

E 部門(A)

A Tale To Tell

‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ . It’s a popular question to ask children about their future dreams. But for some, it is difficult to answer. Also, if you don’t become what you imagined, it can feel like giving up on your dreams. However, there is another interesting way to think how your life will be.

Have you ever read an ‘obituary’? An obituary is the story of someone’s life after they have died. You find them in newspapers. They talk about when the person was born and died, what their family was like and the things they did. Of course, people dying is sad, but the stories they leave can be wonderful. It can show the efforts, success and failures of someone’s full life journey. It also shows us their importance to other people and whether they were serious, funny or caring. The best part about obituaries is that they can give us inspiration to make our life interesting and meaningful. Not only by wanting to match the achievements of others but avoiding their difficulties too.

Ask yourself, ‘Would I enjoy reading my own life story?’ If not, how can you change or enrich it?

If you focus on leading your life as leaving a good story when you die, I think you will be able to make better choices. Not only will you seek adventure but you’ll be more confident to cut back boring chapters. You might have courage to live life differently from more regular scripts. Being the hero of your own story doesn’t only mean success. It means how you manage hardships, inspire the people around you and enjoy it all. You can also use characters from stories you like to guide you on the way.

Now, if I had to think of phrase I would be remembered by, I would like it to say: (あなたを印象付ける英文をここに入れてください)

E部門(B)

Food for the Future

Sushi, soba and tempura are all delicious examples of Japanese cuisine called “washoku”.

In 2013, washoku was given special heritage status. There are many good points to Japanese food. For example, it's fresh, seasonal and healthy. It also looks beautiful and can have special meaning for different events. Many of us regularly eat Japanese food but many more kinds of foods are entering our diets and what we eat.

Getting a wider taste of new and foreign foods is delicious, for example, I love (あなたの好きな海外の食べ物を英語で入れてください). However, we also need to be careful of foods with excess sugar, salt, fat and chemicals that are bad for us.

Some visitors to Japan can have a hard time finding food they can eat. For vegetarians, or people who don't eat meat or fish, finding fish broth with their noodles or bacon on their salads can be disappointing. There are also more people sensitive to gluten which is found in wheat flour. It is often difficult for them to find 'gluten free' bread, pasta or other products usually made from wheat.

Then there are vegans who don't eat any animal products including those containing milk, eggs or honey.

Traditionally, not much meat was eaten in Japan, but now, like the whole world, we eat it more. This has a big impact on the health of the world. Livestock like cows, pigs and sheep need a lot of clear land to grow. A lot of natural forest is destroyed to make space. This reduces the number of trees to help take up CO2 and also removes the homes of many plants and animals. The grain to feed the animals is taken from poorer countries and the gas and waste from the animals pollutes the world.

People now are interested in changing this situation. Some meat like products are being made from beans or grains and there's even talk of eating more insects in our diets.

We need to make good choices about what food we eat and where it comes from. After all, we are what we eat. What kind of person do you want to be?

E 部門 (C)

Comedy Across Cultures

Here's a joke for you to enjoy:

(a.b.c のいずれか一つを選んで読んでください)

- a. Why was the number 6 sad? ... Because 7 ate 9.
- b. What can you catch but not throw?... A cold.
- c. What has many keys but can't unlock a door?... A piano.

Do you get it? The joke plays with different meanings for the same word in English.

Most people enjoy comedy. But what is funny to one person might not be funny for another. Comedy across countries can also be very different. Not only in language but in cultural understanding too.

It is said that comedy is finding something surprising. That surprise can be a twist in a story, a turn from cultural rules or something totally unexpected. Comedy that is simple, physical and about everyday life is most easily understood across people and cultures. Comedy that is rich in local customs or language is difficult to appreciate more widely.

Two main forms of Japanese comedy are manzai and rakugo. In manzai there are often two characters. One is usually very straight forward and the other is a bit silly. The misunderstandings between them makes it funny. Rakugo is traditional story telling with a surprising end.

Japanese and American audiences usually like direct and clear comedy. British and Australian people prefer comedy that might not seem funny at first until you think more deeply about it.

Comedy has different layers to understand. What makes people laugh is a reaction connected to their language and culture. You can try to find something funny and new from around the world. Or, why not tell a Japanese joke in English to get a laugh?

(音読モデルは 3 つとも読んでいます)

E 部門 (D)

Pronunciation Like A Pro

There are some words we use every day in Japan that are also used in English speaking countries. Can you think of any? Today, I want to talk about five of them. Sometimes the words sound similar but sometimes it is difficult to guess what the words mean.

The first word is the name of a fish. It is popular with mayonnaise in Japanese onigiri or sandwiches. It can also be called 'sea chicken'. Yes, that's right, ツナ. Americans pronounce it as 'two-na' while British pronunciation is 'chew-na'. Which do you like?

Another food word is チョコレート. The Japanese katakana for it is very bumpy with many vowel sounds. English speakers say it more straight, like 'chokk-let'.

Then there is the fast food restaurant with the 'M' logo. Know its name in English? 'Mkk-Dohh-neldz'. It's also called shorter names around the world like 'Micky-Ds' and 'Maccas'.

Finally, there are two Japanese words that are used in English speaking countries. Can you guess what they are? First is 'carry-o-key'. It's a popular way to relax, sing and have fun with your friends. People usually do it in a small room. Got it?

Yes, カラオケ.

For a more serious activity, why not try 'ku-ra-tea'? You'll need to learn many kicks, punches and blocks. Maybe you can get a black belt one day. That's right, it's カラテ

When learning a new language, it is always interesting and fun to discover new sounds. It is also important to try the local ways of pronunciation to help our communication be understood. Give it a go!