

Answer to Question # 12: Answers 3, 4 & 5 are correct.

Answer: 多い (OOI) = “many” and 少ない (SUKUNAI) = “few.” They are different from other i adjectives in that they CANNOT BE USED ALONE TO MODIFY NOUNS. [However, they can be used as part of a phrase that modifies a noun. For example, both of the following phrases are correct: お寺が多い町 (otera ga ooi machi) = “a town with many temples.” お寺が 少ない町 (otera ga sukunai machi) = “a town with few temples.”]

In any case, ONE CANNOT SAY 多い人 (ooi hito) = “many people” OR 少ない人 (sukunai hito) = “few people,” when the adjectives are used by themselves and not in a modifying phrase. As a result, ANSWER # 1 IS NOT CORRECT.

In some cases, one can use the adjectives 多い (ooi) and 少ない (sukunai) to modify nouns by moving them to the PREDICATE (or verb) side of a sentence. This means that the following sentences are all correct: 人が多いです (hito ga ooi desu) = 人が多い (hito ga ooi) = “there are a lot of people.” 人が少ないです (hito ga sukunai desu) = 人が少ない (hito ga sukunai) = “there are few people.”

However, ONE MAY ONLY COMBINE 多い (OOI) and 少ない (SUKUNAI) WITH です (DESU), not with other verbs. Thus one may NOT say 人が多い来ました (hito ga ooi kimashita). As a result, ANSWER # 2 IS NOT CORRECT.

[One may NOT combine 多い (ooi) and 少ない (sukunai) with だ (da) either. This makes sense if you recall that you may not use da after an i adjective. For example, if you want to say that something is delicious, you may say either おいしい (oishii) or おいしいです (oishii desu), but NOT おいしいだ (oishii da). So one may NOT say 人が多いだ (hito ga ooi da) or 人が少ないだ (hito ga sukunai da).]

When you want to use 多い (ooi) to modify a noun, you must convert it to its ku form and follow it with the particle の (no). That is, you can say 多くの人 (ooku no hito) = “a lot of people.” Therefore ANSWER # 3 IS CORRECT.

On the other hand, YOU MAY NOT USE THE KU FORM OF 少ない (SUKUNAI) TO MODIFY A NOUN. There is no way to say “few people” by itself, if you are using the adjective 少ない (sukunai). Using 少ない (sukunai), one may only say things like 人が少ない (hito ga sukunai) = 人が少ないです (hito ga sukunai desu) = “there are few people.”

大勢 (oozei) is a noun, not an adjective, and it means “a crowd of people.” Like other nouns, it can be turned into an adjective by adding the particle の (no). 大勢の人 (oozei no hito) = “many people.” Therefore, ANSWER # 4 IS ALSO CORRECT.

Looking at the final answer, you may also use 大勢 (oozei) on the predicate (or verb) side of a sentence, just as you might use an i adjective. 人が大勢います (hito ga oozei imasu) = 人が大

勢です (hito ga oozei desu) = “there are a lot of people.” Also, 大勢 (oozei) may be combined with 来ました (kimashita) = “came” on the predicate side. As a result, ANSWER # 5 IS ALSO CORRECT.

Finally, たくさん (takusan) is another adjective you might use, when you want to say “a lot.” Both of the following sentences are correct: たくさんの人が来ました (takusan no hito ga kimashita). 人がたくさん来ました (hito ga takusan kimashita).

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Question # 12: "Ooi, Oozei and Sukunai"

You want to say, “A lot of people came.”

Which of the following 5 Japanese sentences is correct?

1. 多い人が来ました (ooi hito ga kimashita).
2. 人が多い来ました (hito ga ooi kimashita).
3. 多くの人々が来ました (ooku no hito ga kimashita).
4. 大勢の人が来ました (oozei no hito ga kimashita).
5. 人が大勢来ました (hito ga oozei kimashita).