はしがき

この『新聞で学ぶ日本語──読んで話す現代の日本』は、英字新聞 The Japan Times の "Communication Cues"の記事として2005年1月から2007年6月まで連載したもののうち、60編をまとめたものです。本にまとめる時は、新聞に連載したものに、新しく〈内容チェック〉と〈談話練習〉を加えました。

この本の目的は、現代の日本のさまざまな面について、新聞記事のサンプルを読んで理解し、知人や友人とその内容について話すことができるよう、練習材料を提供することです。話す力を ちょん ゆうじん できるよう、練習材料を提供することです。話す力を つけるために、談話の型に基づいた練習を加えました。

書かれたものを読んで理解する、あるいは話を聞いて理解するという受け身の方法では語学力はつきません。同じ題材について、書かれたものを読み、耳から聞き取り、その内容を人と話すという総合的な練習によって、能率的な習得ができます。この本はそのための総合練習の題材を提供するものです。

話題は今日の日本の社会について、日常生活の衣食住、経済、教育、健康、年中行事、意識の りない こんにち 変化から、環境問題、少子化、雇用問題、その他の現代社会共通の問題まで、幅広く取り上げま へんから、

日本語の運用能力の向上にこの本を大いに活用していただきたいと思います。

2007年10月

水谷 修 みずたに おきむ 水谷 信子 みずたに のぶ

Preface

This book is a compilation of 60 installments of *The Japan Times'* "Communication Cues" column, which ran from January 2005 to June 2007. In reorganizing the material into book form, we have added exercises to check comprehension and demonstrate how new words and phrases can be applied to conversation.

The aim of this book is to provide an opportunity to read and understand sample newspaper articles from various facets of modern Japan and to offer practice materials which will enable you to discuss those articles with friends and acquaintances. We have included exercises that are based on a conversational format so you can improve your speaking skills.

Linguistic ability is not achieved solely through passive methods such as reading or listening comprehension. A holistic approach—reading, listening to, and talking about materials on the same topic—leads to more efficient learning. Therefore, this book offers subject matter for comprehensive language practice.

We have selected a broad range of issues from Japanese society today: lifestyle topics such as clothing, food and housing; the economy; education; health; annual festivals and events; changing values; environmental problems; the declining birthrate; and the scarcity of available jobs.

It is our sincere hope this volume will be a great help in your acquisition of practical Japanese skills.

October 2007

Osamu Mizutani Nobuko Mizutani

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本書の使い方

本書は「総合練習」を目的としたものですから、次のように各部分を活用してください。

本文の理解

典型的な新聞記事の例で、新聞記事そのものではありませんが、新聞の文体を再現するように 工夫してあります。まず _____ なしでできるだけ読んでみることを勧めます。

次に 内容チェック の問題に答えてください。

聞<練習(CD) 💿

のCDは新聞記事の例を読み上げるのではなく、ラジオやテレビのニュースの調子で読んだものです。ニュースは日常の会話よりあらたまった文体になっていますが、耳から入ることを考慮して、書いたものとは異なる文体を採用しています。内容は新聞記事と同じですから、読んだあとで聞けば楽に聞き取ることができます。

逆に、はじめにニュースを聞いてから新聞を読む方法もあります。どちらが先でもけっこうです。いわゆる「耳型」で聞き取りが得意な人は、ニュースから入るほうが容易であり、能率も上がります。

会話と談話練習

また、話題は時事・社会問題から幅広くとるようにしてあります。

応用記事

季節の行事や出来事を中心に、ナマの新聞記事をのせました。いくつかの記事で練習したあとの応用として活用してください。この部分の単語も、新聞記事例の 世語 と同様に、本文にあるものをできるだけ拾ってあります。

以上の方法で総合練習をして、日本語の運用能力の全般的な向上をめざしてください。

How to Use This Book

As this book aims to provide a comprehensive approach, put each section to practical use in the following ways.

Understanding the Main Passage

The passages in this book are examples of typical newspaper articles, not actual clippings; however, they have been devised to mimic newspaper style.

First, try to read as much of an article as you can without referring to the vocabulary list.

Next, answer the fill-in-the-blank exercises that come after the vocabulary list.

Once you have grasped the gist of a passage, check the meaning of words and phrases in the vocabulary list, read the passage again and make certain you completely understand it, down to the smallest detail.

Further, please note that all words and phrases relative to each sample newspaper article, as well as many kanji-based words are included in the vocabulary lists, so you can start anywhere in the book regardless of the difficulty of the passage.

CD-recorded Passages ()



The CDs are not merely the sample newspaper articles read aloud, but are passages recited in the manner of radio or TV news. Spoken news style is more formal than everyday conversation, but because TV or radio news is meant for listening, the style also differs from written forms. The content of the TV and radio news passages is the same as that of the newspaper passages, so if you listen after reading the main passage, the CDs should be relatively easy to comprehend.

On the other hand, you can listen first and then read the passage. Either way is fine. If you are good at listening comprehension, it might be easier and more efficient to approach the lesson through the taped news portion.

Dialogues and Conversation Practice

The dialogues are examples of how you can use the information gained in the newspaper and radio and TV news passages in conversation. The first dialogue is in the polite form, between acquaintances, and the second is an informal conversation between people in a closer relationship. Listen to the CD-recorded version of each dialogue to check your comprehension. Unlike the sample newspaper articles, there is no need to read the dialogues.

The conversation practice shows that the dialogue sentence patterns can be used for other topics as well. Pattern practice often appears in language textbooks, but it usually consists of short sentences and phrases; "conversation practice," or realistic use of spoken forms, is rare. In accordance with the research into conversational forms that we have pursued for many years, the exercises in this book have been devised so that you will be able to practice each lesson's conversation points using different topics.

The exercise topics cover current events and social issues.

Applied Newspaper Reading

We have also included a section of actual newspaper clippings that center around seasonal events and happenings. Try to put the knowledge you have gained to practical use. Just like the words from the sample newspaper articles, we have included as many words as possible from the actual passages.

Through the methods detailed above, try to aim for overall improvement of your practical skills in Japanese.

寝台特急「あさかぜ」廃止

東日本、東海、西日本のJR各社は、寝台特急「あさかぜ」を2005年3月1日 のダイヤ改正で廃止することにした。「あさかぜ」は1956年に登場、58年に 新型の客車が導入され、日本で初めて全室冷暖房完備の個室寝台を連結し、 食堂車も備えて「走るホテル」と言われたが、最近は新幹線や飛行機に押さ れて乗車率は減少し、ここ数年は約30%にさがっていた。また、上り列車が 首都圏に乗り入れるのが朝のラッシュ時に重なり、遅れた場合は通勤電車の 過密ダイヤに影響するため、廃止が考えられていた。

単語

寝台特急(しんだいとっきゅう) limited express train with sleeping berths

廃止(はいし) discontinue JR (ジェイアール) Japan Railways 各社(かくしゃ) each company

ダイヤ train schedule

改正 (かいせい) revision

登場(とうじょう) appear

新型(しんがた) new type

客車(きゃくしゃ) passenger car

導入され(どうにゅうされ) be introduced

初めて(はじめて) for the first time

全室(ぜんしつ) all rooms

冷暖房 (れいだんぼう) air-conditioning

完備の(かんびの) fully equipped

個室寝台(こしつしんだい) roomette

連結し(れんけつし) attach

食堂車(しょくどうしゃ) dining car

備えて(そなえて) equip

走る(はしる) run

最近(さいきん) recently

新幹線(しんかんせん)Shinkansen: bullet train 飛行機(ひこうき) airplane

押されて (おされて) be overwhelmed

乗車率 (じょうしゃりつ) percentage of passengers

減少し (げんしょうし) decrease

ここ数年(すうねん) past several years

約(やく) about

上り列車(のぼりれっしゃ) train going to

首都圏(しゅとけん) Tokyo and its vicinity

乗り入れる(のりいれる) enter into

朝 (あさ) morning

ラッシュ時 (ラッシュじ) rush hour

重なり(かさなり) be at the same time

遅れた (おくれた) got delayed

場合(ばあい) case

通勤電車(つうきんでんしゃ) commuter train

過密(かみつ) congested

影響する(えいきょうする) affect

考えられて(かんがえられて) be considered

内容チェック ()の中にあてはまる言葉を入れましょう。

- (1) JR東日本・東海・西日本は、寝台特急「あさかぜ」を () することにした。
- (2)「あさかぜ」は冷暖房完備の個室寝台や食堂車を備え、「() | と言われた。
- (3) 乗車率が約30%に減少したのは、(a) や (b) に押されたためである。

聞く練習

■ 同じ内容のニュースをCDで聞いてみましょう。 ○ 1-02

会 話 **1-03**

1 知人どうしの会話

A:「あさかぜ」がなくなるそうですね。

B:もう寝台車の時代じゃないんでしょうね。 A:それはわかりますけど、ちょっとさびしい気がします ね。

A: The Asakaze is going to disappear, isn't it?

- B: It seems that the age of sleeping cars is over.
- A: I realize that, but it's still a bit sad.

2 夫婦の会話

夫:「走るホテル」に、一度、乗ってみたかったな。

妻:わたしは「走るホテル」より、動かないホテルのほうが よく眠れるわ。

H: I wish I had had a chance to ride on the "hotel on wheels."

W: I think I could sleep better in a stationary hotel than a moving one.

談話練習

下線の部分を下の言葉と入れかえて練習しましょう。

A:a)「あさかぜ」がなくなるそうですね。

B:もうы寝台車の時代じゃないんでしょうね。

A: それはわかりますけど、ちょっとさびしい気がしますね。

- (1) a) 寝台特急
- - b) ゆっくり旅をする
- - b) 車内でたばこが吸える

- (1) a) limited express sleeper trains
 - b) sleeping aboard trains
- (2) a) "hotels on wheels"
 - b) leisurely paced travel-
- (3) a) smoking cars on the bullet train
 - b) smoking is allowed on trains

Translation

1 寝台特急「あさかぜ」廃止

Deluxe night-trains to disappear

Three JR companies—East Japan, Tokai and West Japan—have decided to discontinue the Asakaze, a limited express sleeper train service, as part of a timetable overhaul to be implemented on March 1, 2005. Asakaze made its debut in 1956, and in 1958 it connected newtype carriages with fully air-conditioned roomettes, the first of its kind in Japan. With the addition of a dining carriage, the service was hailed as a "hotel on wheels." But recently, it has been deprived of its passengers by bullet trains and airplane services and is now running at just 30 percent of capacity. Furthermore, the Tokyo bound train arrives during the morning rush hour. When it is delayed, it affects the congested schedule of the commuter trains, and therefore canceling the service has been under consideration for some time.

2 増える東京の光化学スモッグ

Increasing photochemical smog in Tokyo

Although exhaust fumes from automobiles are strictly regulated in Tokyo, levels of photochemical smog are on the increase. Photochemical oxidants, which are the cause of photochemical smog, cause pain in people's throats and eyes. An investigation by Tokyo authorities shows that besides the influence of the fierce heat of summer, the balance between the density of nitrogen oxides and that of VOC (Volatile Organic Chemical Compounds) has changed, resulting in the generation of photochemical smog; and nitrogen oxides have dropped due to the strict control of exhaust fumes while levels of VOC have not decreased much. VOC is emitted from paints, printing ink, dry-cleaning fluid—all of which are used by small-and-medium-sized businesses that are not yet subject to regulatory measures.

3 学生の73%「賞味期限」気にする

Food expiration dates stressed by youths

What people tend to pay attention to when choosing food is its expiry date rather than where it was produced. This was the result of a survey carried out by Toyo University in October on the eating habits of students. Answers were obtained from 100 students both male and female, 56 percent of whom live with their family. Seventy-three percent of the respondents were most concerned with the expiry date when choosing food. Social Psychology Professor Inagi believes this indicates that the youth of today eat nothing but safe-to-eat food and are incapable of checking food with their own five senses. They depend on numbers because they are not confident in their own judgment and they like things to be black and white when it comes to food safety.

4 スギ花粉症患者が増加

Cedar allergy increasing

The number of people suffering from an allergy to cedar pollen is on the rise. Cedar buds grow well following a year with a relatively dry rainy season and fierce summer heat. Also, after a year in which there are few buds, the amount of blossoms increase so as to compensate for the previous year. Because these conditions have been met this year, as well as the number of hours of sunlight, which affects the amount of blossoms, was high almost everywhere in the country last year, this year's pollen count likely to be the highest ever. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare offers pertinent information on the Internet, while warning people to be cautious against folk remedies since most of them have no basis.

5 零細書店に厳しい状況

Many small bookstores go bankrupt

According to a summary by Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research, a private credit research company, the number of bookstores going bankrupt each year has been between 30 and 49 since 2000. Four hundred forty-seven stores nationwide went bankrupt between 1990 and 2003: 85 percent of these had fewer than 10 employees and 64 percent had yearly sales of less than ¥100 million. With the sudden increase in the number of publications, customers head for big stores with an extensive selection of titles, and sales of magazines, a big source of income, has been eaten away by convenience stores, making the situation for small bookstores even tougher. The increase in online book-sellers where it is possible to buy books without going to a store, has also had an influence on business.

6 子ども3人以上の家庭に割引サービス

Households with at least three kids get discounts

Governor Tanimoto of Ishikawa Prefecture announced on the Jan. 4 that his local authority will distribute discount cards to households with at least three children under 18 years old. This is aimed as a means of combating the low birth rate and giving support to child-raising families. The card will entitle the bearer to discounts at supermarkets, restaurants, children's clothing stores and other outlets. Of the 410,000 households in the prefecture 19,000 will be eligible. The prefecture will not fund the discounts, but participating business will display a sign saying "a friend of child raising" either at its stores or in its promotional material, and the prefecture will give them publicity through newspaper advertisements and its public relations publications. The program, the first of its kind in Japan, is scheduled to start in fall this year.