

Preface

読むことが楽しくなる理由は何でしょうか。それは人によって様々でしょう。短い読み物が好きな人は、長い読み物を退屈に感じるでしょう。自分に関係あることに興味がある人もいるでしょう。もちろん、面白いトピックについて読みたいと誰しも思っています。大学生向け英語のリーディング教材の問題点は、この3点（適切な長さか、学生に関係ある内容か、面白く読める内容か）に欠けているにあると考え、この点に留意して、英語初級者がリーディングスキルの向上をめざすための動機付けになるような教科書を意図して作成しました。

各ユニットでは若者にとって興味深い内容の短い読み物を取り扱っています。また各ユニットの単語レベルを頻出単語にしぼることにより、初級者でも読めるような英文にしました。学習者はむずかしくて長い英文に苦戦する代わりに有益な単語や表現、文法を学習することができます。







最初にざっと英文に目を通し、2回目には英文の内容を深く考えながら読み進め（その際にはメモを取りながら読んでみるとよいでしょう）読み終わったら自分の言葉で英文を要約できるか確認してみましょう。3回目には音読してみるとよいでしょう。

学習者の皆さんが各ユニットのトピックに触発されて英語へ興味を持ち、ひいては英語力向上をめざしていただけることを切に願っております。

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Vocabulary Task

 01-02

下記の語の意味を辞書で確認しましょう。

normal	somewhat	intensified	thus
aspect	participant	survey	location

空欄に上記の語を入れて意味の通る英文にしましょう。

1. The pain in my back _____ day by day.
2. Safety is a positive _____ of Japanese society.
3. We took a _____ of men under 60 for their opinions.
4. He will not be a _____ in this game.
5. It was very cold, and _____ we decided to buy another heater.
6. Her weight is _____ for her age.
7. This is a poor _____ for a noodle shop.
8. She is _____ lazy.

上記の語を本文中から見つけて○をつけましょう。

1 Do you **slurp** noodles? For Japanese people, it is a completely normal thing, but for some foreign people coming to Japan, it is a somewhat surprising custom. Just by visiting a ramen shop in Japan, foreign tourists can learn about Japanese food culture.

2 Sometimes, foreign people ask their Japanese friends, “Why do Japanese people slurp noodles?” If you were asked this question, what would your answer be?

3 There might be three main reasons. First, noodles are served very hot. Slurping helps to cool the noodles down. Second, slurping **makes** the noodles more delicious. Taking in noodles and air at the same time intensifies the delicious flavors. Finally, slurping **lets** people around you know that you are enjoying the delicious noodles. It **conveys** a message that, “These noodles are delicious!” Thus it makes a great atmosphere for enjoying noodles.

4 However, is it acceptable to slurp noodles anywhere? Are there some situations where it is best to eat noodles quietly?

5 We asked some young Japanese people for their views on this question. Everybody said that, in a noodle shop or other restaurant in Japan, noisily slurping noodles is fine. Everybody should accept and enjoy this aspect of Japanese food culture.

6 However, in other places the situation is **less clear**. How about in an office **setting**? These days, many people eat a boxed lunch or a sandwich at their desk at lunchtime. If you worked in an office, would you slurp noodles at your desk? Some young people said yes, others said no and a few said they would ask their **coworkers** for permission first.

7 How about on a **bullet train**? Many people eat all kinds of foods on bullet trains and that is normal, but is it OK to noisily slurp noodles there too? Most of the participants in our survey said that they probably would not slurp on the bullet train.

8 Perhaps the eating style depends on the location and the people surrounding us.

(322 words)

slurp
すする

make+目的語+形容詞
(目的語)を(形容詞の
状態)にする

let+目的語+動詞の原形
(目的語)に(動詞の原
形)させる

convey
伝える

less clear
よりあいまいである
setting
状況、環境、設定

coworker
同僚

bullet train
新幹線



Pair Work

下線部が何を指しているかパートナーと一緒に考えましょう。

True or False

本文の内容と一致すれば **T** (True) を、一致しなければ **F** (False) を記入しましょう。

- () 1. These days, foreign people are coming to Japan in order to slurp noodles.
- () 2. A visit to a ramen shop can teach foreign visitors about Japanese food culture.
- () 3. There may be three explanations for the Japanese custom of slurping noodles.
- () 4. Slurping noodles makes the noodles hotter.
- () 5. All the Japanese people in the survey accept slurping noodles in restaurants.
- () 6. Recently, people in offices often have lunch at their desks.
- () 7. The people in the survey had various opinions about slurping noodles in an office.
- () 8. In Japan, it is not permitted to slurp noodles on bullet trains.

Comprehension Questions

本文を読んで以下の質問に日本語で答えましょう。

1. 外国人にとって驚くべき日本の習慣とは何ですか。
2. その驚くべき習慣の理由がいくつか述べられていますが、それらは何ですか。
3. 日本の若者はその日本の習慣について、どのような意見を持っていますか。

Collocation

日本語をヒントに空欄を埋め意味の通る英文にしましょう。

1. If you eat ramen every day, you might **take** () too much salt.
「摂取する・飲み込む」
2. The students **asked** () information about the test. 「求める」
3. The expert gave his **views** () the election result. 「～についての見解」
4. **Some** people like watching TV, () like watching YouTube.
「～するものもあれば～するものもある」
5. Your test result **depends** () the amount of studying you do. 「～次第である」

Reading Summary

下記の日本語をヒントにして空欄に当てはまる語（1語とは限りません）を入れ、本文の要約を完成させましょう。必要なら辞書を使いましょう。

In Japan, people have a () to slurp noodles. There may be several () for this. For example, slurping may communicate a feeling of (). In addition, many people also think that it () the taste of the noodles. Therefore, in Japan, an () such as a ramen restaurant may be quite noisy. This may be surprising for foreign visitors to Japan. However, for Japanese people it is normal and in fact most visitors () this aspect of Japanese food culture. (), some Japanese people might () from slurping noodles in certain locations. On the bullet train, for example, it is acceptable for () to eat many types of foods but people slurping noodles are ().

環境	理由	良くする	乗客	それにもかかわらず
珍しい	傾向	控える	満足	受け入れる

Grammar Point + Grammar Exercise

動名詞の働き

主語になる Slurping helps to cool the noodles down.

目的語になる Many foreign people also want to try slurping.

補語になる My hobby is jogging.

前置詞の後に来る He is fond of eating.

目的語を取る Playing tennis is fun.

副詞(句)を伴う Would you mind walking slowly?

動名詞を使用して次の和文を英語に訳しましょう。

1. 何も言わずに彼は部屋を出た。
2. 富士山に登ることは楽しい。
3. 百聞は一見にしかず。
4. ピアノを弾くことが好きだ。
5. 早足で歩くことが健康への鍵だ。