Amazing Japan

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はしがき

The Japan Times の人気コーナー FYI では、外国人が疑問に思っていることを Q&A 形式で平易な英語で説明しています。本書は、その中から、特に大学生のみなさんに興味があるような日本の新旧名所、行事、文化、教育、スポーツ、食生活などを網羅して、外国人が疑問に感じている 15 のトピックを取り上げました。

さて、あなたは次の質問に英語で答えられるでしょうか?

Why does Japan have so many hot springs?

When did ramen come to Japan?

What is a typical program of "undokai"?

本書では、外国人の疑問について、Q&A形式で紹介しながら、以下の順番で四技能の訓練をします。

- Warm-up (Vocabulary)
 - 日本事象を説明するのに役立つ語彙を中心に学びます。
- Dictation (Listening)

穴埋め式のディクテーションをしながら、リスニング力を鍛えます。

Speed Reading

まず、速読で毎回、自分が毎分、何ワードの速度で読めるか(wpm)記録します。英語のネイティブスピーカーは、文章の難易度にもよりますが、一般的に、250-300wmp程度で英語を読んでいると言われています。学習者であるみなさんは、日常的に英語に接する機会は多くないので、意識して英語の速読力を身につけましょう。

- Comprehension Questions (Intensive Reading) 今度は細部まで捉えながら読み、どのくらい内容が理解できているか確認します。
- Wrap up (Speaking and Writing)

個人の活動として、まず、日本語で本文を要約します。次に、本文に関連する内容についてペアやグループで話してみましょう。そして、最後に発展問題として、ライティングの課題を用意しました。

このほか、本文を使った音読やシャドーイング、リサーチなど、本書をクラスのレベルや ニーズに応じて使用していただくことを心より希望しています。

今回のテキスト作成に際して、お世話になりました朝日出版社の佐藤治彦氏、小川洋一郎 氏に心からお礼を申し上げます。

2012年7月

津田晶子 Chris Valvona

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Unit

TOKYO SKY TREE

東京スカイツリー



Warm Up

次の質問に答えられますか?考えてみましょう。

Why does Tokyo need the new tower?

Vocabulary Building

(a)-(h)に対応する英訳を語群(1)-(8)の中から選びなさい。

[]	1 1 1	(1) temblor
[]		(2) vicinity
[]	1	(3) rice bowl
[]	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	(4) observation platform
[]		(5) pinnacle
[]		(6) buckwheat noodle
[]		(7) skyscraper
[]		(8) pillar
]]]]]]		

Dictation	
CDを聴いて空欄を	を埋めなさい。



(2回録音されています。1回目はナチュラルスピード、2回目はスロースピードです。) 1. The tower is () () by the end of the month. 2. Nearby stores have already () () () (), selling goods and foods with () () (), ().

3. Travel agencies meanwhile plan to () () (). /15)

Tokyo Sky Tree opener looms large

By HIROKO NAKATA

Tokyo Sky Tree is a key installation for digital terrestrial broadcasting and is expected to draw hordes of visitors to its observation platforms and entertainment complexes. Here are questions and answers about Tokyo Sky Tree:

Why does Tokyo need the new tower?

One of its main purposes is to broadcast clear television and radio signals without interference from the skyscrapers of central Tokyo. It will also replace the now-obsolete analog signal transmission role once provided by 333-meter-tall Tokyo Tower, which opened in 1958. Tokyo Tower is not tall enough for digital terrestrial TV broadcasting because of the continuing emergence of high-rise buildings in its vicinity.

In 2006, broadcasting firms agreed that a tower more than 600 meters high was needed, and construction of Sky Tree began in July 2008. The tower is scheduled for completion by the end of the month and will open to the public on May 22.

When did Tokyo Sky Tree take over the title of world's tallest?

The tower gained the status last March. The original plan called for Tokyo Sky Tree to be 610 meters high, the same as Canton Tower in China. But after the Chinese tower debuted in September 2010, the pinnacle of Sky Tree was raised by 24 meters in 2011.

The tower was capped at 634 meters because the Japanese syllables for 6 (mu), 3 (sa) and 4 (shi) spell out Musashi, the old name for the district in which it stands. The Musashi district once ranged from downtown Tokyo to parts of neighboring prefectures.

Can Sky Tree survive a massive earthquake?

The tower is designed to ride out major temblors. The main internal pillar is fixed to the outer tower structure up to 125 meters aboveground, but the pillar from 125 meters to 375 meters is attached to the tower's frame with oil dampers, which act as cushions when the tower shakes and can absorb 50 percent of the energy. Another type of damper is in place at the top of the tower.

How has Sky Tree changed the local business situation?

- Nearby stores have already jumped on the bandwagon, selling goods and foods with the tower theme, and shape.
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A "soba" (buckwheat noodle) shop sells a towering "don" (rice bowl) with three large shrimps. A bakery boasts a Sky Tree Danish pastry shaped like the tower. Travel agencies meanwhile plan to offer package tours. For example, Hato Bus Co. plans bus tours that take in Tokyo Sky Tree.

(410 words) Feb 21, 2012 The Japan Times

Speed Reading	1st time	/wpm : 2nd time	/wpm

Notes

digital terrestrial broadcasting: 地上波デジタル放送/hordes of ~: 多数の/

Canton Tower: 広州塔、広州タワー/Japanese syllable: 日本語音節

【参考】-

◆ 世界各地のランドマーク ◆

Big Ben: ロンドンの国会議事堂の時計塔の鐘

The (Leaning) Tower of Pisa: ピサの斜塔 Statue of Liberty: ニューヨークの自由の女神像

Tiananmen [Tienanmen] Square: 天安門広場

The Eiffel Tower: エッフェル塔

Comprehension Questions

正しいものを一つ選びなさい。

- 1. According to the article, which of the following is <u>not</u> a function of the Tokyo Sky Tree?
 - a. television broadcasting
 - b. high-rise accommodation
 - c. radio broadcasting
 - d. tourist attraction
- 2. What is the main problem with Tokyo Tower?
 - a. It is too old.
 - b. It cannot be adapted to cope with digital signals.
 - c. It is smaller than many other Tokyo buildings.
 - d. It doesn't attract enough tourists.

- 3. When did the planning of Tokyo Sky Tree most likely begin?
 - a. 1958
 - b. 2006
 - c. 2008
 - d. 2010
- 4. Why was the planned height of Tokyo Sky Tree changed?
 - a. to make it taller than Canton Tower
 - b. to make it taller than surrounding buildings
 - c. to make it more earthquake resistant
 - d. to make it spell out something in Japanese characters
- 5. Which of the following statements is true?
 - a. Sky Tree can withstand large earthquakes.
 - b. Sky Tree can withstand 50% of earthquakes.
 - c. The top half of Sky Tree is weaker than the bottom half.
 - d. The bottom half of Sky Tree is weaker than the top half.

Wrap Up

英文の内容を80字から100字の日本語に要約してみましょう。



ペアまたはグループで話し合ってみましょう。そして、クラスで発表しましょう。

• What's the most you would pay to visit Tokyo Sky Tree? What's the longest you would wait in line?

発展問題 (TOEFL/IELTS Writing)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

■ Tokyo Sky Tree should be free for Japanese residents to visit.