

TV NEWS FROM THE U.S.A. (2)

Shigeru Yamane / Kathy Yamane



TV NEWS FROM THE U.S.A. (2)

Shigeru Yamane

Kathy Yamane

江苏工业学院图书馆

藏书章

まえがき

最近では文字からの情報ばかりだけではなく、テレビを通して同時に視覚と聴覚に訴える情報が多くなっている。そのような時代において英語学習面でも時代のマスメディアに対応できる準備をしておく必要があるのではないだろうか。

本書はアメリカの3大ネットワークの一つである、ABC放送局からのテレビニュース番組を現地で録画し、それを文字化した上で、テキスト用に編集したものである。収録したニュースは米国東部標準時間夕方6時30分から毎日放送されているABC放送の看板ニュース番組“World News Tonight”である。

これは単なるビデオ教材ではなく、もちろん、従来の教材同様、付属のカセットテープを利用すればテープレコーダーを教室に持ち込んでの授業に充分対応するよう作成してある。しかもその上に、ビデオも利用すればテレビ時代に育った若い学生諸君の興味を益々そめることが出来るであろう。アメリカの家庭で普段アメリカ人が見ているその同じニュースが見られるので、生の迫力からくる興奮を覚えることが出来る。

幸い、前回の“TV News from the U.S.A.”は、ご好評を頂き、今回ニュースを最新のものに全面的に入れ換え、続編を出版する運びとなった。前回よりビデオ画質を向上させ、練習問題も若干形式を改良しニュース本文の理解を助けるよう工夫した。

かなりの英語力のある人でも、アメリカなどに行って、そこで一般の人が話す英語が聞き取れなかったり、ニュースの英語が解らなくて愕然とすることがあるとよく聞く。これは、自然な音声英語の場合、音の脱落やさまざまな音声変化が起こるにもかかわらず、日本で入手可能な音声教材の多くが、そういった自然な音声変容を取り除いてしまったり、場合によっては不自然なほど発話速度を落しているからである。本書の大きな特徴の一つである生のビデオ教材を通して、学生諸君に楽しみながら少しでも多く自然な英語に接する機会が与えられれば幸いである。

最後になったが、テキスト作成に際してたいへんお世話になった金星堂編集部の桜井三郎氏、重要な助言を与えてくださった営業部の小笠原正明氏、前回に引き続きこころよく版權を許可して頂いた米国ABC放送局、皆様方に心から感謝の意を表したい。

1989年10月

山根 繁
Kathy Yamane

Contents

1. The Cherry Trees	1
—花見シーズン到来	
2. Education Report	6
—アメリカの教育事情	
3. The Abortion Issue	11
—人工中絶問題で揺れるアメリカ	
4. Helmet Laws	17
—バイクのヘルメット着用義務	
5. Volunteerism	22
—アメリカ青年の奉仕活動	
6. Nevada Explosion	28
—ネバダ州の燃料工場大爆発	
7. Florida Gun Law Revised	33
—フロリダで犯罪増加	
8. Salaries in Baseball	38
—大リーガーの年収	
9. Environmental Issue	43
—フクロウと環境破壊	
10. President Bush Takes Office	49
—ブッシュ大統領就任	
11. Harlem's Apollo Theater	55
—スター誕生	
12. Winter Chill Hits Montana	60
—アメリカに大寒波	

13. Foreign Investment in L.A.	64
ー日本, ロスのビル買い占め	
14. Election in Panama	69
ーパナマの独裁者ノリエガ将軍	
15. Hijacked Plane in Algeria	75
ークウェート機のハイジャック長期化	
16. Soviet TV Commercials	80
ーソ連のテレビコマーシャル	
17. Memories of J.F. Kennedy	85
ーケネディ大統領暗殺から25年	
18. Hirohito's Death	91
ー天皇崩御	

ロ イラスト 阿曽めぐみ

1. The Cherry Trees



And finally this evening, a sign of hope. In cities all around the world, a sure sign of spring is the blooming of the Japanese cherry blossom. It is a welcome sight everywhere—but it's particularly a welcome sight at home, in Japan. ABC's Mark Litke is there.

5

Welcome to Yasukuni Shrine, where you're about to witness a very important event: the annual meeting between Noritaka Nakayama and *prunus yedoensis*—the Japanese cherry tree. Mr. Nakayama is a meteorologist whose job is to clip, then study the buds of the cherry trees here to predict¹⁰ exactly when they'll bloom—a prediction that affects millions of Japanese every year, who will set aside a few hours for an annual rite of spring called 'hanami'—the honorable viewing of cherry blossoms.

Since the days of the warrior class in Japan, sakura, the¹⁵ cherry blossom, has been a symbol of the nation. The petals

No wonder then Mr.Nakayama says he feels such a weight on his shoulders at this time of year, when everyone wants to know exactly when the buds will open up so they can make their viewing plans.

Well, this year, unfortunately, Nakayama-san was off by a
15 few days because of a sudden cold spell.

But in the best of Japanese traditions, the blossoms did (a. _____), and as beautiful (b. _____). Reassuring (c. _____) that (d. _____) their headlong rush into the future, some time honored traditions have a way of 20 (e. _____).

Mark Litke, ABC News, Tokyo.

a sign of hope 「(春の) 希望の兆し」 Yasukuni Shrine 「靖国神社：国事にたおれた人の霊を祀る。」 *prunus yedoensis* 「そめいよしの (の学名)」 an annual rite 「毎年恒例の習慣」 the honorable viewing of cherry blossoms 「晴れがましい花見 (という習慣)」 organized ritual 「計画的 (組織的) な行事」 plan elaborate outings to view the trees 「綿密に計画して花見に出かける。」 was off by a few days 「2、3日暇だった。」 in the best of Japanese traditions 「(花見は) 日本の最もよい習慣で」 some time honored traditions have a way of... 「昔ながらの習慣は、確かに、何とかこれからも生き残りそうだ。」

Useful Words and Phrases to Remember

1. **to witness:** to see; to be present (at a particular event)
While visiting our uncle's farm, we witnessed the birth of a baby calf.
2. **to predict:** to forecast; to tell in advance
The weatherman predicted rain, but look at that clear blue sky!
3. **to affect:** to have an effect on; to produce a change in
Dad, don't you realize that your transfer to Tokyo affects the whole family?
4. **to count:** to be important; to have value
Please come and vote on November tenth. Remember—every vote counts!
5. **no wonder:** it's not surprising that~; it's easily understandable that~
Kento's mother is American? No wonder his English is so good.

EXERCISES

A) Listen to the tape and fill in the blanks in the text.

B) Multiple choice questions.

1. Mr. Nakayama
 - a) enjoys viewing cherry blossoms every spring with his family.
 - b) predicts when the cherry blossoms will bloom.
 - c) takes care of cherry trees in Yasukuni Shrine.

2. Mr. Nakayama
 - a) feels a heavy responsibility in his job.
 - b) correctly predicts the blooming of the cherry blossoms every year.
 - c) had a bad cold this year.
3. The cherry blossoms
 - a) bloom only for a few days.
 - b) lasted longer this spring because of the cold weather.
 - c) have been a symbol of young Japanese soldiers.
4. Cherry blossom viewing parties
 - a) are always held in warm weather.
 - b) put a weight on people's shoulders.
 - c) sometimes include drinking alcohol.

C) Conversation practice: fill in the blanks with suitable sentences from below.

Kento: Are you free on Saturday, Miki ? (1. _____
_____)

Miki: That sounds like fun. (2. _____)

K: A bunch of my friends from school. The guys are bringing sake and beer. Do you think you could make some rice balls or fried chicken or something ?

M: No problem. (3. _____
_____)

K: We'd like to, but it's so cool this year. We were thinking of going to the park instead.

M: Oh, no! (4. _____) Let's go back to the mountain.

- a) Are you going to the same place as last year ?
- b) The park will be too crowded and noisy.
- c) How about coming cherry blossom viewing with us ?
- d) Who's going ?

D) Translate into English using sentences from the text.

1. 中山さんは気象学者で、彼の仕事は桜の木のつばみを切り取って、開花時期を正確に予測するためにつばみを調べる事です。
2. 彼の予測は毎年、何百万人も日本人に影響を与えます。
3. 日本の他の習慣と同様、花見はたいへん計画的な行事です。
4. 日本人は春の訪れを、たくさん爛酒を飲んで祝います。というのも、多くの地方で、外はまだほとんど凍るように寒いからです。
5. この時期になると、彼が責任を感じるのも当然の事です。

2. Education Report



In Washington today the nation's educational system was issued its own report card: the result of a study commissioned by Congress twenty years ago. It's a study involving more than a million students. The grades are an A for effort, but an F for students' ability to apply what they have learned. Here's Ron Claiborne.

The survey found that the students have been improving in reading, writing, math and science in recent years. On the other hand, large numbers of young people are unable to understand complex concepts. And many don't know how to intelligently apply what they do know.

"On the assets side, we have built a solid foundation of basic skills. On the liabilities side of the ledger, there is stagnation as far as higher order skills improvement is concerned."

Among the study's findings: more than one third of nine year-olds cannot read simple texts; about half of the thirteen-

year olds do not understand basic elements of science; and 61 percent of seventeen-year olds cannot understand relatively complicated information — even material they've studied in school.

The report did, however, find that the decline in basic skills during the 1970's had been reversed in every subject, and all ages did significantly better in reading than they did in 1971.

“Most of our kids, overwhelmingly, can learn. The results in the early grades show that. But we're doing something in our system to turn them off.”

This new report reinforces what (a.) have previously found: that many high school graduates are not prepared for (b.). Its recommendations: (c.) in basic subjects; more (d.); and greater support (e.).

Ron Claiborne, ABC News, New York.

was issued its own report card 「自ら(アメリカの教育制度)の成績表をもらった: アメリカの教育制度がどれ程効果をあげているか評価が下った」 commissioned by Congress 「(アメリカ)議会が(調査を)指令した」 The grades are an A...to apply what they have learned. 「教育制度はその努力は認められAをもらったが、生徒の既習事項についての応用力の面ではF(不合格)であった。」 intelligently apply what they do know 「既習の事柄を知的に応用する。」 On the assets side 「プラス面では」 On the liabilities side of the ledger 「収支のマイナス面では: 教育効果を、会社等の会計で用いる収支記録に譬えている。」 stagnation 「伸び悩み」 higher order skills 「高度な学習技能」 early grades 「低学年」 we're doing something in our system to turn them off 「(現行の)制度では、何か(生徒の興味を)そぐようなことをしている。」

Useful Words and Phrases to Remember

1. **to apply:** to make practical or active use of something
Are you applying what you learned in school at your new job at the clinic?
2. **complex:** difficult; complicated
The first problem on the math test was so complex that it took me almost thirty minutes to solve it.
3. **asset:** a valuable (good) thing or quality
You have many fine assets, Mr. Johnson, but I'm afraid we have another applicant who has more teaching experience than you do.
4. **to decline:** to weaken, fall, drop
With the declining value of the American dollar, we'll be able to do a lot of shopping when we visit New York next month!
5. **to reinforce:** to support or strengthen (with some added material)
Their idea was reinforced by the discovery of several old burial mounds in the southern region.

EXERCISES

A) Listen to the tape and fill in the blanks in the text.

B) Multiple choice questions.

1. This educational report
 - a) was ordered by Congress.
 - b) had no positive findings.
 - c) began last year.

2. The report says that
 - a) most nine-year olds can't read.
 - b) reading skills are declining.
 - c) most older high school students can't understand complicated material.
3. The educational survey
 - a) involved a large group of students.
 - b) involved only basic skills.
 - c) was carried out in Washington.
4. According to the report, America's educational system
 - a) is improving.
 - b) is getting worse.
 - c) is improving in some ways and getting worse in others.

C) Conversation practice: Fill in the blanks with suitable sentences from below.

A: (1. _____) There was an interesting story about the results of a big survey on education in the U.S.

B: Oh, yeah? (2. _____)

A: Well, most of it was not very encouraging. For example, young school children have trouble reading simple texts, and with science, too.

B: (3. _____)

A: The report didn't mention college students, but it said older students have great difficulty with complex concepts.

B: (4. _____)

A: Sure. A few things: in general, students have been improving in reading, writing, math and science and the decline in basic skills in the 1970's has been reversed.

- a) What did it have to say?
- b) Have you read today's paper?
- c) Didn't the report have anything good to say?
- d) What about high school and college students?

D) Translate into English using sentences from the text.

1. 調査によればリーディング、作文、数学、科学の面で学生は最近、伸びていることがわかった。
2. 多数の若者は複雑な概念が理解できない。
3. 3分の1以上の9歳児が簡単なテキストを読めないし、また、約半数の13歳児が基本的な科学の原理が理解できない。
4. 報告によれば、1970年代に落ち込んでいた基礎学力面が、各教科とも上向いたことが解った。
5. 各学年ともリーディングは、1971年の時よりも著しく成績が良かった。

3. The Abortion Issue



On this sixteenth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in this country, *Roe vs. Wade*, a New York Times poll reported that 61% of American adults support the right to abortion. But such findings do not deter anti-abortion forces, which today staged marches in many cities and as Ned Potter reports, believe there is now a real chance, the court will change its mind.

Perhaps more today than on any previous anniversary, the opponents of abortion feel hope for their cause. Today the Attorney General ventured the feeling — no prediction, he emphasized — that the Supreme Court will change the law.

“My guess is that they will return the regulation of abortions, like many health and safety questions, to the states.”

“The Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal turned sixteen years old today. All challenges to it have failed. But now the court has agreed to hear a suit by the justice