

## 英語上級者への道～Listen and Speak

### 第 10 回 クレオパトラとはどんな人物だったのか

#### Script

#### ■Dialogue for Introduction

T: What are you reading?

E: Well... a book! Hee Hee!

T: I can see that! Could you kindly inform me as to this book's contents?!

E: Ahhh... Sorry, I can never resist a joke. Actually, this is a fascinating history of Egypt. I've finished the Old Kingdom and now I'm up to the rule of Cleopatra.

T: Ahh... that famous sex-kitten that seduced the two most powerful men of her day.

E: That is a false stereotype! Cleopatra was actually one of the most able leaders in history.

T: You can't be serious! I have an image of her lying on a luxurious couch and feeding Caesar delicious grapes!

E: She probably did so... but there is much more to the Queen of the Nile than that! As we shall soon see!

T: Got it! On to our passage-work we go!

E: Let's go!

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

#### Cleopatra 【2012-1 pre1st】

For two millennia, the name “Cleopatra” has conjured up images of a power-driven queen who ruled an exotic kingdom. Her reputation as a manipulative temptress who seduced the Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Antony has been reinforced by countless poets, playwrights, and filmmakers.

Modern scholars present a different view of Cleopatra. Their research has revealed a highly educated and accomplished politician who successfully ruled ancient Egypt for two decades. With more brains than beauty, Cleopatra spoke seven languages fluently and managed the vast Egyptian economy. She commanded armies and navies, and forged alliances with other nations. When the powerful Roman Empire threatened Egypt, she invited its generals into personal and political liaisons.

Cleopatra married Mark Antony, and between them they ruled the Roman and Egyptian empires. Her downfall came in 31 BC, however, when she and Antony were defeated in battle by Antony's rival, the Roman general Octavian. The image of Cleopatra as a deceitful love goddess was the result of propaganda spread by Octavian to convince Romans her defeat had benefited the Roman Empire. This was later given expression in many works of Latin literature, which helped propagate the myth.

**【Questions】**

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

No. 1 What have modern scholars concluded about Cleopatra?

No. 2 What is one thing the speaker says about Octavian?

(The choices below are just for reference.)

No. 1 1 She was an accomplished artist.

2 She used bribery to become queen of Egypt.

3 She was a skilled diplomat and military leader.

4 She had a poorer education than was once thought.

No. 2 1 He managed to create a negative image of Cleopatra.

2 He was jealous of Cleopatra's marriage to Mark Antony.

3 He wanted revenge for his defeat by Cleopatra.

4 He allowed Cleopatra to continue ruling Egypt.

**■Let's study vocabulary and expressions**

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward.

1	千年間	millennium
2	心に呼び起こす	conjure up
3	動力を持った	power-driven
4	巧みに操る	manipulative
5	誘惑する女	temptress
6	誘惑する	seduce
7	強固にする	reinforce
8	明らかにする	reveal
9	秀でた、名人級の	accomplished
10	～との協力関係を作り出す	forge alliances with～
11	連携、結びつき	liaison
12	失墜、転落	downfall
13	人をだます、二枚舌の	deceitful
14	表現する、述べる	give expression
15	広める、増殖させる	propagate

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

**Cleopatra 【2012-1 pre1st】**

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Cleopatra married Mark Antony, and between them they ruled the Roman and Egyptian empires. Her downfall came in 31 BC, however, when she and Antony were defeated in battle by Antony's rival, the Roman general Octavian. The image of Cleopatra as a deceitful love goddess was the result of propaganda spread by Octavian to convince Romans her defeat had benefited the Roman Empire. This was later given expression in many works of Latin literature, which helped propagate the myth.

**【Questions】**

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

- No. 1     What have modern scholars concluded about Cleopatra?
- No. 2     What is one thing the speaker says about Octavian?

■ 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.

## **Cleopatra**

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who ruled an exotic kingdom.//  
Her reputation as a manipulative temptress /  
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Cleopatra married Mark Antony, /  
and between them they ruled the Roman and Egyptian empires.//  
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when she and Antony were defeated in battle by Antony’s rival, /  
the Roman general Octavian. //  
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to convince Romans her defeat had benefited the Roman Empire. //  
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which helped propagate the myth.

### **■ Model Answers**

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? No. 1, ‘What have modern scholars concluded about Cleopatra?’

E: They have concluded that contrary to the prevailing image of Cleopatra as a seductress she was in fact a gifted and highly intelligent ruler.

T: Thank you. How about No.2, ‘What is one thing the speaker says about Octavian?’

E: Octavian engaged in a smear campaign against Cleopatra in order to validate his actions against her.

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: Cleopatra was an exceptionally beautiful woman. If not for this beauty and its resultant power over men, she would never have been able to rule Egypt effectively.

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

T: I don't think so. Although largely unknown to the average reader, she was in fact a highly educated woman. She spoke seven languages fluently. She managed the vast Egyptian economy and commanded her armies and navies successfully. When her country faced extra-national threats, she tactfully forged alliances with her foes and invited leaders into personal and political relations.

### ■ 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: Cleopatra was really a deceitful love goddess. Some say this is a false image, but an old saying goes, 'There's no smoke without fire.' Her seedy reputation is also validated in many works of classical Latin literature.

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

E: This stereotype of Cleopatra as a deceitful love goddess has been created by several works of Latin literature. There are many poets and playwrights that depict Cleopatra as such. However, the source of that image should be examined critically. We should also consult the historical record objectively to understand how she ruled Egypt. The stereotypical image of her was created and spread by Octavian. He wanted to convince Romans that her defeat had benefited the Roman Empire. She actually ruled Egypt skillfully, managing its vast economy and commanding its armies and navies, while manipulating foreign policy to avoid serious conflict with other nations.

## ■ Closing Dialogue

T: Well, I must admit I have a newfound respect for this fascinating woman.

E: As should we all! Did you ever see Elizabeth Taylor portray her in Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra"?

T: Yes! It was a wonderful motion picture! I believe Richard Burton played Antony.

E: You got it! But Tets... shall I leave you and our listeners with one last surprise?

T: But of course!

E: Cleopatra would have been outraged for anyone to have thought of her as an Egyptian. She made it clear all of her life that she had not one drop of Egyptian blood in her royal veins!

T: EH! Cleopatra not Egyptian?!

E: Not at all. She certainly loved Egypt, but her lineage would have been from the Greeks, in particular Alexander the Great. Some Roman blood... O.K. But she was actually part of a foreign ruling class. She took pride in that.

T: Another stereotype shattered! Ahhh... but she must have been a beauty.

E: We have every reason to think so! But like any woman, including women of our own time, we must never think only of physical beauty. The inner person, her native intelligence and the strength of her personality are what count most. That is what made Cleopatra the Queen of the Nile!

T: So true! So, like this wonderful woman we should...

E: Continue learning. And as language learners we should...

T: Continue practicing. Remember! With English:

E: The world is your oyster!

T&E: Just open it!

「VOA Learning English」の web サイトで、Cleopatra について、音声で解説しています。

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/cleopatra-was-a-powerful-and-wise-ruler-116280284/114309.html>

また、「Cleopatra :A Life」などの本も数多く出版されています。

<http://www.amazon.com/Cleopatra-Life-Stacy-Schiff/dp/0316001945>

(※「amazon USA」のページになります。日本の「amazon」では、ありません)