

Sprict

■ Dialogue for Introduction

- E: Hello, everyone and welcome to this month's webcast!
T: Hello, indeed and we hope you have all sensed that Spring is in the air.
E: Ah, yes! It's slowly getting warmer and the birds are pleasantly chirping. Speaking of which...what are we chirping about this month, Tets?
T: You want to know our theme?
E: I can't wait! Tell me without further delay!
T: We are going to help students better organize the information from study materials in order to give more sophisticated responses to questions, and carry on conversations in greater depth.
E: We have a linguistics term for that. It's called raising the level of discourse.
T: Correct! Raising the level of discourse. Students, think about your experiences here in Japan studying English. You study some material, perhaps a listening exercise. You are asked some very simple comprehension questions, sometimes with a simple yes or no answer being sufficient. Then...finished!
E: I think I see your point. We have to think more deeply about the material we study and be able to reflect that thinking with more sophisticated answers. That is indeed called raising the discourse level.
T: Great! Along the way in this month's lesson, we will pick up some very useful vocabulary and expressions to fuel this higher level of conversation.
E: Sounds like a fine challenge! Shall we?
T: Let's!

■ Choose the Best Word or Phrase

To complete each item, choose the best word or phrase from among the four choices. Time limit is 30 seconds for each.

- 1) Although the merger between the two banks was described as “friendly” in public, it had led to considerable () behind the scenes.

1 veracity 2 hegemony 3 felicity 4 acrimony

(2011 度 第 3 回 1 級 1-8)

- 2) Thanks to a new vaccine, the number of people () with bird flu over the winter was 15 percent lower than last year.

1 afflicted 2 assembled 3 squeezed 4 secured

(2011 度 第 3 回 1 級 1-10)

■ Check the Answers

T: What are the answers, Edward?

E: For No. 1, you should choose '4 acrimony.'

And for No. 2, you should choose '1 afflicted.'

T: I see. Now that you know the answers, why not memorize the sentences that include very useful and important vocabulary, such as 'acrimony' and 'afflicted.'

E: We will show you how to include this new vocabulary.

T: Let's move on to the next step and let us show you how.

■ Let's Memorize 1st Step

Please check the meaning of the sentences. If necessary, please use your dictionary and also refer to the Japanese equivalent.

Now, read the sentences after Edward, twice.

- 1) Although the merger between the two banks was described as "friendly" in public, it had led to considerable acrimony behind the scenes.
- 2) Thanks to a new vaccine, the number of people afflicted with bird flu over the winter was 15 percent lower than last year.

■ Let's Memorize 2nd Step (1)

There are some different ways to memorize sentences.

We will show you one of them.

First, let's read 'Sentence 1)' 5 times.

Although the merger between the two banks was described as "friendly" in public, it had led to considerable acrimony behind the scenes.

Now, look up.

Give the meaning of the sentence in Japanese!

Good.

Don't look at the English sentence. Say it in English.

Finished? Listen to the model again.

Although the merger between the two banks was described as "friendly" in public, it had led to considerable acrimony behind the scenes.

■ Let's Memorize 2nd Step (2)

Let's move on to Sentence 2.
Let's read 'Sentence 2' 5 times.

Thanks to a new vaccine, the number of people afflicted with bird flu over the winter was 15 percent lower than last year.

Now, look up.
Give the meaning of the sentence in Japanese!

Good.

Don't look at the English sentence. Say it in English!
Thanks to...Start!

Finished? Listen to the model again.

Thanks to a new vaccine, the number of people afflicted with bird flu over the winter was 15 percent lower than last year.

We will move to the next step, but you should try again if you were not successful.

■ 3rd Step

E: Wow. That sounds like a very effective use of your mother tongue. We are moving on to the next step.

T: Are you ready, Edward?

E: Yes.

T: Now, respond to the following statements by Edward in 30 seconds.

E: 1) I heard those two banks have merged and the process of merger was done smoothly in a friendly manner.

T: Now, your turn. Respond to the statement in 30 seconds.

T: Time is up. Now, here is the model.

E: I heard those two banks have merged and the process of merger was done smoothly in a friendly manner.

T: That's what they said in public. Actually, it was not so. Behind the scenes, the merger had led to acrimony.

T: You got it? Here comes Edward's next statement. Respond to his statement in 30 seconds.

E: 2) The bird flu is terrible. They say the new vaccine is effective but I am skeptical of its effectiveness.

T: Now, your turn. Respond to the statement in 30 seconds.

T: Time is up. Now, here is the model.

E: The bird flu is terrible. They say the new vaccine is effective but I am skeptical of its effectiveness.

T: I actually think the vaccine is effective. I heard the number of people afflicted with bird flu was 15 percent lower than last year. We should say the new vaccine decreased the number of those afflicted with bird flu.

E: I like it. Please think of some statements or questions which stimulate you to talk about the point.

T: As if you were talking with someone.

E: Make a short dialogue.

T: Here are some more examples which will help you adopt this approach when you memorize and internalize some vocabulary and expressions.

■ Further Practice

T: To complete each item, choose the best word or phrase from among the four choices. Time limit is 30 seconds for each.

3) Although the actor insisted that his work with poor children was carried out for purely () reasons, many suspected that he was mainly interested in the publicity he gained from his activities.

1 cynical 2 deterministic 3 extrinsic 4 altruistic

4) The forest fire got out of control, so firefighters and police officers ordered local residents to () their homes until it was safe to return.

1 negotiate 2 inflict 3 evacuate 4 complement

T: Now, check the answers.

E: As for 3) you should choose '4 altruistic', as for 4) the best word is '3 evacuate'.

T: Please read the sentences after Edward and confirm the meaning.

3) Although the actor insisted that his work with poor children was carried out for purely altruistic reasons, many suspected that he was mainly interested in the publicity he gained from his activities.

4) The forest fire got out of control, so firefighters and police officers ordered local residents to evacuate their homes until it was safe to return.

T: Go through the procedure of ① Read the text 5 times, ② Look up. Give Japanese and English. After that ③ Think of statements or questions which inspire you to talk about the content of the original sentences and make dialogues!

When you have completed these steps, please move on.

You can look at the models and listen to our model dialogues.

■ Further Practice Models

3)

T: Hello, Mr. Charles Edward Scruggs. We all know that you have a brilliant career as an actor and it is our pleasure and honor to meet you. Uh...Why did you carry out those activities with poor children?

E: Well, some say that I was interested in the publicity I would gain... but the work with those children was carried out for purely altruistic reasons.

4)

T: Hi, Edward. I am here to enjoy playing basketball. What has brought you to this school gym? I thought you had arrived home and you were having a nice evening with your children.

E: Well, I want to but firefighters and police officers ordered us to evacuate our homes until it was safe to return. The forest fire is now out of control.

T: That's too bad.

E: Terrible.

■ Closing Dialogue

E: That was a great lesson! Raising the level of discourse is something we all need to do, even in our own language.

T: So true! Being able to discuss anything from politics to global warming with more sophistication is a skill we all could use.

E: Especially our politicians!!

T: Now, Edward...we are here to teach English...not to enter into political rows!

E: Hey! I was just trying to...you know...raise the discourse level! But... as you wish!! Hey, by the way! May we have a sneak preview of next month's topic?

T: We are going to focus on how to talk more and to do so more concretely. There will also be some great tips for writing and giving a speech on a given topic.

E: Sounds good! Until then:

T&E: SEE YOU NEXT TIME!!