

BRITISH and AMERICAN Forum

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長引く不況にもかかわらず、円高メリットの経済効率を考慮してか、海外へ旅行に出かけたり、海外で留学や語学研修をする学生は、依然として多いようです。

ロンドン大学で1年間の研修を終えた留学生の帰朝報告を聴くと、心身共に大きく成長したように感じます。海外での異文化体験は、それぞれかなり自信になったようです。TOEFLに再挑戦する学生も多く、スコアもかなりアップしています。語学感覚や国際感覚のレッスンは、異文化体験から始まるようです。

一方、海外で留学や語学研修を体験した学生が、よく口にすることがあります。例えば、イギリスでホームステイをしたある学生は、こんな風に本音を言っていました。日本に関する質問を受け、感覚的には判っていてもうまく説明できず情けない思いをしたと。せっかくの国際交流の場面で、思わぬ不協和音やトラブルを招いてもこまります。このテキストを作った動機もそこにあります。ごく基本的ですが日常によく話題になるイギリス・アメリカの文化事情に触れながら、日本の文化的背景との比較をすることで、国際交流の基礎になる異文化理解をねらいとしています。

Prereading では、各章で扱う内容を頭の中に思い描いてください。まずは、イメージ・トレーニングから始めましょう。

United States, United Kingdom のエッセイでは、イギリス・アメリカの風俗、習慣、生活、価値観、現代の社会問題などさまざまな角度から文化事情にやさしく楽しく触れています。

Comprehension Exercise と Vocabulary Exercise は、エッセイの内容がよく理解されているかの練習です。TOEFL に似た出題形式をとっています。スピードと正確さが大切です。

Think About It は、特に日本の文化、伝統との比較をねらいにしています。日本語では充分に持っている知識をどう英語で的確に表現するかの練習です。これらの質問に答えられれば、多少異なった質問にも比較的容易に適応できると思います。

最近では、多くの外国人が、現在の日本の文化、伝統に強い関心を持つようになりました。日本に関する質問を受ける機会も増えています。イギリス・アメリカの文化事情を学びながら、日本の文化的背景を理解してもらい、それが、国際交流の基礎になると思われます。相互の異文化理解があって、いわゆる心のふれあうコミュニケーション、友情の花が咲くことが可能かと思います。願わくばこのテキストをマスターすることで、英語力だけでなく、異文化理解とコミュニケーションの向上に役だってくれることを念じています。

なお、編集に関しては、思わぬ誤りをおかしているかもしれません。お気づきの点は、ご教示願えれば幸いです。

1994年 秋

山田晴子
五味田幸夫

PREFACE

This text is designed to introduce your students to a set of important issues facing the peoples of Britain and American, and to encourage them to think about these and similar issues in Japan.

The readings themselves are fairly self-explanatory. For each topic (Food and Drink, the Family, Health, etc.) the readings present British and American views on the subject. The presentations take a variety of rhetorical forms; expository and analytic, narrative and anecdotal, with, on occasion, a pinch of theory thrown in to keep things lively. In some cases, the second reading responds directly to issues raised in the first (be it British or American); in other cases the two readings go their separate ways, leaving the task of integrating the two positions to the student. Whatever the specific combination, the readings present a lot of information about everyday life in the two countries and the variety of writings should keep interest high.

More important, perhaps, may be the sections "Prereading" and "Think about it." The prereading questions lead the students into the topic by having them reflect for a few moments on their own constructions and beliefs surrounding it. Current reading theory strongly suggests that introducing a reading with the reader's own perspectives on the general topic greatly increase comprehension, achievement, and enjoyment. The "Think about it" questions then explicitly ask students to reflect on their own knowledge and experience of the topic and to compare it to the material presented in the readings. These exercises can be done individually or in groups; written or as discussion starters; using the students own knowledge or as short reseach projects; in presentations or tests.

Above all else, the object of the text is to get students thinking about life in their own country. Educated British and Americans can always talk about these topics and the issues they involve. By the end of the course, Japanese students should be able to engage their peers from Britain and the United States on these issues of importance to everyone.

Enjoy.

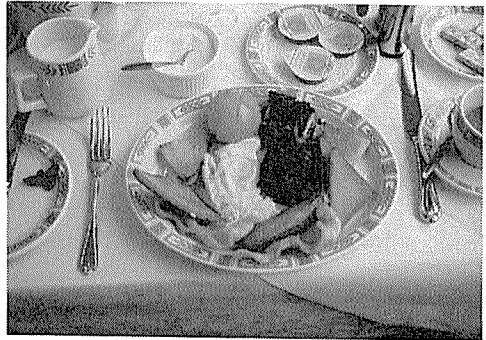
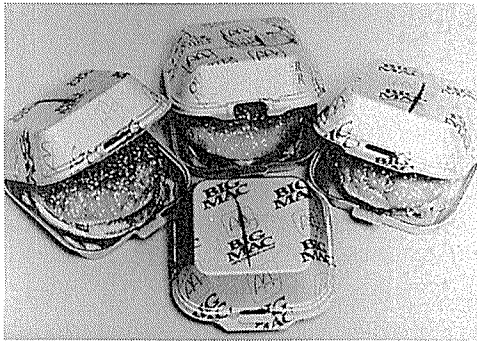
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1. Food & Drink

Prereading



1. What are your three favorite foods?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. In what ways are the foods you normally eat related to the seasons? Select two foods and explain the relationship.

A. food:

relationship to seasons:

B. food:

relationship to seasons:

United States

America is often called a land of plenty. This is nowhere more apparent than in Americans' attitude toward food. Americans eat plenty of food. This plenty refers to volume, certainly, as well as quality and variety.

When I return to the States I am often shocked at the amount of food I get at restaurants. In fact, it is common when I am traveling with someone in the countryside to share a meal. One of us gets a dinner and the other a cup of coffee or tea. Usually there is more than enough for two. For example, we were traveling through Moab, Utah (don't worry, it's not on your maps), and ordered a clubhouse sandwich. It came with a large order of French fries and a dinner salad. We split these things and an order of apple pie for dessert, and both of us were satisfied.

The American sense of plenty is also apparent in the variety of foods available. I had not noticed it until a Japanese friend pointed it out. While staying in the United States, only once in two weeks did we have what he identified as "American" food, and that was a hamburger. The rest of the time we had eaten Italian, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Greek, Spanish, Mexican, and French. None of these had felt "ethnic". They were just a part of the range of foods commonly available to Americans. It wasn't until my friend and I ate that hamburger and some corn on the cob and he declared this "ethnic" that I realized exactly how plentiful American foods were.

America has plenty of local and regional cooking, too. There are the crab cakes of Washington, the jambalaya of New Orleans, the "California" cooking of Los Angeles, and shoo-fly pies from Pennsylvania. All of these regional foods are part of America's plenty.

This has taken us far from the original sense of American plenty. But I sometimes feel that the one complements the other. The excess of volume is somehow a function of the great variety available to diners.

Bon appétit.

Notes

French fries=French fried potatoes, **corn**=corn cob 「トウモロコシの穂軸」 **crab cakes of Washington** 「ワシントン風のカニコロッケ」 **jambalaya of New Orleans** 「ニューオーリンズ風の少し辛いシチューのようなもの」 **"California" cooking of Los Angeles** 「(例えば、アボカドのトロ風の寿司のような) ロサンゼルスのカリフォルニア風の料理」 **shoo-fly pies from Pennsylvania** 「一種のデザートのパイ」 **Bon appétit** 《仏》=(I wish you) a good appetite

Comprehension Exercise

テープを聞いて、それぞれの質問に続く正しい答えをA. B. C. の中から1つ選びなさい。

1. _____
A. pleases the writer.
B. is common when traveling.
C. shocks the writer.
2. _____
A. all foods in the U.S. are ethnic.
B. no foods in the U.S. are ethnic.
C. only some foods in the U.S. are still ethnic.
3. _____
A. hamburgers.
B. California cuisine.
C. regional variety.
4. _____
A. Americans eat too much.
B. American food has lots of variety.
C. Volume and variety are somehow connected.

Vocabulary Exercise

次の文中の下線部と同じ意味の語句をA. B. C. の中から1つ選びなさい。

1. In the United States, a bowl of soup and a sandwich are thought to complement each other.
A. round out B. parallel C. praise
2. My boyfriend pointed out that it was late and we had to catch the train.
A. indicated B. implied C. aimed
3. The amount of food I eat is a direct function of how much work I've done and how long it's been since my last meal.
A. purpose B. duty C. result
4. I commonly visit San Francisco when in the U.S., this time I couldn't.
A. mundanely B. typically C. collectively

United Kingdom

There is much truth in the axiom that the French “live to eat” but the British “eat to live” .

When I go back to Britain I am often struck by the amount of stodge (puddings and pies) that people eat. Meals are definitely heavier. There is no
 5 doubt also that there is less variety and that often meals comply to the formula of “meat and two veg” (often beef or pork plus boiled cabbage and potatoes). This is typical of home cooking.

However, the situation in restaurants has changed dramatically, particularly over the past twenty years. Before the 70’s it was difficult to find good
 10 restaurants. They were rare and frequently expensive.

Now you can enjoy the pleasures of every type of cuisine from all over the world in London and other big provincial cities. There are Indian, Vietnamese, Hungarian and Thai restaurants as well as the more common fast food places. French, Italian and Japanese restaurants tend to be rather pricey.

15 Amongst this exciting plethora of culinary diversity can still be discovered the traditional fish and chip shop serving freshly caught fish, deep fried with a generous helping of fried potatoes – known locally as chips. Wrapped in newspaper this can be taken home or can be eaten on the premises. The pleasure of this experience depends on the comfort and decor of the place.

20 Perhaps the most famous dish in the British Isles is roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, usually served with roast or boiled potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Many families either go out to a restaurant on Sundays to enjoy this dish or they eat more traditionally at home.

Despite the fact that the British have had to tighten their belts financially
 25 of late it is surprising to find that restaurant prices in London are equivalent to those of Tokyo and there seems no shortage of customers.

Enjoy your meal!

Notes

axiom = maxim 「格言」 **stodge** 「(腹にもたれる) こってりした食べ物」 **veg** = vegetable, **cuisine** 「料理」 **plethora** 「過多」 **culinary** 「料理の」 **deep fried** 「たっぷりの油で揚げた」
a generous helping of ... 「…のたっぷりした盛りつけ」

Comprehension Exercise

テープを聞いて、それぞれの質問に正しく続く答えを A. B. C. の中から 1 つ選びなさい。

1.
 - A. better at cooking than the French.
 - B. more interested in food than the French.
 - C. less interested in food than the French.

2.
 - A. not as heavy as in Japan.
 - B. more varied than in Japan.
 - C. not as light as in Japan.

3.
 - A. more restaurants with the same food.
 - B. a greater variety than in Japan.
 - C. not much food in restaurants.

4.
 - A. the most delicious dishes in Britain.
 - B. the most common dishes in Britain.
 - C. the most traditional dishes in Britain.

Vocabulary Exercise

次の文中の下線部と同じ意味の語句を A. B. C. の中から 1 つ選びなさい。

1. I was struck by the beauty of the scene.

A. hit by	B. impressed by	C. hurt by
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2. If you do not comply to the rules you will be punished.

A. agree to	B. answer to	C. adhere to
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3. Alcoholic drink may not be consumed on the premises.

A. in the building	B. in the city	C. in the regulations
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4. Tom lost his job and he knew he would need to tighten his belt.

A. eat less	B. spend less	C. dress less
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Think About It

1. What do you consider a typical Japanese food? Select a food and then tell:

A. what it is made of

B. how often you eat it, and

C. whether you eat it at home or in restaurants or both.

2. If you had a foreign friend visiting Japan, what “Japanese ethnic” food would you introduce her or him to? Explain your answer.

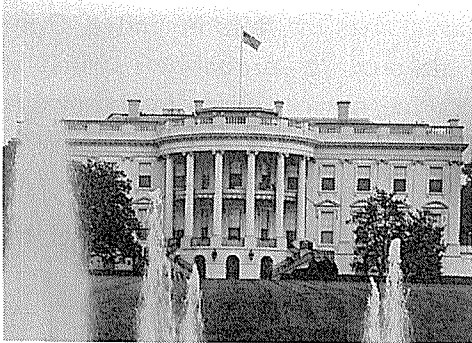
3. Explain the difference between a Japanese breakfast and a Western breakfast. Which do you prefer?

For Your Information

食べ物と飲み物は、その国の風俗・習慣あるいは文化そのものをよく表します。日本料理は美しいですから、目で食べる (For the Japanese, food is for the eye.) と言われていたようです。目で食べる日本料理の代表として、お寿司があります。英語では、次のように言います。トロ tuna belly, いか squid, えび shrimp, たこ octopus, あなご sea eel, いくら salmon roe, うに sea urchin, かっぱ巻き cucumber roll, ガリ pickled ginger, 西洋わさび horse-radish, トロをにぎる fix tuna belly, 手巻き鮭をつくる, make a hand-rolled sushi, 醤油につける dip the sushi into the soy sauce, 鮭をつまむ pick up a piece of sushi, 一口で食べる eat in one bite. 欧米でもダイエット食として人気があります。アメリカ産の寿司ネタとして、アボカドを入れ海苔の代わりに薄焼き卵で巻いた California roll はアメリカ人にとりわけ人気があります。

2. Politics and People

Prereading



1. What is the most recent political scandal in your country? Briefly explain.

2. Think of one major problem in your country. Write it in the blank below. Then think of three things politicians could do to help remove or lessen the problem.

Problem : _____

Solution A : _____

Solution B : _____

Solution C : _____

United Kingdom

The British are fond of saying that Britain's Houses of Parliament are the seat of democracy. The argument goes that Westminster is the Mother of Parliaments and Magna Carta is where people power started. It is true that many parliaments, particularly in former colonies, have been based on the Westminster model. However, Magna Carta was a million miles from representing the interests of the people, although it probably marked a watershed in the reduction of the absolute divine power of the monarch. It was not until the 19th century that the ordinary people had much power at all to speak of. It is estimated that even today the top 1% of the population still owns about a quarter of the nation's wealth. A rather dubious distinction for a modern democratic state.

The main political parties are the Conservatives – currently in power – Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The Labour Party lays claim to the support of the working people but in fact many working class voters are staunchly conservative. The Conservatives represent the solid middle classes – although many of their number favour Labour. The Liberals catch those between. The upper class is too small to count in terms of votes but supports the Tories (another name for Conservatives) to the hilt. The Conservatives had an unprecedented twelve year stint in power under Mrs. Thatcher and are still holding on to it despite her rather grey successor, Mr. John Major.

The voting system in Britain is the “first past the winning post” or “winner takes all” system. This ensures governments with working majorities in parliament but often means the winning party gains less than 50 % of the votes cast. Naturally, the smaller parties would favour a proportional representation system which would give them more seats in the Commons.

The British take a lively interest in politics but are very cynical about the actions and motives of politicians. Despite a long record of democracy the UK still lacks a Bill of Rights or a Freedom of Information Act.

Notes

Magna Carta = great charter 「マグナカルタ、大憲章 (1215年6月15日 Runnymede で英国王 John が貴族に迫られて承認を余儀なくされた自由の特許状 英国憲法の基礎となった)」 **Conservatives** 「保守党」 **Labour Party** 「労働党」 **to the hilt** 「完全に、徹底的に」 **winning post** 「決勝点 (ゴール)」 **Commons** 「下院」 **Bill of Rights** 「権利の宣言 (the Declaration of Rights を確認した1689年制定の法律)」

Comprehension Exercise

テープを聞いて、それぞれの質問に続く正しい答えをA. B. C. の中から1つ選びなさい。

1. _____
A. unbelievable
B. beyond question
C. doubtful
2. _____
A. the middle classes
B. the lower classes
C. the Royal Family
3. _____
A. few votes from their supporters
B. fewer votes than other parties
C. fewer than half the votes cast
4. _____
A. motives and actions
B. minimal protection
C. comprehensive insurance

Vocabulary Exercise

次の文中の下線部と同じ意味の語句をA, B, Cの中から1つ選びなさい。

1. My mother is fond of saying that a rolling stone gathers no moss.
A. has a tradition of B. likes C. is familiar with
2. Winning the school prize for being the fastest soba eater is a dubious distinction.
A. obscure B. skeptical C. questionable
3. The military leader now lays claim to the office of the president and will kill any who dispute him.
A. warrants occasionally B. asserts his right C. postulates ownership
4. My mother is a staunch conservative, and will never waver in her beliefs.
A. peppery B. stopped up C. firm

United States



Unlike Britain, the system of government of the United States is a federal system – meaning that each of the three branches of government (the executive or presidential, the legislative or congress, and judicial or courts) controls different aspects of American life. This, however, is not what Americans mean
 5 when they talk about ordinary or garden variety politics. Instead, politics usually means whether there should be any government at all. And, if such a thing is a necessary evil, how little or much of it is necessary. On this, like the British, opinions are divided and strongly held.

My friend Lisa was having dinner with my mother and me a while back.
 10 Lisa observed, just in passing as it were, that government ought to take some responsibility for the discrimination against African Americans. At this my mother came to life. She first anathematized the government for daring to tell her what to do with property, money or taxes of her own. She then clearly laid the responsibility for the conditions facing African Americans at their own
 15 door steps, claiming that if they really wanted to do better, they would have to be the ones who did it, not her. She had troubles enough of her own. She next suggested that the problems facing them—poverty, drugs, inadequate schools, rampant crime—were in fact less serious than normally acknowledged. Finally, she reverted to her first and major theme that the government, any
 20 government, was a pack of liars and anyone who wanted more were (expletive deleted) communists and should move to Russia.

Lisa and I sat there, listened politely, and by the time dessert came, agreed that, in fact, there were political problems facing Americans and that the solutions weren't easy. An anodyne escape, perhaps, but a politic one. In the
 25 end we agreed that, perhaps, the best thing was to simply recognize the importance of a basic American maxim—at the dinner table, don't talk about religion or politics.

Notes

discrimination 「差別」 **came to life** 「話題になった」 **reverted** 「(もとの話に) 立ち返った」
expletive deleted 「ひどい、でたらめの」ここでは swearword として使われている **maxim** 「格言」

Comprehension Exercise

テープを聞いて、それぞれの質問に続く正しい答えをA. B. C. の中から1つ選びなさい。

1. _____
A. certain areas
B. all aspects
C. three parts
2. _____
A. necessary at all
B. necessary for all
C. a necessary minimum
3. _____
A. progressive
B. liberal
C. conservative
4. _____
A. angry at
B. tolerant of
C. cynical about

Vocabulary Exercise

次の文中の下線部と同じ意味の語句をA, B, Cの中から1つ選びなさい。

1. He is just a garden variety politician who is trying to convince people that his interests are theirs.
A. vegetarian B. earthly C. ordinary
2. The President anathematized the foreign power, calling it an evil empire.
A. castigated B. castrated C. cast away
3. The public is fed up with rampant crime and wants to punish the malefactors with longer prison sentences.
A. clarion B. dominant C. unrestrained
4. His reply was intentionally anodyne, thus saving him from further explanations and recriminations.
A. casual B. scholarly C. bland

Think About It

1. Name the major political parties in Japan.

2. Think of three types of political parties. Describe each.

3. In the UK and US politicians have the lowest level of trust of any group. What's the situation in Japan? Give an example.

For Your Information

1963年8月28日、米国始まって以来の最大級の政治集会が、Washington D.C.で行われました。25万人近くが参加したといわれる集会で、黒人牧師マーチン・ルーサー・キングのスピーチは、真の自由と平等を訴えたものですが、文学的にも優れた名演説とされています。

I have a dream that one day /every valley shall be exalted, /every hill and mountain shall be made low /rough places will be made plain, /and the crooked places will be made straight, /and the glory of the Lord /shall be revealed /and all flesh shall see it together.

これは聖書のイザヤ書40章4,5節を部分的に引用していますが、ここでの valley は「貧しい者」を、hill and mountain は「富める者、高い地位にある者」を象徴しています。