

How to Express Current Topics in English

Edited by

Yoshio Nagae

Setsuko Kondo

Alan P. Taplin

英潮社

EICHOSHA

How to Express Current Topics in English

by

Yoshio Nagae

Setsuko Kondo

Alan P. Taplin

■本書には録音テープがついています■

本書の完全学習にも、聞取り練習にも大変役立ちます。

ぜひご活用をおすすめします。 全2巻・¥4,120(税込み)

■ご注文は最寄の書店にお申し込み下さい。

日本出版権英潮社所有

本書を無断で複写（コピー）することは、著作権法上認められている場合を除き、禁じられています。小社は、著者から複写（コピー）に係る権利の管理につき委託を受けていますので、複写をされる場合は、必ず小社宛ご連絡ください。

時事・社会問題の英語表現

1992年2月1日 初版発行 検印廃止 定価 1,200円(本体1,165円)

編著者 長江芳夫
近藤 撰子
Alan P. Taplin
発行者 土岐省三

発行所 東京都千代田区神田神保町2-28 株式会社 英潮社
日下ビル(〒101)
電話 東京(3263)1641(代)・6171(代) 振替 東京7-55407番

[電植・印刷・株式会社和見]

落丁・乱丁本は本社でお取替えいたします。

1. Rice Problems

[A]

The domestic and international climate for Japan's agricultural production including rice growing has become ever more harsh.

The 1989 White Paper on Agriculture shows that more than 80 percent of consumers in Tokyo and other large cities purchase "free market" rice which is reputedly tastier than the rice distributed through government channels. 5

In terms of the production volume, too, the free market rice has been outpacing the government-controlled rice since 1987. In 1988, the latter accounted for 2.06 million tons, while the former reached 3.67 million tons, or some 1.6 million tons more. 10

The morale is that the tastier the rice the more the consumers would prefer to buy it, even at a higher price.

Production of safe (pesticide-free) and tastier rice would inevitably push up the production cost. The producers would have to adopt rationalization measures to absorb the cost increase. 15

There is no effective way for the Japanese farmers to protect their business but to win the confidence of the nation's consumers by striving to produce safe and qualitatively superior rice.

(*The Japan Times*)

White Paper on Agriculture 「農業白書」 "free market" rice 「自主流通米」 in terms of ～ 「～の点で」 government-controlled rice 「政府米」 account for ～ 「(数量が)～である」 pesticide-free 「農薬の使われていない」 cost increase 「コスト高」 but 「以外に」

[B] Answer in English ~~~~~

1. What percent of consumers in Tokyo and other large cities purchase free market rice?
2. When did the free market rice outpace the government-controlled rice in terms of the production volume?
3. What was the production volume of the free market rice in 1988?
4. What is meant by safe rice?
5. What is an effective way for the Japanese farmers to protect their business?

[C] Fill in the Blanks ~~~~~

1. 食管法は米の一粒一粒を、その生産段階から、販売、流通に至るまで、一様に規制している。

The Staple Food Control Law regulates every grain of rice from the stage of production to (s) and (d) in a unified way.

2. 政府の伝統的農業政策は、米作農家を過度に保護する結果となっていることは否定できない。

It cannot be denied that the government's traditional farm policy has resulted (i) unreasonably (p) rice-growing farmers.

3. 今の日本の生産者米価は、アメリカの6.5倍も高く、一方消費者米価はアメリカの2.4倍である。

The producers' rice price in Japan now is 6.5 (t) higher than in the U.S., (w) the consumer rice price is 2.4 (t) higher than in the U.S.

4. ガット(関税貿易一般協定)のウルグアイ・ラウンド(新多角的貿易交渉)が最終段階に入っており、日本政府は米市場開放の問題について決断を下さねばならないであろう。

The Uruguay Round of GATT talks is now entering its (f) (s), and the Japanese government will have to make a decision on the issue of opening the rice market.

5. 農民だけでなく、多くの消費者が無制限な米輸入を認めることに批判的である。

Not only farmers but many consumers are (c) (o) allowing unlimited rice imports.

[D] Translate into English

1. 米をはじめとする日本の農業生産は、国内国外ともにきびしい状況におかれている。

「国内国外ともに」 at home and abroad

「きびしい状況におかれている」 be in [under] harsh circumstances

2. 消費者が自主流通米の方を好むのは、いうまでもなく政府米より味がよいからだ。

「自主流通米」 cf. [A] l. 6; rice not subject to government control

「政府米」 cf. [A] l. 9; rice controlled by government

3. 安全でおいしい米を作るため、米作農家にとって、多少の生産費の上昇をみることもやむをえない。

「米作農家」 cf. [C] 2

「やむをえない」 unavoidable

4. 農民は生産者米価を現在の水準に据置くよう政府に要求しているに対し、政府はできるだけそれを下げようとしている。

「生産者米価」 cf. [C] 3

5. 米市場の開放に関する論議が、まるでせきを切ったように政財界で始まっている。

「米市場の開放」 cf. [C] 4; liberalization of the rice market

「まるでせきを切ったように」 as if a dam had burst

「政財界」 the political and financial worlds [circles]

2. Saving Energy

[A]

A working group of experts commissioned by the United Nations has compiled a report, warning that possible dangerous climatic change will cause the spread of desertification and the number of people rendered homeless will reach 30 million by the end of the 21st century.

5

It will be necessary for us all to change our lifestyles and activities in every social, economic and cultural context in order to hand over our precious Earth to the generations to come without damaging it further.

In the context of our daily lives, if each one of us adjusted 10
the temperature regulator on our home air-conditioner so as to keep the room temperature at a level one degree centigrade higher than before, the energy saved would be equivalent to 250,000 kiloliters of crude oil. If everyone shortened his or her shower by one minute, some 700,000 kiloliters of water can be 15
saved nationwide.

In the case of electric appliances used at home, conscious efforts have been made by manufacturers to incorporate energy-saving features, resulting in the reduction of electric consumption by 15 percent overall during the 13 years between 1973 and 20
1986. (The Japan Times)

hand over 「伝える」 adjusted 仮定法過去動詞 temperature regulator 「温度調節装置」 electric appliances 「電気器具」

[B] Answer in English

1. What have the U.N. experts warned of?
2. What is necessary for us to hand over our precious Earth to the coming generations?
3. If everyone kept the room temperature at a level one degree centigrade higher than before, how much energy would be saved?
4. If everyone shortened his or her shower by one minute, how much water would be saved nationwide?
5. What result was brought about by efforts of electric appliances' manufacturers between 1973 and 1986?

[C] Fill in the Blanks

1. 2つの石油ショック以来、エネルギー節約と他のエネルギー源の開発によって石油消費を抑える努力がなされてきた。

Since the two (o) (c), efforts have been made to reduce petroleum consumption by energy conservation and by development of other energy sources.

2. 産業界はエネルギーを節約し、代替エネルギー源の利用を進めるため懸命の努力をしている

The industrial world is making strenuous efforts to (s) energy and to promote the use of (a) energy sources.

3. 日本は天然資源が乏しいので、原材料のほとんどを海外からの輸入に頼らねばならない。

Being poor in (n) (r), Japan must depend on imports from abroad for the most part of its raw materials.

4. 国民の生活水準の向上、経済の発展のため、日本人は原材料の十分にして安定的な供給を確保する必要がある。

The Japanese have to assure themselves of a (s) and (s) supply of raw materials in order to improve their standard of living and develop the economy.

5. そのためには、資源の節約、国内資源のより有効な利用、原料の備蓄などを促進することが益々重要になる。

For that purpose, it will be increasingly important to promote the conservation of resources, more (e) use of (d) resources, and material reserves.

[D] Translate into English

1. 国連の専門家によれば、環境の変化により、21世紀までに3,000万人の人が家なしになるという。

「環境の変化」 environmental change

2. 省エネに協力するため、各人が日常生活において、家庭のクーラーを1℃だけ高くすべきである。

「家庭のクーラー」 cf. [A] l. 11

3. 一戸当たりの年間エネルギー消費量は1973～1986年の間に、30パーセント以上増加した。

「一戸当たりの」 per household

4. 世界の石油資源は、ここ50年以内に枯渇するだろうといわれている。

「枯渇する」 be depleted [exhausted]

5. 民間部門における省エネの努力が、問題解決のために不可欠である。

「民間部門」 the nongovernmental [private] sector

3. Air Pollution

[A]

When one talks about air pollution in large cities, the accusation is naturally directed to nitrogen oxide, the most serious culprit of all pollutants.

Most nitrogen oxide is emitted in automobile exhaust. Our modern society cannot cope without cars, but unless the total volume of exhaust is restricted we cannot expect to breathe reasonably clean air. 5

A policy study panel of the Environment Agency in November 1990 came out with restrictive measures designed to reduce the total volume of nitrogen-oxide emission from cars in certain designated regions. 10

Although the recommendation is still temporary, we support it in principle. The current state of air pollution is alarmingly critical.

Under the new restrictions, corporate operators of cars will be required to reduce the number of vehicles or replace present models with low-emission models in order to meet the emission-control standards. 15

As for diesel-engined vehicles, the use of low-emission models would become mandatory. (The Japan Times) 20

nitrogen oxide 「窒素酸化物」 the most serious culprit 「元凶」 pollutants 「汚染物質」 exhaust 「排気ガス」 a policy study panel 「政策調査委員会」 実際は「中央公害対策審議会」がこれに当たる。 the Environment Agency 「環境庁」 come out with ～ 「～を発表する」 emission-control 「排ガス規制」 become mandatory 「義務づけられる」

[B] Answer in English

1. What is the most serious culprit of air pollution?
2. What is most nitrogen oxide emitted in?
3. When did a policy study panel of the Environment Agency come out with the restrictive measures?
4. What will corporate operators of cars be required to do in order to meet the emission-control standards?
5. For what kind of cars would the use of low-emission models become mandatory?

[C] Fill in the Blanks

1. 大気汚染問題は、日本の高度経済成長時代が終わったので、過去のものになったという考えが今日強くなっている。

There is growing belief today that air pollution problems have become a thing of the past because the era of Japan's high economic growth has (c) to an (e).

2. 東京都庁は、11月から3か月間、毎週水曜日を「車減らしの日」に指定した。

The Tokyo (M) Government (d) every Wednesday as “motor vehicle-reduction day” for three months beginning in November.

3. この指定は、首都圏における車の使用を制限して、二酸化窒素の濃度を低下させることが緊急に必要なため行われた。

This designation was made because it was (u) necessary to limit the use of cars in the Metropolitan region and lower the (d) of nitrogen dioxide.

4. 日本は、東京、大阪のような大都市における車の台数制限の可能性を検討すべき時機にきている。

It is high time that Japan (e) possibilities of (r) the number of vehicles in large cities like Tokyo and Osaka.

5. 問題を解決するため、環境庁は低公害車、道路の改善、より厳しいディーゼル車の排ガス規制などを提案している。

In order to solve the problem, the Environment Agency has (p) low-pollution cars, road (i), and tighter restriction on exhaust from diesel-engined cars.

[D] Translate into English

1. 大気汚染の原因は、産業公害から車の排ガスによる汚染へと移行している。

「産業公害」 industrial pollution

「汚染」 pollution と contamination を使い分けて繰り返しをさけるとよい。

2. 大都市の空気汚染となると、最大の汚染物質として、窒素酸化物をあげねばならない。

「～となると」 when it comes to～

「汚染物質」 cf. [A] I. 3

「あげる」 cite; mention

3. 車から出る排ガスは、空気中の窒素酸化物の総量の約70パーセントにあたる。

「～にあたる」 account for～

4. 車の数を制限することは不可能かも知れないが、状況はそうした処置を必要とする点にまできている。

「～とする点」 the point where～

5. 実験の結果、車を使っている人は、使わない人の5倍以上、炭酸ガスを出していることがわかった。

「車を使っている」 drive a car

「炭酸ガス」=二酸化炭素 carbon dioxide; CO₂

4. Environmental Protection

[A]

Environmental problems can longer be localized in our world today. Global warming from carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, depletion of the ozone by chlorofluorocarbons, pollution of the seas, acid rain, destruction of the rain forests, desertification — all these are ecological issues on a global scale. 5

Public awareness of worldwide environmental issues, however, has a surprisingly short history. It was at the 1988 summit meeting of the seven major industrialized nations in London that environmental issues began to catch the attention of the world's headline writers. 10

More localized concerns for the world's ecology, of course, have a longer history. Twenty years ago, starting around 1970, the public in Japan was already complaining about pollution of the air by poisonous exhaust gases from automobiles and factories, and pollution of rivers and lakes by effluents from chemical plants. The main culprit in these localized environmental problems was the heavy and chemical industries, the engine of Japanese economic growth in the 1960s. Pollution even brought forth public debate about private companies and their social responsibilities. 15
(*The Japan Times*) 20

global warming 「地球(の)温暖化」 carbon dioxide cf. p. 12, [D] 5 greenhouse gases 「温室(効果)ガス」 chlorofluorocarbons 「フロンガス」 acid rain 「酸性雨」 rain forests 「(熱帯)雨林」 desertification 「砂漠化」 effluents 「廃水；廃液」 the main culprit この場合比喩的意味で「主犯；元凶」 cf. p. 9, l. 2 heavy and chemical industries 「重化学工業」

[B] Answer in English

1. What are ecological issues on a global scale?
2. When did environmental issues begin to draw the attention of the world's journalists?
3. About what did the Japanese people start to complain around 1970?
4. What was the main culprit in the 1960s environmental problems in Japan?
5. What did pollution bring forth then?

[C] Fill in the Blanks

1. 人類は、気候の変化がひき起す食物その他の不足をはじめとする一連の危機に直面するかも知れない。

Mankind may face a (s) of crises, including food and other shortages that changing climate will (c).