

VOA News:
Readings for Cross-cultural Understanding
異文化理解のためのVOAニュース 15

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はじめに

本書は、Voice of America (VOA) の Learning English と Student Union のニュースから異文化理解に関する最近のトピックを選び、リーディング教材として作成したものです。なおニュースの原文は、教育的な目的のために、多少修正しています。

「英語を通して世界の人とわかりあう心」を持ち、「異文化を理解しようとする態度」を深めるために、学習者が世界各国で起こった社会・文化面の興味深い出来事を知り、自分の問題として考え、読み進めていけるように教材が編成されています。

Chapter は全部で 15 あり、一つの Chapter には、平易な語彙と基本的な文法で構成された本文があり、そのあとの Notes で注意の必要な語彙の説明をしています。基礎固めが終わり、これから次のステップに進む学習者にとっても楽しみながら読み進められるレベルです。

本書は 4 技能 (読む、聞く、話す、書く) 活動を通して、リーディングが学習できるようにバランスよく構成されています。特に、自分の意見を書いたり、話し合ったりする問題を作り、各トピックについて自分の中でさらに深め、英語を使って自己表現する機会を設けています。

特色として：

1. How many words do you know? では、本文を理解するのに必要な重要語の意味を選択肢から選び、内容理解に備えます。
2. Reading comprehension: True or False では、内容についての質問に答え、読解確認をします。
3. Grammar section では、各チャプターに出てくる重要な文法を丁寧に説明し、構文理解の手助けをしています。
4. Listen to the dialogue and fill in the blanks. では、本文の問題をさらに発展させた会話や、テーマに関連した会話を聞き、単語の聞き取りや pair work での会話練習をします。
5. What's your opinion? では、自分の意見を英語でまとめ pair work で話し合います。
6. Cultural Information: Do you know? では、トピックに関する補足情報を日本語で提供しています。

それでは、世界の国々のニュースの旅に出発してください。

最後に、本書の出版にあたり、適切な助言をいただいた英宝社編集部の下村幸一氏に心からお礼を申し上げます。

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著者一同

◆ CONTENTS ◆

CHAPTER 01

Think Love is Complicated? Try Speaking Different Languages 2

CHAPTER 02

Young Japanese Seek K-Pop Stardom in South Korea 8

CHAPTER 03

Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words..... 14

CHAPTER 04

Iceland Celebrates 30 Years Since End of Beer Ban..... 20

CHAPTER 05

Naomi Osaka Sponsor Drops Ad after Criticism 26

CHAPTER 06

Two Musicians Play Across Cultures 32

CHAPTER 07

**Native American Mascots, Redface,
and Logos Are Slowly Disappearing 38**

CHAPTER 08

Singapore Grows More with Less on “Sky Farms” 44

CHAPTER 09

Kenya’s Deaf Rugby Team Hopes to Match National Team’s Success50

CHAPTER 10

“No Handshake? No Kiss?” Greetings in the Age of Coronavirus..... 56

CHAPTER 11

Cameroon’s Palm Tree Worms: Forest Food to Plated Delicacy..... 62

CHAPTER 12

Maz Jobrani: Building Cultural Bridges, One Laugh at a Time 68

CHAPTER 13

Finland Named The World’s Happiest Country 74

CHAPTER 14

New Zealand Celebrates Women’s Suffrage Anniversary 80

CHAPTER 15

Political Cartoons: Exploring Serious Subjects in a Fun Way..... 86

Think Love is Complicated? Try Speaking Different Languages



恋人同士のコミュニケーションは母語でも難しいものです。異なる文化で育ち、異なる言語を話す恋人たちの中には、どのような難しさがあるのでしょうか。

※写真はイメージです。

The language of love is difficult and complicated, no matter where you're from. With more than one million international students enrolled in colleges and universities across the United States, sparks are bound to fly.

A pair of students, one of whom is an international student, was interviewed and asked to describe how they manage their romantic relationship.

Khea Chang's family emigrated from Taiwan to Vancouver, Canada, making her a first-generation Canadian studying international relations at Boston University. Justin Devuono is from an Italian American family and is studying computer science at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

When they met at a friend's party, Justin's first impression was that Khea was cute. They slowly got to know each other but were just friends at first. However, Justin describes himself as "a guy who always keeps his eyes open for new opportunities," so when he realized he had a chance to start a romantic relationship with Khea, he went for it.

Yet despite the fact that they were both born and raised in a Western culture, the differences between their families were significant and hard to conquer. "It takes a lot of communication and understanding," Khea said, recalling her first visit to Justin's family.

"Being from an Asian family, when you bring your significant other to meet them, they're always very reserved," Khea said. "But when I met Justin's family, they immediately took me in and warmed to me very quickly. This was something I was not used to and, frankly, that I was shocked by. The very first time they met

me, they didn't hesitate to invite me to stay with them for Christmas.”

For his part, Justin said he felt the most difficult part of maintaining their relationship was to communicate and form a meaningful relationship with Khea's family because they don't speak English. “The language barrier between me and her parents makes it hard to develop a personal connection,” Justin said.

Cultural differences matter a lot in their relationship. Different family backgrounds make their communication harder because the values they hold and the ways they think differ significantly. Khea said that she had a hard time explaining her Chinese culture and roots to Justin.

“It's easy to get into fights with him simply because we have very different ways of doing things,” she said. “For example, it was hard for him to understand the symbolism behind many Chinese customs. And for me, although my family is from Taiwan, I grew up in Canada, so even I can't thoroughly understand or explain some parts of the symbolism. I just use it because my family uses it.” (437 words)

NOTE

enroll: 入学する sparks are bound to fly: きっと衝突が起こる emigrate: 移住する reserved: 控えめな significant other: 恋人、大切な人 language barrier: 言葉の壁 symbolism: 象徴的な意味 thoroughly: 十分に

1

How many words do you know?

次の単語の意味を、右の選択肢から選び記号で答えなさい。

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. complicated | () | a. 機会 |
| 2. impression | () | b. ～をちゅうちょする |
| 3. despite | () | c. 複雑な |
| 4. opportunity | () | d. 印象 |
| 5. hesitate | () | e. 重大な・大きな影響を与える |
| 6. maintain | () | f. ～を維持する |
| 7. significant | () | g. ～にもかかわらず |

2

Reading Comprehension: True or False

次の英文が、本文の内容に合っていればTを、合っていなければFを（ ）内に書きなさい。

1. Khea and Justin got to know each other when they attended the same class. ()
2. Justin wanted to start a relationship with Khea after they made friends with each other. ()
3. When Khea first visited Justin's family, they were very reserved. ()
4. Justin finds it hard to communicate with Khea's family because of language differences. ()
5. Khea cannot explain some aspects of her family's cultural background to Justin because she does not fully understand them. ()

3

Grammar section

「分詞構文の表す意味」

Being from an Asian family, you might expect your family to be reserved when you bring your significant other to meet them.

「アジア系の家の出身であれば、あなたが大事な相手を家族に合わせるために連れてきたとき、家族が遠慮がちになることを予想するかもしれません。」

分詞構文（現在分詞または過去分詞で始まる）は、文脈によってさまざまな意味になりますが、ここでは条件を表し、“If you are from an Asian family”と同じ意味になります。

その他の意味になる例を挙げると、

a) 時を表す場合

Seeing a police car, he ran away. (= When he saw a police car, ...)

「彼はパトカーを見ると、逃げ出した。」

b) 原因・理由を表す場合

Being tired, she went to bed early. (= Because she was tired, ...)

「彼女は疲れていたなので、早目に就寝した。」

c) 付帯状況を表す場合

She said, "Good-bye," smiling at me. (= ...while she was smiling at me.)
「彼女は私に微笑みかけながら「さよなら」と言った。」

d) 結果を表す場合

A big typhoon hit the island, causing great damage. (= ... and it caused great damage.)
「大きな台風がその島を襲い、多大な被害をもたらした。」

4

Listen to the dialogue and fill in the blanks.

会話文の音声を聞き、空所に適切な語をいれなさい。

Mary: Hi, Richard. Long time no see. How're you and Keiko doing these days?

Richard: Hi, Mary. It's a long time since we met last summer. So, yeah, I'm well, thank you, and Keiko is busy as usual, working at the bank, doing aerobics, and taking cooking classes. How about you, Mary? How have you and Kenji been lately?

Mary: Well, you know my husband is a system engineer. He often comes home late at night. Sometimes he looks (1.) from working such long hours. So, I just keep away from him when he looks tired out.

Richard: Oh, really? But don't you think communication is important for a couple, especially those from different cultures?

Mary: It depends. Of course, language is very important. That's why I started to learn Japanese at the culture center. I was born and (2.) in California. I didn't speak Japanese well, and Kenji wasn't good at speaking English when he asked me for a date. Honestly, I was very worried about the (3.) between us.

Richard: Sure, I understand. I felt the same way you did. I come from Boston, while my wife comes from Kyoto. I started from scratch in trying to understand the Japanese way of thinking.

Mary: I see. I'm beginning to realize that what's most important in a relationship is understanding our partners' feelings. That's why if my husband wants to be alone, I give him the time and space to do that.

Richard: Right, I see what you mean. I know Kenji is a very (4.) and

patient man. I guess he'd occasionally like to have time to think by himself

Mary: That's true. One other thing, though—besides our cultural differences, I think our misunderstandings sometimes just come from differences in our personal backgrounds, such as our families, the kinds of places we grew up in, and the different experiences that we've had. Anyway, how about you, Richard? What causes (5.) to fly between you and Keiko?

Richard: Well, Keiko and I often disagree with each other on what to eat, the TV programs we want to watch, and how to spend our free time. Those are probably issues for any couple, I guess.

Mary: Yes, I agree. So, Richard, I've told you my ideas. Tell me, what are your tips for maintaining good relationships with people from other cultures?

NOTE

tip: 秘訣

5 What's your opinion?

Mary の問いかけに、自分の考えを述べてみましょう。

Mary: What are your tips for maintaining good relationships with people from other cultures?

You: I think _____ is important because _____

次の⑥ Cultural Information: Do you know? も参考にしてください。

6 Cultural Information: Do you know?

異文化理解能力

1990 年以後、情報通信技術の急速な発展で、経済や社会の活動が、国家

を越えて、地球規模で、さまざまな現象を引き起こしています。このグローバル化に伴い、国を越えて、国籍、民族などの異なる大量の人々が移動・定住し、私たちは、言語、宗教、生活様式等の異なる人々とともに共存し、ともに生きていく多様な多文化時代を迎えています。日本においても、たくさんの海外からの観光客が急増し、国籍の異なる人々による国際結婚の数も 2000 年半ばまで急増してきました。

(八島智子・久保田真弓, 2012)

このような時代において、つぎのような異文化理解能力（多文化の人と円滑にコミュニケーションを図っていく能力）を育てる態度が必要です。

1. 自分の考えと違っても、「よくない」と思わずに、相手の考え方を理解、尊重する姿勢を持ち相手と話し合いをすることができる。
2. 自分の文化中心の見方にとらわれず、相手の文化の観点からも物を眺めてみようとする自分の世界で当たり前となっている常識を見直すことができる。
3. 相手の異なる考えや価値観を受けとめるオープンな心がある。
4. 自分の文化と異なる違いに否定的になったり、感情的にならずに、まずその判断を保留し、違いが生じた状況を冷静に眺めることができる。
5. 相手の違いを受けとめる柔軟な態度がある。

(八代京子・荒木昌子 他, 2011)

Related Vocabulary

globalization: グローバリゼーション international marriage: 国際結婚
intercultural/cross-cultural communication: 異文化コミュニケーション
increase sharply, soar: 急増する flexible frame of mind: 柔軟な態度 ethnic group: 民族(集団) multiculturalism: 多文化主義