

英語上級者への道～Listen and Speak

第9回 犯罪の変貌

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: Ahhh...after the glory of beautiful spring flowers, we now face the drabness of the rainy season.

T: Life is always so. But we still have flowers to please the eye. Hydrangeas laden with raindrops after a shower are quite lovely.

E: Hydrangeas! Their very name contains the Latin word for “water”...Hydra! In Japanese we refer to them as “AJISAI“ don’t we? I can read the name in Kanji but it is difficult to write those three Chinese characters.

T: It is great that you can remember that the name is written in three characters. Don’t worry. Many Japanese can read and recognize them but would have difficulty in writing them.

E: How about you? Can you write them?

T: Of course. Here they are.

E: Ahhh...a true scholar! ... How about ... Roses ... you know ... BARA!

T: Give me a break!

E: You can read them but can’t write them?!

T: You are right. But ... It is true for many things ... even human faces.

E: True. We can recognize many faces but it is hard to draw or describe them.

T: And we are coming closer to this month’s topic.

E: It’s something about faces, isn’t it?

T: And ‘easy to recognize but hard to describe.’

E: Well ... I recognize a good place to begin! Shall we?

T: Yes, let’s.

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

The Changing Face of Crime 【2012-1 pre1st】

Most people find it easy to recognize faces but difficult to describe them accurately. This causes a problem for police when they use witnesses to create likenesses of criminals. Until now, the police have asked witnesses to describe individual features, such as the eyes or the nose. These are then fitted together to create a composite face. However, because people have difficulty remembering individual features, the likenesses are often poor.

Recently, new software from the U.K. called EvoFIT has been achieving better results. EvoFIT first generates a random set of many different faces. From these, the witness then simply picks the faces that most resemble the criminal. Next, EvoFIT makes a new face by

combining the faces chosen by the witness. It then adds small variations to produce a new set of faces. By repeating this process several times, a closer likeness can be achieved.

【Questions】

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

No. 1 What has been the problem with creating likenesses until now?

No. 2 What do we learn about EvoFIT?

(The choices below are just for reference.)

- No. 1
- 1 Few police officers have been able to do it.
 - 2 Doing it accurately has been too time consuming.
 - 3 Powerful computers have been necessary.
 - 4 Witnesses have had to remember individual features.
- No. 2
- 1 It creates faces using feedback from witnesses.
 - 2 It contains a large database of convicted criminals.
 - 3 It has been criticized in the U.K.
 - 4 It needs improvements before it can be done.

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward.

1	描写する	describe
2	目撃者	witness
3	似顔絵	likeness
4	特徴	feature
5	組み合わせる	fit together
6	合成の	composite
7	質が悪い	poor
8	結果を出す	achieve results
9	作り出す	generate
10	似ている	resemble
11	混ぜ合わせる	combine
12	元、本物に近い	close (adj)

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

The Changing Face of Crime [2012-1 pre1st]

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【Questions】

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

- No. 1 What has been the problem with creating likenesses until now?
- No. 2 What do we learn about EvoFIT?

■ 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.

The Changing Face of Crime

Most people find it easy to recognize faces /
but difficult to describe them accurately. //
This causes a problem for police/
when they use witnesses to create likenesses of criminals.//
Until now,/
the police have asked witnesses to describe individual features,/
such as the eyes or the nose.//
These are then fitted together/
to create a composite face.//

However, because people have difficulty remembering individual features,
the likenesses are often poor.//
Recently, new software from the U.K. /
called EvoFIT/
has been achieving better results.//
EvoFIT first generates a random set of many different faces.//
From these, the witness then simply picks the faces/
that most resemble the criminal.//
Next, EvoFIT makes a new face/
by combining the faces chosen by the witness. //
It then adds small variations/
to produce a new set of faces.//
By repeating this process several times,
a closer likeness can be achieved.

■ Model Answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? No.1 'What has been the problem with creating likenesses until now?'

E: While people can often remember a face, they have great difficulty in describing it accurately to law enforcement officers.

T: Thank you. How about question 2, 'What do we learn about EvoFIT?'

E: A British company has designed software called EvoFIT which combines faces similar to that described by witnesses. After making small adjustments, the composite is much more accurate than the usual police sketches.

T: Thank you.

■ Challenge 1

T: Now, Edward is going to make a statement about the article. Please express your agreement or disagreement with this statement. You should continue to speak for at least 30 seconds.

E: The police often ask witnesses to describe features of a criminal's face. However, human memory is not very reliable. Moreover, the crimes are often committed in dark places and the likenesses are not accurate. These likenesses often lead the police astray.

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

T: Till now, the police and their witnesses have had difficulty in generating good likenesses. However, we have new software called EvoFIT. This software makes it easier for witnesses and the police to create closer likenesses.

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■ 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: I am a police officer. Today, I have to create a likeness of a criminal. I have to help one of the witnesses to remember and describe individual features of the criminal's face. It is frustrating work. I wonder why people can't describe the features with any real accuracy. Often the likenesses don't work because they don't resemble the criminals face. Creating these likenesses is often frustrating work.

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

E: I don't think so. Why not use EvoFIT? Until now, likenesses counted on the witness' memory and the following facial description. But now, we have EvoFIT. This is software from the U.K. This software creates a random set of faces which roughly resemble the description given by the witness. All the witness has to do is point at the faces that resemble the criminal. The software then creates another set of faces that more closely resemble the criminal. By repeating this procedure several times, they can make a very accurate rendering of the face.

■ Closing Dialogue

T: So! What do you think of EvoFIT?

E: Well, I certainly hope it is effective in helping the police.

T: Some may say it would be more effective to simply put up more and more security cameras on streets, at stations and in buildings.

E: True. When the police captured the Boston Marathon bomber, cameras were a key part of the solution. But some say those cameras violate people's privacy. We will still have to ask witnesses to create police sketches... in many cases at least.

T: Uh... Anyway, I hope the security cameras and EvoFIT will soon be meaningless. I really just hope the number of crimes will decline and we will be able to live in a peaceful and safe society.

E: I agree! But I am an optimist!

T: Yes... but what do you mean?

E: Well... As the old saying goes, 'April showers bring May flowers!' Let's close thinking about AJISAI !

T: A fine idea! Well, everyone, what do you think of EvoFIT?

E: A fine question! And on that note:

E & T: See you next time!!