

SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICA AND JAPAN

ありのままの日米比較

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はしがき

英語を学ぶということは、ことばを学ぶことだけではありません。それと併せて英語を話す人々の文化、考え方を知ることでもあります。異文化に触れることで視野が広がり、新たな発見が生まれます。今まで当たり前だと思っていたこと、疑問に思わなかったことが不思議に思えたり、一層はつきりとそれぞれの文化の側面が見えたりします。

本書は、スポーツ、カラオケ、アニメなど、日常的なテーマについて知日家のアメリカ人 Joshua Cohen 氏が書いたエッセイを中心にしています。私たちが普通だと思っていた日本のことが、彼の眼にはどのように映っているのでしょうか。アメリカの東海岸、西海岸の両方で生活し、日本での滞在も長い新進気鋭の Cohen 氏のエッセイを楽しんでください。

日米の類似点や相違点を楽しみながら、語彙や文法、リスニングなどのエクササイズを通して、英語力を向上させてくれることを願っています。

2013 年春
著者

本書の使い方

全体で 24 課です。各 Lesson は本文 (Reading) と、その内容理解度をチェックするための Exercises (A) ~ (D)、および本文と関連のある文法や会話文で構成しています。

Warm-up

写真やテーマに関する質問に答えてください。

1 Reading

本文の内容理解と共に、CD を聞いてリスニング力を向上させてください。

(A) True or False

() に適切な語を入れます。次にその英文が本文の内容に合っていれば T (True)、間違っていれば F (False) を選んでください。

(B) Words in Context

同義語、定義に合う語を本文より探して書いてください。

(C) Word Forms

空所に (B) Words in Context の語を正しい形にして書き、英文を完成してください。


(D) Rearranging


[] 内の語句を並べかえます。次に正しく並べた語句の前に付いているアルファベットを並べると、本文中にある単語になります。その単語を答えてください。

2 Incomplete Sentences

空所に入る最も適切な語句を選び、英文を完成してください。

3 Dialog

(A) CD を聞いて空所に語を書き、会話を完成してください。 

(B) CD を聞いて質問文の空所に語句を書きます。次にその質問に対する答えを (A) ~ (D) から 1 つ選んでください。 

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Warm-up

Write brief answers to these questions.

1. In which season do you think this photograph was taken?

2. How do you feel when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom?



1 Reading

Read this essay carefully and do the exercises that follow. 

If there is a Japanese person who doesn't enjoy being outdoors and in nature, I've never met one. Everyone I know loves hiking, skiing, mountain climbing, soaking in hot spring baths, and, most of all, hanami, or cherry-blossom viewing. Every year, in late March and early April, groups of revelers get together under cherry trees in full bloom and have picnics. They have a great time drinking, eating, and, these days, singing karaoke.

For most of the year, the cherry trees are just plain trees—pretty, quiet, but nothing special. But for a few weeks in spring, they are spectacularly alive, bursting with white or pink blossoms that can be seen day or night. These beautiful trees mark the start of spring and have come to symbolize new beginnings. As the cherry blossoms bloom, the new school year begins. Young workers take up their new jobs. It's just about everyone's favorite time of year.

Everyone also seems to have a favorite cherry-blossom-viewing venue. Some places, like Asakusa and Ueno Park in Tokyo, are so crowded you have to reserve a good spot. My first hanami party was in Osaka Castle Park, one of the best places to view the blossoms, but also one of the most crowded. I was thrilled to be there. The weather was warm and sunny, and everyone was in a great mood. And, of course, the blossoms were gorgeous.

Americans love having picnics, too, but ours are usually held in summer when school is out and the weather is dependably sunny. We pack a picnic basket in the trunk of the car and head off to the nearest lake or riverside park. Instead of rice balls and sandwiches as in Japan, we have potato salad and hotdogs or fried chicken. But we do the same things at our picnics: eat, drink, and be merry. We also like to play volleyball, baseball, or soccer.

Oh, and by the way, we also have cherry blossoms in America. In Washington, D.C., for example, there are thousands of cherry trees, all gifts from Japan. And an American friend of mine who went to the University of Washington in Seattle told me that in spring, the campus is alive with hundreds of Japanese cherry trees in full bloom—complete with Japanese-style hanami picnics underneath them.

Notes most of all 「とりわけ」 get together 「集まる」 in full bloom 「満開に咲いて」 head off to 「～に出かける」
by the way 「ところで」 complete with 「～がすべて揃う」

(A) True or False

Fill in the blanks in these sentences with (different / stand / went). Then circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.

- In Japan, spring and cherry blossoms () for new beginnings. T F
- Although the season for picnics in America is (), the food is about the same. T F
- The author () to the University of Washington. T F

(B) Words in Context

Find words in the reading that match these synonyms or definitions.

- particular (line 8) _____
- to represent (line 10) _____
- to hold, keep (line 14) _____
- excited (line 16) _____
- happy and having fun (line 23) _____

(C) Word Forms

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct form of a word above.

- Christmas is the _____ holiday of the year.
- Mike made a _____ for two nights at a Paris hotel.
- Kate works in a travel company that _____ in American tours.
- The bald eagle is a _____ of the United States of America.
- The movie takes you on a _____ adventure across the Sahara.

(D) Rearranging

Rearrange the words in brackets to complete each sentence. Then rearrange the letters of the words to make another word from the reading.

1. In spring, Japanese people [(n) a / (v) enjoy / (e) under / (u) picnic / (e) having] cherry trees.

(line 13)

2. Japanese people like cherry blossoms because they [(a) they / (e) of / (t) something / (s) symbolize / (k) the start / (b) think] new.

(line 20)

3. Americans are fond of [(p) but / (s) do / (c) having / (m) outside, / (a) picnics / (u) they] not usually eat rice balls.

(line 28)

2 Incomplete Sentences

Complete each sentence with the correct choice.

1. In Japan, spring is a warm and _____ season.
(A) comfortable (B) comfortably (C) comfort (D) comforted
2. Cherry blossom viewers are _____ and look very happy.
(A) life (B) live (C) lively (D) livable
3. Last night I was so tired that I fell _____ soon after I came back from cherry blossom viewing.
(A) asleep (B) sleep (C) awake (D) sleeping
4. Parks in Japan are rather _____ compared with those in the USA.
(A) as few (B) fewer than (C) small (D) smallness
5. In April it is _____ to find a _____ place for cherry blossom viewing because it is so crowded everywhere.
(A) hard / best (B) hard / good
(C) hardly / best (D) hardly / good



3 Dialog

(A) As you listen to the dialog, fill in the blanks. 🎧

On the phone:

W: Hey, Phillip, it's me, Anna. I was wondering about the weekend. What do you say to going cherry blossom viewing at Osaka Castle Park on Saturday? The trees should be in full ¹() by then. We could get up early and get a good ²(). We can pick up some ³() at a convenience store on the way.

M: I'm afraid I can't make it Saturday morning. I have to work. But what about Sunday? In fact, I was just going to call and ⁴() you. A few friends from the pub are already ⁵() to go Sunday morning. Can you make it?

W: That sounds great. Is it all right if I bring along my friend Fiona? She's fresh from the ⁶() and has never been cherry blossom viewing before.

M: Sure. The more, the merrier. And could you make some of your ⁷() potato salad?

W: Oh, so that's why you invited me!

(B) Listen and fill in the blanks in each question. Then choose the best answer. 🎧

1. _____ does Anna think _____ to go cherry blossom viewing?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (A) It won't be crowded. | (B) The trees will be in full bloom. |
| (C) The weather will be nice. | (D) They can get up early. |

2. _____ was Phillip _____ ?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (A) To ask her to bring Fiona along | (B) To ask her to pick up something |
| (C) To invite her to the pub | (D) To invite her cherry blossom viewing |

Notes what do you say to -ing? 「～するのはどうですか」 pick up 「買う」 on the way 「途中で」 make it 「都合をつける」 bring along 「連れて行く」 fresh from 「～から来たばかり」 the more, the merrier 「多ければ多いほど楽しい」