

Reading for Bright Future

Abhay Joshi



Photo: ©Tamotsu Fujii

NAN'UN-DO

Introduction

“Reading for Bright Future” is a textbook combining in-built critical thinking skills with language skills. This book contains 17 carefully selected topics we may need to deal with in or during our professional life cycle. Each unit starts with pre-reading questions, thoughts about the topics, related vocabulary, listening, and writing activities. For every alternate lesson, crosswords are added for fun. Audio is included so students can listen to each reading passage and listening exercise.

This book would never have been completed without the help of Meghana Shrotri. Her timely guidance and cooperation are invaluable, which helped me to achieve this book. In addition, the Author is very grateful to Prof. Dar Watson for building a unique questionnaire in the book. The Author is also thankful to Prof. Dr. M. Nishimura, who helped check the book’s contents periodically to make it practical for new generations.

The Author sincerely believes that if someone had shared wisdom with him in his early 20s, as are the contents of this book, he would have made his life decisions much more wisely, and his life would indeed have been much more prosperous, hence, the whole purpose of bringing forth this book for the future generations.

This Book is devoted to my parents and to my absolute soul.

How to Use This Book

Each photograph has a deep meaning, which is an excellent opportunity for the reader to think.

This exercise has five carefully designed questions to introduce the topic and cover the matter entirely. The activity prompts the students to start thinking about the case, and they can do so in pairs, small groups, or as a class at large. These questions are framed to let students know "what they do not know." When one does not know anything about a given topic, raising appropriate questions to gain knowledge reflects one's intellect. Teaching them this technique of raising such questions is an additional motive here.

This exercise has three statements closely related to the topic, enabling the students to express their views. They are encouraged to take a definite stand here.


Above the article is a headphone logo. Next is a tracking number denoting the track on the audio where students can listen and practice the intonation, which is a feature of pronunciation and contentions.

Each unit begins with a Topic sentence. In addition, each paragraph begins with a topic sentence for an easy and quick grasp of the topic.

The heart of each unit is an article about a topic related to life lessons. These life lessons may be from lifestyle, education, career, business, or worldly awareness. One may not face these challenges now. However, one is likely to encounter them at the coming turn or the next. Similarly, one may not face them all but most of them. Hence, the learnings are to be gathered now.

Each article is about 500 words created from a theoretical point of view, abiding by norms like the use of simple, assertive sentences and exciting language. Easy flow is ensured throughout the article. The author tries to give a complete picture by providing the pros and cons of every topic, and a practical message at the end of the article enhances its richness.

A Dream for all Nations 1



Pre-Reading questions Discuss these questions in pairs.

- How do you define living a life of prosperity?
- What does a successful life look like to you?
- What solutions do you have for Japan's shrinking workforce?

What are your thoughts? 考えましょう

- Success is defined by having a nice home and a lot of money. Agree Disagree
- Immigrants are needed for jobs that cannot be filled in Japan (in any country). Agree Disagree
- If you work hard, you can have a good life. Agree Disagree

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A Dream for all Nations

The "American Dream" was, is and will continue to be the driving force of economic success in the United States. Arguably, this is the first nation founded on the monumental idea that "all men are created equal." In 1776, the Founding Fathers promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to many immigrants.

The meaning of the American Dream has changed over time. By the 1930s, it meant a successful career, home ownership, upward mobility, and wealth. Essentially, it represented equal opportunity regardless of family history or social status. For those willing to work hard, a good life was attainable.

The Lehman shock of 2008 impacted the meaning of the American Dream. It became less about accumulating wealth and more about living a meaningful life. Time spent with friends and family creating warm memories became the cornerstones of a fulfilling life.

In the 21st century, many believe prosperity and success are no longer easily achievable. Expensive housing and rising healthcare and higher education costs make upward mobility and wealth challenging to achieve. Others believe that the American Dream remains alive. Baby Boomers define this dream as having a large house and the financial means to raise a family. Generation X sees it as achieving professional success based on knowledge, wisdom and a well-paying job with benefits. Millennials view the American Dream as enjoying their lives by pursuing a passion and focusing less on consumerism.

Many countries, such as Japan, have the opportunity to create their own version of the American Dream by thinking outside the box. Indeed, the immigration of highly skilled labor is a promising solution to Japan's shrinking workforce due to the country's aging population. Japan's low crime rates, high quality of life, and rich culture make it an attractive place to live and raise a family. Therefore, the aspiration of living a happy life can be reproduced in any part of the world that welcomes immigrants searching for a better life.

Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors for you where there were only walls.
Joseph Campbell

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A Dream for all Nations 1

Vocabulary List. (辞書必要、必ず辞書を参照してください)

No.	Word	Definition	Definition in my language	Synonyms
1	monumental (adj.)			grand, great
2	mobility (n.)			movement
3	status (n.)			place, position
4	accumulate (v.)			gain, increase
5	cornerstone (n.)			essential
6	prosperity (n.)			wealth
7	benefit (n.)			aid, assistance
8	consumerism (n.)			consumption
9	reproduce (v.)			copy, recreate
10	immigrant (n.)			foreigner

Definition

- an important foundation on which something is built
- to increase over time
- a position of someone when compared to other people in society
- very great or important
- successful; often by making a lot of money
- money that is paid by a company when an employee needs medical care, dental care.
- a person who comes to a country to live there
- spending a lot of money on goods and services
- to move from one position to another position
- to make a copy of something

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After each article, a vocabulary list of 10-12 words from the unit is given, including their meanings and synonyms. It is shown in the tabular form, facilitating students to write the meanings in their mother tongue, ensuring a better understanding of English.

Vocabulary Review

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box below. Change the form of the words if necessary.

1. monumental	2. mobility	3. status	4. accumulate
5. cornerstone	6. prosperity	7. benefit	8. consumerism
9. reproduce	10. immigrant		

- The scientist wants to _____ the results of the experiment.
- The rich and famous live a life of _____.
- Rice is the _____ of the Japanese diet.
- The King and Queen of Britain are of high _____.
- My father's _____ paid for my doctor's visit.
- _____ is attainable to those that work hard.
- Many _____ live in the United States and Germany.
- The completion of the pyramids in Egypt was a _____ accomplishment.
- My grandparents have _____ many things over the years.
- Her _____ has decreased after breaking her leg playing soccer.

Idioms about A Dream for all Nations

Idioms	meaning
dream come true	something you really wanted has come true
a clean slate	to forget about past problems; to start from the beginning
to turn over a new leaf	to start behaving in a better way

Please choose the correct idioms from above

- Making the Olympic team this year would be a _____.
- Let's start on _____. It's all water under the bridge.
- I promise I will _____ and will be more responsible.

Interesting facts (A Dream for all Nations)

- A white picket fence is a well-known symbol of the American Dream.
- The idea of the American Dream has motivated millions to immigrate to the US.
- Austrian born Arnold Schwarzenegger immigrated to the United States hoping to become a celebrity and get rich. He did both.

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To master vocabulary, Fill in the blanks is included, in which the sentences are designed to be simple, short, and from everyday context. The words are laid out for easy selection/copying.

Idioms form an integral part of American life/the English language. Volumes can be expressed in very few words using idioms/phrases. Hence, a few expressions are thoughtfully made a part of the article. Three essential idioms of these appear in the exercise section and their meanings in simple words. Fill in the blanks of three simple sentences. From day-to-day reference, are given, and appropriate idioms need to be chosen.

Interesting facts about each article are stated to make learning and retention easy and exciting.

This exercise contains five multiple-choice questions to test comprehension of the article/ topic. All the five questions are why questions (e.g., what, where, which, how) covering the various aspects of the topic. They are aimed to develop an understanding of cause-effect relationships or reasoning skills. The first question in each set checks to understand the main idea.

Writing about the article is meant to develop expression in the English language; therefore, the answers are expected to be sentences long. For help, the beginning is done for the students. For better comprehension, repetition is avoided. All three questions use various 'wh' types, and the second question here is typical of the listing type for developing easy descriptive writing.

A Dream for all Nations 1

Check your Understanding
Answer the following questions about the reading passage.

- What is the main idea?
 - The American Dream is a cornerstone of US society even now
 - Immigration is the solution to Japan's shrinking workforce
 - Anyone that works hard can achieve the American Dream
- When did the American Dream become less about consumerism?
 - During the Baby Boomer generation
 - In the 1930s
 - After the Lehman shock of 2008
- Where can the American Dream be reproduced?
 - Anywhere in the world where people are living happily
 - Only in Washington D. C.
 - When visiting Disneyland
- Why did the American Dream change over time?
 - The Civil War destroyed the American Dream
 - People began to view success and prosperity in different ways
 - Immigrants stopped coming to the United States
- Who can achieve the American Dream?
 - Only immigrants living in the United States
 - Anyone working hard towards having a better life
 - Americans that are living in other countries

Writing about the Article
Answer each question based on the reading passage.

- In this lesson, what is the meaning of prosperity?
- How does each generation define the American Dream?
 - Baby Boomers** -
 - Generation X** -
 - Millennials** -
- Why is Japan considered a nice place to live and raise a family?

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A Dream for all Nations

Across

- The American Dream has _____ over time.
- What may be a solution to Japan's decreasing workforce?
- In 1776, who promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- The population of Japan is _____.
- The American Dream is a dream for all _____.
- Many believe having a big _____ is part of achieving the American Dream.
- Those that work hard can attain a _____ life.

Down

- Japan has low _____ rates.
- All men are created _____.
- What generation finds happiness by spending time pursuing their passion?
- The workforce in Japan is _____.

WORD LIST

AGING	CHANGED	CRIME	EQUAL	FOREFATHERS	GOOD
HOUSE	IMMIGRATION	MILLENNIALS	NATIONS	SHRINKING	

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Pre-Reading questions Discuss these questions in pairs.

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 Agree Disagree
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 Agree Disagree

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A Dream for all Nations

The “American Dream” was, is and will continue to be the driving force of economic success in the United States. Arguably, this is the first nation founded on the monumental idea that “all men are created equal.” In 1776, the Founding Fathers promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to many immigrants.

The meaning of the American Dream has changed over time. By the 1930s, it meant a successful career, home ownership, upward mobility, and wealth. Essentially, it represented equal opportunity regardless of family history or social status. For those willing to work hard, a good life was attainable.

The Lehman shock of 2008 impacted the meaning of the American Dream. It became less about accumulating wealth and more about living a meaningful life. Time spent with friends and family creating warm memories became the cornerstones of a fulfilling life.

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Definition

- a. an important foundation on which something is built
- b. to increase over time
- c. a position of someone when compared to other people in society
- d. very great or important
- e. successful; often by making a lot of money
- f. money that is paid by a company when an employee needs medical care, dental care.
- g. a person who comes to a country to live there
- h. spending a lot of money on goods and services
- i. to move from one position to another position
- j. to make a copy of something

Vocabulary Review

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box below. Change the form of the words if necessary.

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Idioms about A Dream for all Nations

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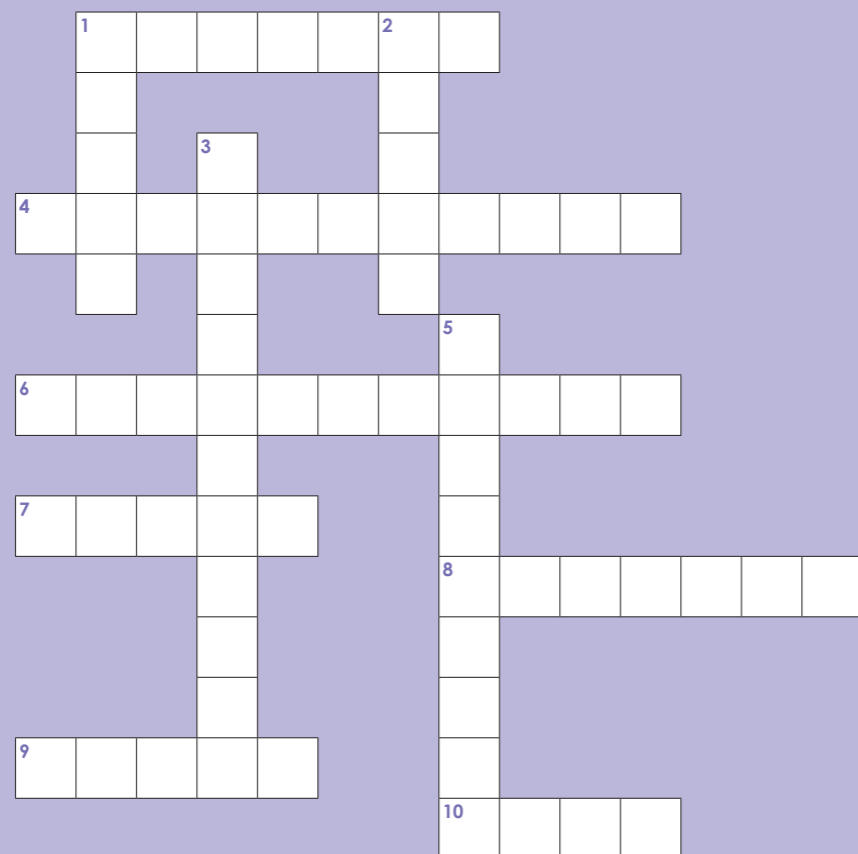
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 - Millennials –**
- Why is Japan considered a nice place to live and raise a family?

A Dream for all Nations



Across

Down

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 The American Dream has _____ over time. | 1 Japan has low _____ rates. |
| 4 What may be a solution to Japan's decreasing workforce? | 2 All men are created _____. |
| 6 In 1776, who promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. | 3 What generation finds happiness by spending time pursuing their passion? |
| 7 The population of Japan is _____. | 5 The workforce in Japan is _____. |
| 8 The American Dream is a dream for all _____. | |
| 9 Many believe having a big _____ is part of achieving the American Dream. | |
| 10 Those that work hard can attain a _____ life. | |

WORD LIST

AGING CHANGED CRIME EQUAL FOREFATHERS GOOD
 HOUSE IMMIGRATION MILLENNIALS NATIONS SHRINKING



Pre-Reading questions Discuss these questions in pairs.

1. Why do you think people choose to leave their countries to work?
2. What is brain circulation?
3. What sacrifices do people make that migrate to other countries?

What are your thoughts? 考えましょう

1. Having a college education makes it easier to find work in another country? Agree Disagree
2. Young people are inspired by those that work in other countries. Agree Disagree
3. People who work in other countries never return to live in their homeland. Agree Disagree



Brain Drain

The exodus of educated professionals from one country to another in search of a better standard of living and access to advanced technology is known as brain drain. In the past, low-skilled laborers from around the globe supported industrialization. Gradually, the labor needs of the receiving nations shifted toward workers with advanced skills. Since that time, many immigrants have made similar journeys.

As industrialization advanced, demand for white-collar workers was partially met by specialists from other countries. In the mid-1940s, Western Europe saw its scientific elite and other experts relocating to the United States, attracted by higher salaries and more advanced facilities. Since 1970, the need for information technology (IT) specialists has increased tenfold as Silicon Valley became the global hub for technological advancement. In the last decade, the demand for healthcare workers has increased by approximately 60% worldwide. Currently, healthcare workers and IT specialists from Asia are the most prominent subjects of brain drain, followed by engineers, marketing managers, and pilots. The phenomenon remains persistent as demand for human capital continues to exceed supply in developed countries.

While developed countries fill their human capital gap with immigrants, home countries experience consequences. Countries invest considerable time and money in education, and the departure of those holding advanced degrees often causes a shortage of skilled labor. Equally important, the loss of tax revenue slows economic growth and increases inequities between nations. As a result, funds for research and development are insufficient; hence countries cannot achieve comparable technological and scientific achievements. Nevertheless, there are also positive effects of brain drain. For example, financial remittances contribute significantly to the GDP of home countries.

As per the International Organization for Migration (IOM), \$121 billion was received in remittances in 2000 and \$714 billion in 2019—nearly 20 times higher than the amount in 1980 (\$37 billion). Additionally, given the ease of global communication, foreign-born workers are no longer isolated from their counterparts at home. Consequently, innovations multiply as migrants create professional networks with entrepreneurs in their country of origin. This circular flow of information is defined as brain circulation.

Brain drain will continue to be a reality, albeit not without a human cost. Professionals making the journey abroad leave behind their country, culture, customs, family, and friends. Nonetheless, one person's hopes and dreams for a better standard of living are another person's inspiration. Those left behind aspire to achieve higher levels of education to make their dreams a reality.

If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal not to people or things.

Albert Einstein

Vocabulary List. (辞書必要、必ず辞書を参照してください)

No.	Word	Definition	Definition in my language	Synonyms
1	exodus (n.)			departure
2	supplement (v.)			add, supply, support
3	contributor (n.)			donor, giver, supported
4	industrialization (n.)			manufacture
5	generate (v.)			increase, produce
6	capital (n.)			asset, wealth
7	constant (adj.)			consistent, nonstop, persistent
8	inequity (n.)			unfairness
9	remittance (n.)			deposit (in the form of money)
10	isolate (v.)			separate

Definition

- money, property, etc., that a person or business owns
- to produce something or cause something to be produced
- to give something to help a person, group, cause, organization
- to keep someone or something in a place or situation that is separate from others
- many people leave a place at the same time
- funds transferred from migrants to their home countries
- to build and operate factories and businesses in a city, region, or country
- something that is unfair
- staying the same; not changing
- something that is added to something else to make it complete

Vocabulary Review

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box below. Change the form of the words if necessary.

1. exodus	2. supplement	3. contributor	4. industrialization
5. generate	6. capital	7. constant	8. inequity
9. remittance	10. isolate		

- Large corporations have large amounts of _____ invested into their businesses.
- There was a(n) _____ in Ireland due to the Great Potato Famine.
- Several _____ of the Japan Times reporters are foreigners.
- Financial _____ occur within countries and between countries.
- Some families depend on financial _____ to meet their basic needs.
- COVID-19 remains a(n) _____ concern for people all over the world.
- Facebook _____ income from selling social media advertisements.
- Many people _____ their income by having a part-time job.
- The skyline of Tokyo completely changed during _____.
- Many older people feel _____ from the rest of the world.

Idioms about Brain Drain

Idioms	meaning
a brain box	a very intelligent person
a brain trust	a group of people with special knowledge who gives advice to authority
brain labor	to think hard, to make effort mentally

Please choose the correct idioms from above

- Indian engineers build a sustainable _____ in the America for emerging technology area.
- We don't need to be a _____ to realize we are all equal in front of nature.
- Mathematics makes the _____, but the reward is rich.

Check your Understanding

Answer the following questions about the reading passage.

- What is brain circulation?
 - When blood flows from your brain, to your feet, and back to your brain
 - When you exercise your neck in a circular motion
 - A circular flow of information between countries
- When did the brain drain likely begin?
 - After industrialization
 - Before industrialization
 - In 1980
- Where do most IT specialists find employment in the US?
 - New York City
 - Las Vegas
 - Silicon Valley
- Why are financial remittances so important to home countries?
 - New companies cannot be built in the home country without them
 - They contribute significantly to the GDP
 - They are used to pay off the country's debts
- Who are the biggest contributors to the brain drain today?
 - Engineers, marketing managers, and pilots
 - IT specialists and healthcare workers
 - Professors and scientists

Writing about the Article

Answer each question based on the reading passage.

- In this lesson, what is the meaning of human capital?
- What job has increased tenfold in the Silicon Valley (in the US)?
- Why has innovative advancements multiplied in home countries recently?

