

**Sprict**

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: What are you listening to? Is that a recording of your English class?

T: Right. Who do you think the master teacher is?

E: It must be a young teacher. Maybe in his twenties.

T: Those happy hours...though long ago, still make me smile

E: It's...You are teaching!

T: I was in my twenties and a senior at a college. I had to complete the Teaching Practicum.

E: The students' voices are easy to hear and seem very confident! I guess they are practicing very hard. The class seems to give students many opportunities to actually produce language.

T: Yes.... Learning English while living in Japan means learning without any close friends who speak the language as a native speaker and also once the learners step out of their classroom, they have almost no opportunity to use the target language.

E: Yes. This environment is not ideal for English learners and that makes teaching English all the more challenging. Summary, repetition, interpretation, reading aloud...these are all among the many kinds of practice that we ask or even force students to do.

T: True. Those who have successfully nurtured their English skills living in Japan and have passed the Pre-1st Step and certainly the 1st grade are in a minority group. They must really know how to learn.

E: And this month, we are focusing on some of the most effective ways to develop English skills, aren't we?

T: Yes, we are! Hey! It is our job, you know!! Let's begin, shall we?

■ Read the Japanese and interpret it into English

Read the Japanese and interpret it into English in 40 seconds.

「ここ 30 年で、初めて、日本の貿易収支が輸入超過となった。1 月 25 日に財務省が発表した数値によると、2011 年の貿易赤字は、約 2 兆 5,000 億円であることがわかった。」

(月間茅ヶ崎英語教本 No.181 を参考、引用)

Are you ready? Start!

Time's up.

## ■Listen to Model 1.

モデル1を聞いてください。貿易赤字、財務省については、その英語表現を知らない、という仮定のもとに、モデルを示してみます。

### Model 1

In the past 30 years, the trade balance of Japan was in the black. However, it was found in the red for the first time in the past 30 years. On January 25th, one of the ministries that watches Japan's trades with other countries showed some figures to the public. The figures show that Japan's trade balance of 2011 was in the red. It was found that the total amount of imports was 2.5 trillion yen more than that of exports.

## ■Let's review Model 1

Model1を振り返ってみましょう。

T: What do you think, Edward?

E: Well, Tets...To be truthful, it sounds a bit redundant. However, I understand the points you wish to make clearly. They are as follows:

1. You didn't say "The finance and trade ministry." Instead, you said, "One of the ministries that watches Japan's trade." It's best to use the official name here, but most of us don't remember official names of governmental or other organizations.

We know UNICEF in short but I believe many of us cannot recall its full name, which actually is the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund recently shortened to UNICEF. Many of us simply say, 'One of the U.N. organizations that help children.'

Also, you used the same strategy for 'Boueki Akaji,' and said 'Japan's trade balance was in the red.' Of course you could say 'trade deficit.' This is a very useful way to get around problem areas where you may not have the high-end vocabulary needed for a technical topic. These are called circumlocutions by we linguist-types!!

T: Thank you.

## ■お伝えしたかったポイント

これ、英語で、どういうの？知らないよ、どうしよう、と思った時、あきらめてはいけません。財務省は、正式には、The Ministry of Finance Japan ですが、The Finance Ministry, The Ministry of Finance, The Ministry of Financial Affairs...などと言ってしまう場合も多いかと思います。正式な翻訳文書なら、気をつけるべきですが、日常の場面で、正式な名称しか使っていないとしたら、いろいろな話は、スムーズに運ばなくなると思います。英検のスピーチや、作文の場合も、減点になるかもしれませんが、何も言えない、書けないよりはずっと良いはずです。いざとなったら、しっかり内容を伝

えることが大切です。

貿易赤字 についても、ずばり、その英語表現 **trade deficit** を知らない、ということで、言えない、とあらかじめはいけません。なんとか手持ちの表現を使って、意味を伝えようと頑張りましょう。

ここ 30 年で、初めて、日本の貿易収支が輸入超過となった。という部分は、**exceed** を使ってすっきり言えば、**Japan's imports exceeded its exports for the first time in the past 30 years.** と言えるのですが、超過=**exceed** を知らない、どうしよう！と諦めてしまっはいけません。**trade balance** という語句なら知っている。ということで、ずっと黒字だったが、始めて赤字になった、と日本文の意味をしっかりと伝えていきますね。

## ■Let's try again

ではもう一度トライしましょう。制限時間は 40 秒です。

「ここ 30 年で、初めて、日本の貿易収支が輸入超過となった。1 月 25 日に財務省が発表した数値によると、2011 年の貿易赤字は、約 2 兆 5,000 億円であることがわかった。」

Ready? Start!

Time's up.

E: How did you do, everyone? I hope you could say it in English more smoothly than the first trial.

T: I am sure that you used the expression, 'trade deficit' and also 'exceed.'

E: One more, Tets, Finance Ministry.

T: Yes. Edward, can you show your model?

E: OK.

## ■Model 2 by Edward.

エドワードによる Model を聞いてみましょう。

E: Japan's imports have exceeded its exports for the first time in three decades. Figures released by Japan's Ministry of Finance on Wednesday indicate a trade deficit of almost 2.5 trillion yen in 2011.

T: Wow. It's super. Sounds like a real news broadcast.

E. Hmm...maybe I should change jobs!!

## ■Review

ここまでを少し振り返ってみましょう。

T: First, look at the Japanese and try to interpret into English.

E: The practice point here is not giving up. Use a circumlocution!! If you can't think of an appropriate word, construct a phrase to describe your intention. You know, I had a good friend from Hungary who wanted to tell me over the telephone that it was snowing. She couldn't remember the word "snow", so she just said, " Little white things are falling from the sky"! I understood perfectly! That was an effective circumlocution!

T: And, later, you look at and study the English sentences. Then, you will learn the new vocabulary.

E&T: Two birds with one stone!!

E: First. Strategies to use your known vocabulary and expressions efficiently to convey a meaning or message you might otherwise fail to do.

T: And second. Later, when you study English model sentences, you will pick up and learn the new vocabulary very quickly.

この練習には、二つのメリットがあります。ずばりその英語表現を知らない場合、手持ちの表現でなんとか伝える技が磨ける、さらに、少し苦勞をして英語に訳したあと、英文テキストを学習すると、あたらしい語彙表現を効果的に覚えることができる、という二つですね。the Finance Ministry, trade deficit, exceed は、もう馴染みのある語彙表現になりましたね。

## ■Further Practice

英語でどうなのか、ずばりその表現を知らない場合、なんとか手持ち表現で言い換えてしまう練習を少ししておきましょう。

次の3つの名詞については、みなさん、通常使われる英語の表記をご存知かもしれませんが、あえて、知らないとしましょう。どう言えばそれぞれの意味を伝えることができるでしょうか。説明するつもりで、実際に口に出して言ってみましょう。制限時間はそれぞれ10秒です。

- 1) 自民党
- 2) 五重塔
- 3) 義務教育

Now, listen to our dialogue. It includes models for this type of practice.

E: Now, how would you say 自民党?

T: The largest opposition party whose name represents freedom and democracy.

E: Well done. In short, it is called the LDP. This abbreviation stands for the Liberal democratic party.

This practice develops the skills that help you when you don't know the exact word. A very skillful communicator often elicits the word he or she wants by explaining the meaning.

T: Right. Hey, Edward. Look! That's the famous 五重塔 or the tower having five stories, it is standing right next to that large temple building.

E: It's beautiful. Yes, that's a five-story pagoda, isn't it?

T: Thank you. A five-story pagoda, that's the phrase I was trying to remember.

By the way, Edward, it is often said that education for children, I mean the classes at junior high schools and elementary schools are successful. What do you think?

E: You mean compulsory education in Japan?

T: Oh, yes. What do you think of the compulsory education system in Japan?

E: My son goes to an elementary school. I think they help to socialize him in a very positive way and he does acquire a lot of knowledge. I can honestly say that I'm most pleased with his education so far. And again, Tets, you have successfully elicited the term 'compulsory education' from me.

T: Didn't I just?!

みなさん、いかがでしたか。手持ちの表現でなんとか説明していく要領とともに、自民党、the Liberal Democratic Party, 五重塔、a five-story pagoda, 義務教育、compulsory education という語彙表現を学習することができましたね。ダイアログのように、説明しているうちに、ズバリ通常使われる英語表現を、相手が教えてくれるということも期待できますね。

## ■ Final Practice

次の日本語を英語に通訳してみましょう。時間は30秒です。

「これまでの日本のエネルギー政策はあまりに原子力に頼りすぎていた。自然エネルギーへと比重を移していった方がよい。」

Ready? Start!

Time's up. Now, listen to our dialogue.

T: The government has its policies in many fields such as economy, defense, education and so on. One of them, in the field of energy, its policy has relied on atomic energy too much. I think the government should recommend people use energy from nature more.

E: Doesn't sound exactly dandy... But! I understand what the original Japanese sentences must have meant. You mean that the energy policy of the Japanese government has been over-dependent on nuclear energy. The government should change its stance and recommend

that people make the shift from nuclear energy to alternative energy sources.

T: Yes. Exactly. The energy policy of the Japanese government has been over-dependent on nuclear energy. The government should change its policy and recommend that people shift from nuclear energy to alternative energy sources such as wind or geothermal power.

E: You have skillfully elicited the model sentence from me, you clever devil! In a good sense, you would make a fine rip-off artist, I mean, この盗人め!

T: True. I often steal model sentences from you...

E: And I never charge you!!

T: Thanks for your linguistic generosity.

E: My pleasure!

みなさん、いかがでしたか。エネルギー政策、energy policy という言い方がわからないということで、「日本政府は、いろいろな分野で政策をもっているが、そのなかの、エネルギー分野でも政策をもっていて、その政策は原子力に頼りすぎるものだった。政府は、その方針を変えて、みんなが原子力から自然エネルギーへ移行するように勧めるべきだ」と、かなりくどい言い方で、切り抜けました。たどたどしく語りながら、相手から、うまくモデルを引き出して自分のものにしてしまいました。もう何十年も前の学生時代、なかなか会う機会のないイギリス人の先生を捕まえては、いろいろな議論をたどたどしい英語でふっかけては、出てくる表現を盗んだものでした。みなさんも恐れず、どんどん新聞で読んだこと、ニュースで聞いたことを英語で語ってみましょう。相手が Native Speaker であれば、きつとこのダイアログのように、うまくモデルを引き出して、さらに学ぶことができると思います。

## ■Closing Dialogue

T: Listeners, how was this month's lesson?

E: First, interpret the Japanese...next, study the English.

T: Please don't lament that you don't have so many chances to speak English.

E: Yes. You can brush up your speaking skills through interpretation practice.

T: Right. I used to interpret articles in Japanese newspapers into English. I recorded my interpretation with my cassette tape recorder and compared them with English articles that carried the same story. I thereby learned how to make use of previously-acquired vocabulary and expressions and also new vocabulary.

E: Now, you have many articles, audio clips and even video clips available on the Internet, both in Japanese and English. Why not make use of them?

T: Before studying English texts,

E: Look at the Japanese translation and interpret...

T: This is a very effective way to practice your English. Just like 'throwing a stone, and finding it miraculously hits two birds and they are yours.'

E: You mean, 'Killing two birds with one stone?'

T: Thank you, Edward for your model!

E: Tets,... Again you have made free access to your walking dictionary. That's me!!

T: Exactly. See you next time!

E: Which will be the last of this series...

T: Please don't miss it!

E&T: See You Next Time!!