

TRAVEL DIALOG:

A Satire about Grammar-Based Language Instruction

John and Mary are taking a honeymoon to Europe and chatting on a flight to Heathrow.

Mary: Honey, isn't this exciting?

John: Yes. Aren't you excited?

Mary: Yes. I can't wait to see London Bridge!

John: And I want to see Big Ben.

Mary: Isn't the view magnificent?

John: Yes. Isn't the ocean wonderfully azure?

Mary: It sure is. By the way, shouldn't we visit Harrods while in London?

John: (nodding) Yes. It is said to be a shopper's paradise.

Mary: Indeed. Isn't shopping fascinating?

John: (smiling) Most certainly, but not as fascinating as your eyes.

Mary: Aren't you poetic?

John: Each moment with you is living poetry.

Mary: Huh? This is a practice in negative interrogatives, so please rephrase that to, "Isn't each moment with you like poetry?"

John: (laughing) Excuse me, I thought this was a conversation - not a grammar lesson.

- T Newfields

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