

# **Consider the Differences**

**Fifteen Ways to See the World**

**James M. Vardaman**



**TSURUMI SHOTEN**

## **Consider the Differences** **Fifteen Ways to See the World**

by James M. Vardaman

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## はしがき

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本書は、世界の国ぐにの人の暮らしぶりを広範囲に調査し、国や国民にとっての豊かさを指標化した OECD による For Better Life Index をはじめ、アメリカの社会調査機関として著名な Pew Research Center による報告書など、さまざまな統計を基にしたエッセイを中心にしています。エッセイの内容はバラエティに富んでいますので、世界各国や日本の様々な生きた姿の一面を知ることが出来ることと思います。

また、本書では各章の冒頭に、エッセイの内容に結ぶ付く日米の若者による生き生きした会話を配し、いわゆる実用的な英語から授業に入っていけるようにも配慮してあります。

「英語を使える」といってもそのレベルは様々だと思います。「英語を使いこなせる」ようにまでなるのは大変です。文科省の方針の影響だけではないのですが、大学の英語教育もいわゆる実用英語の授業が主流になっているようです。TOEIC に代表されるような「コミュニケーションに役立つ英語」の授業も盛んです。しかし、どのようなテキストを用いて英語を学んでも、必ずそれは「コミュニケーションに役立つ」結果になることと思います。「考える力」は人と人との円滑なコミュニケーションの大前提になる力だからです。

各章の英語は身近な話題に関する英語表現や時事的な用語や言い回しが多くできます。外国人と会話する機会があればもちろんのこと、英字新聞を読む、英語ニュースを聞く、英文のメールを書く折などにも「おおいに役立つ」ことと思います。

日本をめぐる国際情勢はこれからますます厳しさを増し、外国との付き合い方もなお一層大切になってきます。本書が学生の皆さんがおおらかな気持ちで国際理解に努めることに少しでも役に立つことを心から願っています。

2012 年 11 月

James M. Vardaman

## 各章の構成について

### ◆ Introductory Dialog

本文のトピックに関連した対話の一部の空所を設けて印刷されています。CDの対話を聞いて空所を埋めます。空所内はすべて1語です。対話文は内容、表現ともにそのまま英会話の教材として使えるものばかりです。

### ◆ Reading Passage

読解用の本文です。速読して次頁の問題に移ることも可能です。

### ◆ Comprehension Check

CDから流れる本文の内容に関する短い英文を聞き取り、その内容が正しいかどうか判断する問題です。ディクテーションの問題としても応用できます。

### ◆ Vocabulary Review

Reading Passageに出てきた語句の意味を本文の文脈から再確認するための問題になっていますが、予習用の問題にもなります。

### ◆ Questions for Discussion

各章の主題に関連して、学習者自身の感想や意見をきくための質問です。英語の質問文のスタイルの例としてもバラエティに富んだものとなっています。





# A Sense of Belonging



## Introductory Dialog

Listen to the dialog and fill in the blanks, one word per blank.

A: Japanese    B: American

B: Is it true that in Japan when you (            ) into a new neighborhood, you should take a small gift to your (            )?

A: Some people still keep up that (            ). You're supposed to greet the people living on both (            ) and across the street.

B: What kind of gifts do you take?

A: Something that's not too expensive and that is (            ).

B: Like what?

A: Maybe a towel or some cookies—just as an (            ) of friendliness.

B: What if you move into an apartment (            )?

A: A lot of people nowadays skip that tradition. In many cases, they never (            ) meet their neighbors.

### ●NOTES●●●●●●●●

1 you (特定の地域、場所の) 人たち。日本語にする場合は訳さない。

3 keep up 「従う」

be supposed to ... 「…することになっている」

## A Sense of Belonging

An important factor in well-being is the frequency of contact with others and the quality of personal relationships. Individuals feel this as a sense of belonging. Together with others this is a sense of community, which can be measured in various ways.

5 One common measure of community is voter turnout rates. Those who trust their government and believe that citizens can and should participate in political processes go to the polls to vote. In the OECD nations, an average of 73% of the population goes to the polls for major elections. In recent elections, Germany (78%) and the Netherlands (80%) exceeded that average. Meanwhile,  
10 Korea (63%) and Japan (67%) fell below that average, indicating a lack of confidence in the power of public opinion in political decisions.

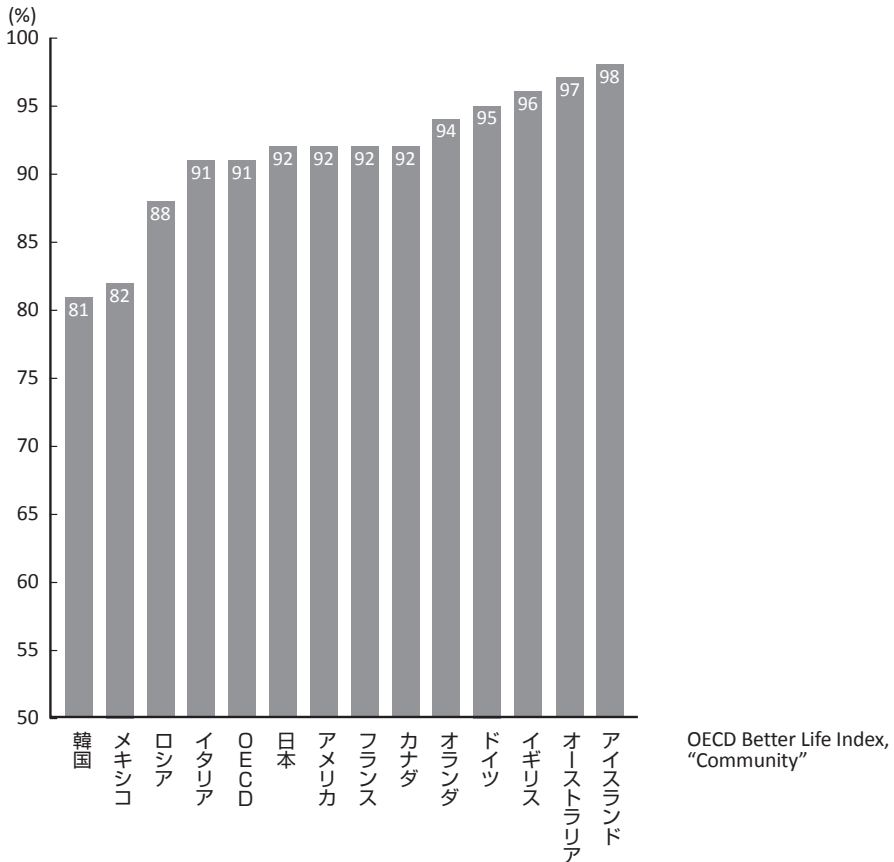
Another indication of a healthy society is the amount of time spent in volunteer activities. In general, helping other people can also make you happy, so people who volunteer tend to be more content with their lives than people  
15 who do not. The average time spent volunteering for the nations surveyed is 4 minutes per day, which matches Japan's 4 minutes per day. By contrast, the figures for Australia and the U.S. are 6 minutes and 8 minutes, respectively. An additional perspective is provided by the percent of people who say they have helped a stranger in the past month. For Japan, that figure was 23%, while in  
20 both Australia and the U.S. that figure was 65%. If helping others really makes a person healthy, perhaps the Japanese should try to do it more often.

With all of the discussion about social networking recently, there is another element of "community" that we should look closely at: those who lack contact with others and feel isolated. Individuals who feel isolated find it difficult to  
25 contribute to society and fulfill their personal aspirations. The OECD average for those who "rarely" or "never" spend time with friends, coworkers or other people in a purely social situation is 7%. Unfortunately, 15% of Japanese responded this way—the highest percentage of all OECD peoples. Perhaps this explains why a special term for isolated individuals, *hikikomori*, originated in  
30 Japan and that term is now used around the world.

Not everyone is isolated. It is encouraging to know that there is someone who you can rely on in times of need. The average for all OECD nations who say they have such a person is 91%. Korea (81%) and Mexico (82%) are at the



頼れる親類や知人がいると答えた人の割合  
(Social support network)



bottom of this list. France, Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, the U.S. and Japan (92%) all rank above this average. If we take a closer look at Japan, we notice 35 two things. First, the women seem to have more of this kind of social support than the men. Second, Japan is one of only four countries where people in the lower income category have more social connections and dependable friends than those in the higher income category. Maybe the richer group doesn't need 40 people to rely on as much. But it is certainly helpful to the less affluent to know that they have good friends in time of need.

参考資料

OECD Better Life Index, publicized in 2011, renewed in 2012. <http://oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

● NOTES ●●●●●●●●●●

タイトル **a sense of belonging** 「一体感」そこにおいて安心感や幸福感が得られる感覚。

1 **well-being** 「穏やかで平安なこと」

7 **OECD** 「経済協力開発機構」ヨーロッパの諸国、日米など現在の加盟国 34 개국。Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

27 **purely social situation** 「(仕事などを離れた) 純粋なつきあいの場」

36- **the women seem to have ... than the men.** OECD の報告では女性 96%、男性 88%。

**Comprehension Check**

Listen to the statements and circle T if the statement is true and F if the statement is false.

- 1. T F
- 2. T F
- 3. T F
- 4. T F
- 5. T F

**Vocabulary Review**

Match the words with their definition below. Write the word on the line.

- affluent (1.40) \_\_\_\_\_
- coworker (1.26) \_\_\_\_\_
- exceed (1.9) \_\_\_\_\_
- frequency (1.1) \_\_\_\_\_
- perspective (1.18) \_\_\_\_\_
- polls (1.7) \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. a way of thinking about something
- 2. having plenty of money
- 3. someone who works with you in a similar position
- 4. go beyond
- 5. an election to choose a representative
- 6. the number of times something happens

**Questions for Discussion**

- 1. Have you participated in a volunteer activity? If you have, please describe it.
- 2. Why do some Japanese say they feel isolated or feel like outsiders?
- 3. What is the difference between a really dependable friend and someone who is an acquaintance?