

英語上級者への道～Listen and Speak

第6回 生態系の均衡を保つ

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

T: Hello Edward! It is nice to see you but we really should be leaving. Our train leaves in 30 minutes!

E: Wait! Wait! Wait! I've almost destroyed the last monster! Aghh! Zapped you, you alien bug!!

T: HUH! What game are you playing on your laptop? It looks rather low tech, to be truthful.

E: It is! You know, that's the beauty of it! It's Space Invaders! Do you know it?

T: Indeed I do! Space Invaders is a video game designed by Tomohiro Nishikado in 1978. It was originally manufactured here in Japan, and was one of the earliest arcade shooting games. The goal is to defeat waves of aliens. Ahhh... It was a brilliant idea. Who wouldn't enjoy eliminating a dangerous and invasive species?!

E: Wait! ZZZZAP! YES! I cleared that round! Ahhh... You know Tets, there actually is some disagreement as to how harmful an invasive species actually may be.

T: Ah! You seem to be making one of your famous transitions to our topic for this month's study.

E: I am indeed! This is a very interesting area of discussion ranging from snakes to shellfish.

T: Shhh! Don't spill the beans! Everyone, are you ready to begin?

E: If so... Let's begin!

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

Balancing Ecosystem 【2012-1 1st Part 2, C】

Invasive species are of great concern to environmentalists. The introduction of new species into a habitat is often blamed for the destruction of local plants and animals. This leads to disruption of delicately balanced ecosystems. Scientists cite numerous examples, such as the plague of zebra mussels in the U.S. Great Lakes, and the devastating effect of the brown tree snake on bird species in Guam. However, plant ecologist Mark Davis of Macalester College believes environmentalists often try to eliminate nonnative species without determining whether they are harmful or not. He argues money spent on eradicating them would be better used to deal with truly harmful species, regardless of where they come from.

Davis also claims that in most cases introduced species found in the U.S. do not deserve their negative reputation. In fact, he says they can benefit ecosystems by providing a source of food for other species. Moreover, he argues ecosystems are much more resilient than widely believed and can usually accommodate new species. While there is some support for Davis's view, it is opposed by many environmentalists, ensuring the debate is likely to continue.

【Questions】

Answer the following 2 questions, spending 30 seconds on each.

No.1 What does Mark Davis believe about environmentalists?

No.2 What does Davis claim about ecosystems?

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward.

| | | |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 侵入生物種 | invasive species |
| 2 | 生息地 | habitat |
| 3 | 微妙にバランスのとれた生態系 | delicately balanced ecosystems |
| 4 | 異常発生 | plague |
| 5 | ゼブラ貝 | zebra mussel |
| 6 | ミナミオオガシラヘビ | brown tree snake |
| 7 | 取り除く、撲滅する | eliminate |
| 8 | 絶やす、根絶させる | eradicate |
| 9 | ～にかかわらず | regardless of～ |
| 10 | ～に値する | deserve |
| 11 | 悪い評判 | negative reputation |
| 12 | 弾力的な | resilient |
| 13 | 生活の場所を提供する、収容する | accommodate |

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

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Answer the following 2 questions, spending 30 seconds on each.

No.1 What does Mark Davis believe about environmentalists?

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■ 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 interpretation. While listening to English, shadow the part in English. During the pauses, interpret into Japanese.

Balancing Ecosystems

Invasive species are of great concern to environmentalists. //
The introduction of new species into a habitat /
is often blamed for the destruction of local plants and animals.//
This leads to disruption of delicately balanced ecosystems. //
Scientists cite numerous examples, /
such as the plague of zebra mussels in the U.S. Great Lakes, /
and the devastating effect of the brown tree snake on bird species in Guam. //
However, plant ecologist Mark Davis of Macalester College/
believes environmentalists often try to eliminate nonnative species/
without determining whether they are harmful or not.//
He argues money spent on eradicating them /
would be better used to deal with truly harmful species, /
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Davis also claims that in most cases introduced species found in the U.S. /
do not deserve their negative reputation.//
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by providing a source of food for other species. //
Moreover, he argues ecosystems are much more resilient than widely believed/
and can usually accommodate new species.//
While there is some support for Davis's view, /
it is opposed by many environmentalists,/
ensuring the debate is likely to continue.

■ Model Answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers.

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? No.1 'What does Mark Davis believe about environmentalists?'

E: He believes that they should make a more careful assessment of the actual harm done by invasive species.

T: Thank you. How about No.2 'What does Davis claim about ecosystems?'

E: He believes that ecosystems are actually more robust than scientists previously believed.

■ Challenge 1

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

E: Many people believe that the introduction of a new species into a different habitat has a negative impact on any ecological system. Such new species should be eliminated. Are there any objections to this view?

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

T: It is not true. While many people believe that nonnative species have a negative effect on local plants and animals, some believe they bring benefits to these ecosystems. For example, they can become a food source for the local plants and animals. Such people say that before eliminating a nonnative species, we should carefully evaluate whether they are really harmful or not.

■ Challenge 2

E: Please listen. Disagree with 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: Introduction of new species into a new habitat should be promoted. It will enrich ecosystems. A greater variety of creatures will create a richer and more exciting environment. I am tired of looking at the same species of plants, animals and even insects. We need things new. They excite us. Creatures can have the same positive effect.

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

E: Sometimes a non-native species is purposefully introduced into a habitat to create natural enemies, which will prey on harmful local plants and animals. We can, however find many such cases which ended in failure. The new species often increase in number and affect the ecosystem negatively. In addition, people have introduced new species unintentionally. In the Great Lakes in the U.S. the introduction of zebra mussels caused severe damage to the ecosystem. The brown tree snake is also blamed for a drastic decrease in the number of birds in Guam. If you want to see a wide variety of plants and animals, go to a zoo or travel to their natural habitats. Take care not to bring any seeds or animals into another ecosystem.

■ Closing Dialogue

T: So Edward, I now see your Space Invaders game as a symbol of a very real problem.

Invasive species can seriously threaten the new environment!

E: Hmm... However... The lesson today stressed that there are occasionally benefits to be had from just such an invasion!

T: I'm just not convinced! Basically...living things should stay in their natural home!

E: Er... Tets... What about me?!

T: What about...you?!

E: Well... I am an invasive species of sorts! I do have an ALIEN registration card here in Japan!

T: Ahhh! You have successfully invaded us! Hmm... I really don't feel like shooting you with a laser gun. Maybe it is good news after all!

E: Well, I'm happy with that decision! And on that note let's just say:

T&E: SEE YOU NEXT TIME!!!

You can find more information on zebra mussels in the Great Lakes and birds in Guam.

● Zebra Mussel (USGS - U.S. Geological Survey)

http://www.glsc.usgs.gov/main.php?content=research_invasive_zebramussel&title=Invasive%20Invertebrates0&

● Where Have the Birds of Guam Gone? (Smithsonian's National Zoo)

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/birds/facts/factsheets/fact-guambirds.cfm>

★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・スクラッグス (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。