

I see. I like the sounds of nature, such as the crunching snow, the blowing wind, and so on. They sound kind of mystical when you are in the middle of the woods. I remember going into the woods and listening to these sounds with my grandpa when I was a child.





Jess

Exactly! That's what I mean. I also enjoy nature in winter.

Check your understanding:

- What does Jane think about riding a sleigh?
- What reminds Jess of the sound of bells?
- What did Jane like to do during her childhood?

Exercise 03

Role Play

Role-play the following situation with your teacher.

Situation:

- The first snowfall has just arrived.
- Tell your teacher how you feel and what you like doing when it's snowing outside.

Exercise 04

Discussion

- 1) Do you enjoy winter scenery? Why? Why not?
- 2) How do you like spending time when it is snowing?
- 3) How do you feel when Christmas is approaching?
- 4) Have you ever tried riding a sleigh pulled by horses? Would you like to?

