

英語上級者への道～Listen and Speak

第1回 白いトウモロコシ

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: Hello, Tets.

T: Hi, Edward! You are looking at a photo of corn? It's one of my favorite vegetables!

E: Yes, but this variety has an interesting difference. Look! White corn!

T: Yummy! I love it! It is as sweet or even sweeter than a melon.

E: What! Have you tried it?

T: Yes. It is from Hokkaido. The brand name is 'Pure White'.

E: Hokkaido? This photo is from one of my friends in Zambia. I just wrote to him saying how sad it was that he has to eat simple white corn every day. I hear white corn is their staple food.

T: How enviable that they eat that expensive corn every day! I would like to eat 'Pure White' every day.

E: We should not forget that we are living in a country blessed with a great variety of food. Many children in Zambia suffer from a vitamin A deficiency. Corn contains a lot of vitamin B but doesn't contain vitamin A. The government of Zambia is... well Tets, please listen to the passage from the Eiken Pre-1 exam, given in June, 2012.

T: I hope I will learn how to get 'Pure White'.

E: Listeners! Are you ready to go to work on this fascinating passage? It will nourish your English!

T: A nice pun! Yes, we are also ready to present you with some comprehension questions to confirm your understanding of this delicious passage!

■ Listen to the passage and answer the two questions that follow.

Corn in Zambia 【2012-1 Pre-1st A】

White corn is a staple food in Zambia, and is the main ingredient in a favorite Zambian dish. However, white corn is low in vitamin A, a lack of which causes

thousands of Zambian children to go blind each year. To help prevent this, Zambian researchers have developed a new variety of corn that is rich in vitamin A. Yields, water requirements, and seed costs for the new corn are the same as for white corn.

However, the Zambian government is having difficulty persuading people to grow the new corn. One reason is that the corn is an unfamiliar orange color, which makes it hard for Zambians to accept. Also, Zambians say it tastes different from the white corn they have always eaten. Nevertheless, effective marketing might work. Initial government trials have shown that while people are reluctant at first, they are more accepting once the new corn's health benefits have been explained.

【Questions】

Answer the following 2 questions in 30 seconds for each.

No. 1 What do we learn about the new corn?

No. 2 What is one problem the Zambian government is facing?

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward.

1	主食	staple food
2	含有物	ingredient
3	ビタミンが少ない	low in vitamin
4	失明する	go blind
5	ビタミンが多い	rich in vitamin
6	収穫高	yields
7	種の費用	seed costs
8	説得する	persuade
9	効果的な市場開拓	effective marketing
10	初期の	initial
11	気が進まない	reluctant
12	健康に良いこと	health benefits

■ Listen to the passage and once more answer the two questions that follow!

Corn in Zambia 【2012-1 Pre-1st A】

White corn is a staple food in Zambia, and is the main ingredient in a favorite Zambian dish. However, white corn is low in vitamin A, a lack of which causes thousands of Zambian children to go blind each year. To help prevent this, Zambian researchers have developed a new variety of corn that is rich in vitamin A. Yields, water requirements, and seed costs for the new corn are the same as for white corn.

However, the Zambian government is having difficulty persuading people to grow the new corn. One reason is that the corn is an unfamiliar orange color, which makes it hard for Zambians to accept. Also, Zambians say it tastes different from the white corn they have always eaten. Nevertheless, effective marketing might work. Initial government trials have shown that while people are reluctant at first, they are more accepting once the new corn's health benefits have been explained.

【Questions】

Answer the following 2 questions in 30 seconds for each.

No. 1 What do we learn about the new corn?

No. 2 What is one problem the Zambian government is facing?

■ Repetition and Interpretation Drill

The passage is read with pauses and Japanese interpretation.

- 1) Repeat during each pause. Practice again and again until your repetition becomes perfect.
- 2) Listen and interpret during the pauses. You should finish your interpretation before the model interpretation starts. Practice again and again.
- 3) Shadowing and Repetition. While listening to English, shadow the part in English. During the pauses, interpret into Japanese.

Corn in Zambia

White corn is a staple food in Zambia, /
and is the main ingredient in a favorite Zambian dish. //

However, white corn is low in vitamin A, /
a lack of which causes thousands of Zambian children to go blind each year. //

To help prevent this, Zambian researchers have developed a new variety of corn /
that is rich in vitamin A. //

Yields, water requirements, and seed costs for the new corn are the same as for white
corn.//

However, the Zambian government is having difficulty persuading people to grow the
new corn. //

One reason is that the corn is an unfamiliar orange color, /
which makes it hard for Zambians to accept.//

Also, Zambians say it tastes different from the white corn they have always eaten. //

Nevertheless, effective marketing might work.//

Initial government trials have shown /
that while people are reluctant at first, /
they are more accepting /

once the new corn's health benefits have been explained.

■ Model answers.

Listen to the models and compare with your answers.

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? 'No.1 What do we learn about the new corn?'

E: It doesn't cost more to grow and harvest the new corn than the white corn.

The new corn is orange in color but rich in vitamin A.

T: Thank you. How about 'No. 2 What is one problem the Zambian government is
facing?'

E: The government is facing difficulty in persuading people to grow the new corn. The
new corn is an orange color so it is hard for Zambians to accept it. Zambians also say it
tastes different from the white corn.

■ Challenge 1

T: Now Edward is going to ask you some questions. Please answer his questions. You should continue to speak for at least for 30 seconds.

E: What would you do if you were a Zambian, living in Zambia? Would you accept the recommendations of the government without question? Please give your answer in one minute.

E: Model Now, let's listen to Tets. He will show you a model. Listen and compare with your answer.

T: I would not. If we imagine the appearance of a new type of rice, yellow in color but richer in nutrients, would you change from the white rice to the yellow rice? I don't feel like eating yellow cooked rice. It should be white. If we are worried about some nutrition lacking in the white rice, we can eat some other food, vegetables, fish and other side dishes. If I were in Zambia, and had been living in Zambia eating white corns for all through my life, I would go on eating white corn with some other side dishes.

E: Well, listeners, many of you may feel like discussing this with Tets. I know. But let's move on to the next challenge.

■ Challenge 2

E: Please listen this agree with the following statement the following statement for at least one minute. Your statement should include some points introduced in the passage that you have listened to. Ready?

T: People in Zambia must be very happy because they can eat white corn as their staple food. I have ever tried white corn from Hokkaido. It is known by the brand name 'Pure White.' That corn was expensive but very sweet and delicious. I envy people in Zambia because they live on such delicious white corn. What do you think?

< Model >

T: Now, let's listen to Edward. He is going to show you a model. Listen and compare with your statement.

E: First, you should keep in mind that white corn from Hokkaido and white corn in Zambia may be different. I read some blogs and articles on the Internet. It is likely that the white corn that people eat in Zambia is not as sweet as that of Hokkaido. Also, you should keep in mind that white corn is their staple food. You must eat a variety of food in Japan but imagine that you eat only white corn day after day. In addition to tiring of eating it, you may also start suffering from a vitamin A deficiency. Corn contains a lot of vitamins and minerals but it is lacking in vitamin A. I heard that many children go blind in Zambia because of a vitamin A deficiency.

The last thing that you should know is that people in Zambia are recommended to change their staple food from white corn to yellow corn. That yellow corn has been developed only recently and contains vitamin A. How would you feel if you were strongly advised by the government to eat yellow rice that contains more nutrients than white rice?

Instead of envy, you should seriously think more about the food situation on the ground in Zambia. As we eat many kinds of food here in Japan, with rice as our staple food, we can eat white corn without any detriment to our health. If people in Zambia were able to obtain a variety of foods, as we do here, they could supplement their intake of vitamin A, stay healthy and wouldn't have to change their dietary staple.

■ Closing Dialogue

T: When I listened to the part, 'To help prevent blindness in children, they have developed a new variety of corn that is rich in vitamin A.' I should have been better able to infer the reality of the food situation in Zambia.

E: Yes, Tets. The passage states, 'Yields, water requirements, and seed costs are the same as for white corn'. This part hints that they should worry about water and seed costs for the harvest. How about here in Japan?

T: True. We should realize we are in a very fortunate situation and feel happy about it. I must confess that I have often indulged in the enjoyment of Hokkaido's succulent white corn, without actually considering its cost and environmental impact.

E: True. If you visit JICA's website or other such information sources, you will learn more about Zambia. Some URLs for your reference are in the PDF file accompanying

this site.

T: Look. I found the site. It says in Zambia more than 65 percent of people are living on an income of less than one-dollar per month.

E: That's useful information Tets. Listeners, you also may find these URS to be very useful.

E: See you next time.

※ぜひ、以下の URL にアクセスしてみてください。ザンビアについていろいろなことがわかりますよ。

●非営利ボランティア団体「Imagine」

<http://www.imagine-edu.org/jp/programs.html>

●JICA-ザンビアでの代表的なプロジェクト

<http://www.jica.go.jp/zambia/activities/index.html#outline>

●外務省-資料「ザンビア」

http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shiryo/kuni/11_databook/pdfs/05-18.pdf

●UNdata 「ザンビア」

<http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=ZAMBIA>

★講師陣プロフィール★

◇中西 哲彦 (Tets Nakanishi)

日本福祉大学国際福祉開発学部准教授、アルファ英語会顧問、NPO 愛知善意ガイドネットワーク理事。

愛知教育大学出身。三重県立高校、大手英語学校を経て、現在、小学生～社会人まで幅広い層を対象に英語を指導している。英検セミナー派遣講師として各地の特別授業や英語教育セミナーにて活躍。2007 年度まで、5 年間にわたって三重県英語教員集中研修講師も務めた。

◇エドワード・スクラグス (Edward Scruggs)

テネシー出身。比較文学の分野で博士号、音楽の分野で修士号。

翻訳、英語教授に大活躍し、現在、椙山女学園大学国際コミュニケーション学部准教授を務めるほかアルファ英語会（津市）アドバイザーとしても活躍中。