

# Eureka

— Current Events in Modern Times —

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## FOREWORD

*Eureka — Current Events in Modern Times* is for the Japanese student who wants to learn about how cross-cultural exchanges of ideas lead to mutual understanding. It is the intention of the authors to present each subject in as objective a manner as possible by sticking to the facts and the results of surveys whenever applicable. Although this book was written mainly for university students, we feel that others will also find it helpful.

The organization of the book is simple. It contains twenty-two units designed for the Japanese university and college schedules. Each unit includes a reading, multiple choice, true-false statement for content check-up, dialog, questions and answers, What about you?, matching synonyms and antonyms, dictation, and translation exercise. All questions are based on the information in the reading text.

The readings, which begin the unit, deal with various aspects of life in Japan as well as other countries. The subject matter of each reading is given in the Table of Contents. The presentations or reading texts are recorded on tape and CD for listening practice.

The multiple choice test requires the student to answer each question by circling the correct letter.

The true-false and translation section are self-explanatory. Dictation consists of three text-related sentences.

The dialogs require that the student arrange five words in order after listening to the tape or CD. (There are five sets of five words presented in each dialog.)

The questions and answers exercise consists of three questions. Students should answer them in complete sentences.

The "What about you?" exercise consists of seven questions which the student is asked to answer in sentence form.

The match the numbers to the correct letter exercise involves pairing each of the five words to its nearest similar or opposite meaning. The first column of five synonyms and antonyms appear in the reading text.

Readers should find *Eureka — Current Events in Modern Times* informative and entertaining. We hope that you will become more aware of how the international community functions. This will lead to better lines of communication for all.

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## ま え が き

本書 *Eureka — Current Events in Modern Times* は、異文化交流によって相互理解というものがいかにもたらされるかについてご興味をお持ちの日本の学生さんのために書かれたものがあります。それぞれの題材については、随時、該当する事実や調査結果などに依拠し、可能な限り客観的な方法で提示することを心がけました。たしかに本書はおもに大学生向けに書かれたものではありませんが、それ以外の方々にとりましても、必ずや有益なものとなろうと確信いたしております。

本書の構成はシンプルそのもので、日本の大学生や短大生のことを考慮した22のユニットからなっております。そのそれぞれのユニットは、読み物、選択肢問題、内容把握のための正誤問題、会話問題、一問一答問題、「みなさんの場合は?」、同意語と反意語の問題、ディクテーション問題、そして英作文練習問題などから構成されており、問題はすべてテキスト内の読み物の内容に基づいております。

まずユニットの最初となる読み物についてですが、ここでは人間の生活に関し、日米を問わずさまざまな側面からそれを取り扱っております。読み物のそれぞれの主題については、目次に示されております。テキストの中で述べられた内容や読み物につきましては、リスニング練習用として、朝日出版社ホームページからダウンロードすることが可能です。

- ★選択肢問題におきましては、それぞれの質問に対し学生は、正しい解答を○で囲むやりかたで進めていくことになります。
- ★正誤問題と英作文の箇所につきましては、ご説明の必要はないことでしょう。  
またディクテーション問題は、テキストに関連した3つの英文から構成されております。
- ★会話問題につきましては、学生は音声を聞いた後、5つの単語の順序を入れ替えることが求められます。(それぞれの会話文のなかには、5つの単語からなるセットが5セットずつ提示されております。)
- ★一問一答問題(クエスチョンズ・アンド・アンサーズ)は3つの質問から構成され、学生は文章を完成させた形で答えなくてはなりません。
- ★「みなさんの場合は?」という問題はそれぞれ7つの質問からなり、学生はそれぞれのそれについて文章の形で答えていくことになります。
- ★同意語と反意語の問題(番号とアルファベットを正しく組み合わせる問題)では、5つの単語それぞれについて、そのもっとも近い意味、あるいは遠い意味から正しく組み合わせることが要求されます。同意語、反意語、そのそれぞれの最初の欄に出ている5つの単語は、テキスト内に登場したものとなります。

読者となられるみなさんは、本書 *Eureka — Current Events in Modern Times* が情報として有益であるのみならず、内容としても楽しめるものとなっていることにきっと気づかれるはずです。みなさんが国際情勢についてよりいっそうの認識を深められ、そしてそのことを通じ、より良いコミュニケーションを構築されることを願って止みません。

最後に、本書の出版にあたり、朝日出版社編集部の日比野忠氏、ならびに佐藤治彦氏には並々ならぬご尽力を賜りました。ここに記して感謝の意を表します。

ウェイン・フィリップス  
相馬 美明

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In July of 2010 an American comedian, Bill Cosby, was asked what hell would be like. He said that it would be a place where everyone is laughing — but there is nothing funny! For a comic, perhaps, that would be dreadful.

Humor is a funny thing. If you understand them, jokes, puns, riddles, tongue  
5 twisters, quizzes and puzzles can be very entertaining. But if you don't get them, there is no use in trying to explain them to you. It is simply too late to be funny anymore.

In Japan, puns are popular. A pun is the humorous use of a word in a way that suggests two or more interpretations. For example, in Tokyo, on the Sobu line, there  
10 is a train station that means "I don't like the number one". In Japanese the name of the station is Ichigaya, (Ichi-ga-ya). And on the Chuo line, there is a station that means "Did you see it?" The name of the station is Mitaka, (Mita-ka). Puns are usually easy to understand.

Jokes can be a little more confusing. This is because culture defines what is, or  
15 is not, funny. For example, a man was asked if he smoked. He answered, "Only when I'm on fire." Why is this funny? What did the man mean by this? He meant that he didn't smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes at all. The only time he would smoke is if he were on fire. This Western joke doesn't go over well with people in Asia because most of the people are cremated after they die. In the West, most people's  
20 bodies are buried.

A quiz is a practical joke. For example, a young child was holding a small box in his hand. He went to another child and told him that he had a lot of bees in the box. Just then, the box was opened and, indeed, many B's fell out of it. You see, the box had many letter B's written on small pieces of paper.

25 A riddle is a puzzling question. For example, what can be dropped from the highest building and won't break, but if you throw it into water, it will be destroyed? The answer is tissue paper. Or, what question can you never answer "yes" to? — "Are you asleep?" Or, which room has no door, no windows, no floor and no roof? — a mushroom. Or, what do these three "keitai" pictures suggest to you? 

30 The answer is couch potato.

A tongue twister is a word or words which are difficult to say rapidly. For example in English it is difficult to pronounce, "Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?" What makes tongue twisters hard to say is the succession of similar consonantal sounds.

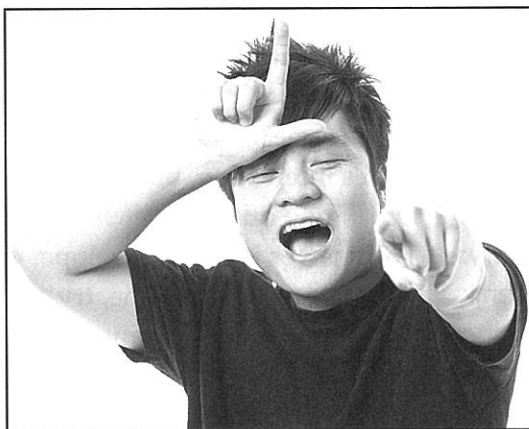
- 5 What do you think these two words mean? stand  
I The answer is I understand. Hopefully you could understand the humor in this presentation. Remember, it is the person who gets the last laugh, that laughs last. — Ha ha!

### Notes .....

**Bill Cosby:** ビル・コズビー (1937-)、ペンシルベニア州、フィラデルフィア出身のコメディアン。テレビプロデューサー、作家、俳優。自らのトークショーを通じ、常に人種差別や暴力などのアメリカ社会の抱える闇の部分と戦い続けてきた。アメリカを代表するコメディアン。グラミー賞、エミー賞など多数受賞。／**them:** それ以降の jokes 以下 puzzles までを指す／**pun:** だじゃれ、ごろ合わせ／**tongue twister:** 早口ことば／**confusing:** 紛らわしい、ややこしい、分かりにくい／**on fire:** 燃えて、火事になって／**cigar:** (葉巻) タバコ、シガー／**go over well:** 受けが良い／**cremate:** 火葬する、火葬にする／**practical joke:** ただの冗談、悪ふざけ／**puzzling:** わけのわからない、困らせる／**asleep:** 眠って、(婉曲的) 永眠状態で、死んだ／**couch potato:** lazy person テレビばかり見ている人、怠け者／**fuzzy:** (毛髪が) 縮んだ、縮れもの／**consonantal:** 子音の、子音性の

### ★ Quotable Quotes

Even a stopped clock is right twice a day.



**Practice A Multiple Choice**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the funny use of a word that suggests two or more interpretations.  
a. quiz   b. joke   c. pun
2. Bill Cosby is an American \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. riddle   b. comedian   c. joke
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a word or words which are difficult to say quickly.  
a. tongue twister   b. riddle   c. practical joke

**Practice B True or False**

1. Jokes can be a little more confusing than puns. (   )
2. In the story a man smoked and burned to death. (   )
3. The bees in the child's box were dangerous. (   )

**Practice C Dialog**

Arrange the five words in the correct order.

*(Discussing riddles)*

- Mary: Are you any good at figuring out riddles?  
Kenji: Not really, but let me try.  
Mary: OK. A woman has 7 children, <sup>1</sup>( of, boys, half, are, them ). How can this be possible?  
Kenji: Let me see. I don't think it is possible.  
Mary: Sure it is. ALL of the children are boys, so half are boys and <sup>2</sup>( is, the, so, half, other ).  
Kenji: That's funny. Give me another chance.  
Mary: How about this? What starts with "e" ends with "e" and contains only one letter?  
Kenji: "E" desu ne?  
Mary: That's interesting, but this <sup>3</sup>( riddle, not, Japanese, is, a ).  
Kenji: Oh. I give up.  
Mary: The answer is — an envelope.  
Kenji: I get it. <sup>4</sup>( last, how, one, try, about )?  
Mary: Here goes. It wasn't my sister, nor my brother, but still was the child of my father and mother. Who was it?  
Kenji: <sup>5</sup>( was, I, who, know, it ). It was the person speaking — YOU!



**Practice D Questions & Answers**

1. What question can you never answer "yes" to?
2. Why wasn't Fuzzy Wuzzy fuzzy?
3. Which train station in Tokyo means "I don't like the number one."?

**Practice E What about you?**

1. What funny thing has happened to you?
2. How does a Japanese tongue twister go?
3. Which Japanese popular pun can you tell us?
4. What is a riddle you can tell us?
5. How about a confusing joke?
6. Which quiz is one of your favorites?
7. What kind of practical joke have you seen or heard about?

**Practice F** Match the numbers to the correct letter.

**(1) Synonyms**

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. conclude [ ] | a. puzzle    |
| 2. question [ ] | b. finish    |
| 3. confuse [ ]  | c. likeable  |
| 4. funny [ ]    | d. ask       |
| 5. popular [ ]  | e. laughable |

**(2) Antonyms**

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. consonant [ ] | a. bore      |
| 2. similar [ ]   | b. different |
| 3. entertain [ ] | c. vowel     |
| 4. fall [ ]      | d. slow      |
| 5. rapid [ ]     | e. rise      |

**Practice G** Dictation



- Give me food, and I will live; \_\_\_\_\_, and I will die.  
What am I? — fire
- What can you \_\_\_\_\_ or using your hands?  
— your breath
- One-One was a racehorse. Two-Two was one, too. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Two-Two won one, too.

**Practice H** Translation

- こぼれたミルクになげいても無駄である。(覆水盆に返らず)  
・こぼれたミルク; spilt milk
- 彼の冗談はいつもきつ過ぎて笑えない。  
・きつ過ぎて; too practical
- ものごとを難しくしているものが、人と人のつながりである。  
・人と人のつながり; the relationships among people