

まえがき

これまで英語を使うと言えば、海外旅行や貿易など、一部の日本人が海外に出かける状況に限られていました。教材もそのようなニーズに添った状況設定の会話を中心としたものが主流でした。

しかし時代が変わり、グローバル化が進む中、職場や生活の場面で身近に外国人と接する機会が増えました。今までブリティッシュ・イングリッシュとアメリカン・イングリッシュに大別されていた英語ですが、英語を母国語としない人たち同士の意思疎通の道具としての位置も占めています。

本書は日常生活のちょっとした誤解がどのように生まれるのか、問題が発生したらどのように対応すればいいのかなど、多文化社会で生きる私達に求められる姿勢を会話とエッセイで分かりやすく紹介しました。本書の中の会話では、物の見方の多様性や外国人に理解しづらい日本の風俗習慣などを、話者のお国柄の特徴を出しながら紹介しています。エッセイでは、グローバルな視点から見た日本や日本人の「常識」に疑問を投げかける内容から、国際理解、国際協力など、最近重要度の増しているトピックを幅広く扱いました。会話、エッセイそれぞれに設問があり、英文の内容理解に役立つと思います。5章毎に語彙力を高めるための復習問題もつけました。たくさんの楽しいエピソードをエッセイの中で紹介していますので、単なる英文の理解だけに留まらず、各章で新しい発見をしたり、驚いたり、考えたりしてください。

本書を通して、英語の多様性ととともに、異文化理解の重要性と楽しさにも気づいていただければ幸いです。

著者

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1

Why don't you come to my house?

Part 1 Listening Practice

Bikash: An exchange student from Bangladesh

Akemi: A member of his host family



► Listen to the conversation and fill in the blanks.

Akemi: Are you enjoying your new life with us here in Japan?

Bikash: Yes, I am. Your family is so kind to me and I'm making more friends at university. But I miss entertaining my friends at home. Don't you (1.) have your friends over for dinner?

Akemi: Not really. When I was a child, I would have friends come over after school to play. But once I started junior high, my friends and I would (2.) to meet downtown to go shopping or sing karaoke. In fact, we still do!

Bikash: Really? And your parents don't entertain here at home either?

Akemi: Not really. My father sometimes goes out with his (3.) after work and my mother goes out with her friends during the day.

Bikash: But why not (4.) people to your home? In my country, sometimes even without notice, people will drop in for a visit that usually ends up lasting hours. We enjoy that time with our friends.

Akemi: Well, in the old days Japanese homes didn't have much (5.). People could easily make more room for guests by just opening up another door to a tatami room and getting some cushions. But these days, Japanese homes are not as (6.) and many people even live in apartments. There just isn't room to entertain at home.

Bikash: But what if I want to (7.) some time with my friends?

Akemi: Well, usually your university club will have a party where everyone is invited. Have you noticed a (8.) sheet anywhere recently?

Bikash: Yes, in fact I have. But I couldn't understand what it was.

Akemi: Maybe nobody has asked you out personally because they (9.) you could read the sign. Next time you have your club,

why not ask someone if they could read it for you? Once they know you want to be included in campus events, you'll be pretty busy!

Bikash: Thanks so much, Akemi! Now I can hardly wait to go to my club.

Comprehension Questions

► *Answer the following questions about Bikash.*

1. What surprises Bikash about his host family?
2. How were Japanese homes different in the past?
3. How can Bikash spend time with friends in Japan?

► *Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. Does Bikash enjoy living in Japan?
 - A. No, he doesn't. He wants to visit his friends back home.
 - B. Yes, he does, but he misses entertaining friends at home.
 - C. Yes, he does. He has many friends in Japan now.
2. What is a major difference between Bikash's family and his host family?
 - A. His host family is very noisy.
 - B. His family back home would often have friends or relatives come to visit.
 - C. His host family hosts many festivals.
3. Does Bikash enjoy staying with Akemi's family?
 - A. Yes, but he thinks it's rather lonely sometimes.
 - B. No, he wants to stay with a more traditional family.
 - C. Yes, but he wants to invite his relatives from back home to visit.
4. Why does Akemi think his club members have not asked him to join campus events?
 - A. She thinks they assumed he could read the sign-up sheet for himself.
 - B. She thinks that his club members don't like Bikash.
 - C. She thinks that it would be too difficult for him to join campus events.

Short Dialogues

► *Listen to the dialogue and mark if the following are positive (+) or negative (-) aspects about home entertaining.*

- _____ 1. There's a lot of extra housework to do.
- _____ 2. It's an opportunity to catch up with news and gossip.
- _____ 3. It brings everyone together for a short time.
- _____ 4. It gives people a chance to remember their childhood.

ENTERTAINING

An American was once invited to a **former** student's home in Lebanon, where he had taught as an **honorary** professor. Following their tradition, he was served a very special dish, a whole roast-lamb, with a cooked eyeball of the lamb especially for him. Since a lamb has only two eyeballs, it is considered to be a top-notch service to the guest to be served one. The guest and the master of the house are the only people who can enjoy this **delicacy**. This professor, however, was not in favor of eating an eyeball of any kind. But after living in an Arabic country for many years, he had learned that his host would be offended if he left it on the plate untouched. After a while, he picked it up with his fingers and **gulped** it down in front of his host and smiled. The master was very pleased. Everyone had a pleasant time. Did the professor really eat it? No. He slipped the eyeball into his sleeve as he **pretended** to swallow it. Then he **stealthily** dropped it into his pocket. He made everyone, including himself, happy that way.

Americans, in general, like to welcome a guest into their home and introduce their family. They will try, as much as possible, to make him feel at home. If the guest is staying for a few days, they will guide him around the house, show each room, and tell him to feel free to help himself to a drink from their **fridge**. They will give him options regarding activities during his stay. If you visit a Malaysian family however, they might want to make decisions for you. They will serve dinner on dishes reserved only for special occasions. You will be treated as a very special person.

There is no one correct way to entertain a guest. The most important thing to remember is to have consideration for each other. If you happen to face a situation like the American professor however, it is good to remember that quick **wits** can save the day.



Dinner in rural Thailand.

● Notes

top-notch : 「最高級の」

save the day : 「事態を収拾する」

Vocabulary Exercise

▶ Complete each sentence using the words in **boldface** in the reading practice.

1. She received a letter from a () classmate.
2. He received an () degree from the university in appreciation for his research development.
3. Ninja had the ability to move very () and could hardly be heard at all.
4. Some people consider frog's legs to be quite a ().
5. The young child often liked to () that he was a super hero.
6. A place where cold drinks are stored is called the () or refrigerator.
7. She won the Miss Universe pageant not only for her beauty but also for her quick ().
8. Japanese seem to () down noodles without even chewing them!

Comprehension Questions

▶ Fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

1. What was the problem facing the American professor?
He wanted to be () but he did not want to () () () of any kind.
2. What can be different from country to country?
The way in which people () their guests.
3. What can you do in a situation where you feel very uncomfortable?
You can use your () () to find a solution that will please everyone.
4. When entertaining guests, or when staying in someone's home, what is the most important thing to remember?
() () () ().

ワンポイント アドバイス

外国からのゲストをもてなす時に一番心がけたいのは、相手に楽しい時間を過ごしてもらおうことでしょう。もてなす側の自分の満足感ばかりでなく、お客様とホスト両方にとって心地よく思い出に残るひとときを演出したいものです。