

Reading the World

Contemporary Problems and Solutions

世界の潮流を読み解く！

Norma Reveler

and

Hiromi Nema



NAN'UN-DO

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Norma Reveler

Hiromi Nema

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TO THE STUDENT

The title of this textbook, *Reading the World*, has two main meanings to stress the authors' two principal goals or themes. In the first sense, the title means "reading about the world," because that is just what you will be doing as you work your way through the book. In each of its thirteen units, you will read and learn about one of today's most urgent and often most controversial global issues: climate change, nuclear disarmament, literacy, obesity, political corruption, and many others. In the title's second sense, "reading" implies "understanding." Reading each unit's essay and doing the accompanying exercises and activities will give you the skills, vocabulary, and background information you need to "read the world" on your own—to understand why it is the way it is and what can be done to make it better.

The authors have written the book's essays in straightforward, highly accessible English—just for you. The readings explain the contemporary world problem being looked at clearly and concisely, with statements backed up by pertinent facts and figures and examples. Almost everything you need to know about the particular issue under examination is contained right here in these 400-word essays. But the readings aren't just factual. They are passionate, too, with the authors' opinions on the issues and their hopes and suggestions for each problem's solution expressed frankly and forthrightly. You may not agree with all these opinions, but that's okay. In fact, that's what the authors intended: that this book should become a catalyst for open, honest debate.

About the plan of the book: each unit starts off with a brief introduction to the unit's topic and some questions to get you started thinking about it. This is followed by a two-part vocabulary quiz that quickly familiarizes you with the key words and expressions found in the essay. Other important words and phrases are explained in the notes that follow the reading. These are defined not in Japanese but in easy-to-understand English (with lots of synonyms) to give you extra reading practice and a larger, more active vocabulary. In each essay the authors have also written in five common idiomatic expressions (with a follow-up exercise to make sure you understand them) that you will find both fun and useful. Two comprehension activities—a True/False test and a completion drill—check your understanding of the essay's main details and ideas and, at the same time, give your overall reading skills a big boost. Each unit winds up with a short dialogue that looks at the essay's topic from a more personal perspective.

As pointed out above, this textbook is just for you. It is the authors' sincere hope that what you learn here will help make you a better-informed and more passionately involved "world reader"—and that you will become part of the solution to today's most pressing problems.

Norma Reveler
Hiromi Nema

まえがき

世の中には、国内であれ国外であれ、毎日、さまざまな問題が起きている。これらの問題は邦字新聞、英字新聞、テレビ等でも取り上げられ、世間の注目を浴びている。時の話題となる「時事問題」には一過性のものもあれば、永続的なものもある。

本書では、多くの話題の中から世界的規模で広がる興味深い関心事を13篇選択し、それぞれ何が問題なのかを展開している。時事的話題をエッセイ風に書き下ろしてあるが、使用している語は新聞英語で頻繁に見られるものである。本書のエッセイに慣れ親しむと、英字新聞を読む時にそれほど違和感を抱かないであろう。それは新聞英語を少し易しくした語で、エッセイの文体も新聞を少しくだけたものにしてあるからである。

本書で取り上げる時事的話題は、たとえば、オイル依存の生活、戦争と平和、スポーツヒーローと模範的役割、死に至るインフルエンザ、世界の国々の識字率、絶滅危機の種を巡る問題、自動車運転と携帯電話、オンラインゲーム中毒、大量殺りく、人口増加と食料、肥満の増加、賄賂と政治、世界的な金融危機などである。これらの話題は、実際、特に珍しいものではない。深い理解はないかもしれないが、日常的に何となく耳にしているものばかりである。本書のエッセイを精読することで、これらの問題に関する理解がもっと深まるに違いない。

13篇の話題を扱っているが、それぞれの話題には密接なつながりはない。話題はそれぞれ独立している。したがって、本書の配列順序に従って最初から読み始める必要もない。どのユニットを先に取り扱うかは、教師の判断にゆだねてある。しかし、どのユニットも構成の仕方は同じである。どのような構成になっているかを簡単に記しておく。

- **Pre-reading**：エッセイを読むための導入部である。3つ設問があるが、自分で答えは考える。
- **語のマッチング**：語は8個提示してあるが、その語はエッセイの中から選択してある。語の説明は英語で提示されている。取り上げた8個の語は、エッセイの中ではボール体で示してある。
- **語の穴埋め**：8個の英文の中に適切な1語を記入する。記入する語は上の前問で提示した8個の中から選択する。
- **エッセイ**：エッセイを読む。少し難しそうな語や語句には「注」がついている。
- **演習問題**：エッセイの後に、次の演習問題がある。
 1. 読解力チェック：エッセイの理解力をチェックする設問が5個ある。True or Falseで答える。
 2. 語句の意味をチェック：エッセイの中の語句の意味をチェックする。選択肢が3個あり、その中から選ぶ。取り上げた5個の語句は、エッセイの中では青印字で示してある。
 3. 要約文の穴埋め：エッセイのある箇所を要約してある。一部を空所にしてあり、その中に語を記入する。記入する語は提示してある。

4. リスニング：短い会話文を提示してある。一部を空所にしてあり、音声を聞きながら、その中の語を記入する。

エッセイを読む前にはその中に出てくる語の意味を確認する演習問題があるが、これらの語は意味をしっかりと理解しておく必要がある。語の中には英検2級を超えているものもある。エッセイを正確に理解するためには、文法力はもちろん、語彙力も必要となる。分からない語があれば、辞書を丹念に調べ、記憶するよう努めたほうがよい。辞書で意味を確認するだけで終わり、記憶する努力をしないと、語彙力はなかなか身につかない。

エッセイの後で特に注目してほしい演習問題が2つある。その1つは、語句の意味を確認する問題である。これらの語句は全体で1つの独立した意味を持つことが多く、その意味と一緒に使用法も覚えておいたほうがよい。なかには分かりやすい語句もあるが、実際は、そうでないものが多い。演習問題を解きながら、語句と意味を再確認するように努めてほしい。

もう1つは、エッセイのある箇所を要約した演習問題である。これを正しく解答するにはエッセイの理解力だけでなく、文法力や作文力も必要である。いわゆる総合力が試される演習問題である。それを実際に試してみたければ、エッセイを読む前にこの問題を解いてみればよい。文法力や作文力だけで解くと、正解はなかなか得られないはずである。しかし、エッセイを理解した後で問題を解けば、正解率がかなり高くなる。この問題は、もちろん、空所埋めの練習をしながら、文法力や作文力も試している。

本書をほとんど書き終えた時点で、共著者の Norma Reveler 嬢が2010年7月、若くしてあの世へ旅立ってしまった。本書は彼女の遺作である。私は Reveler 嬢と英語のテキストを約25年間、毎年のように著してきたが、このような形で永遠のお別れをすることは夢にも思わなかった。私的なことかもしれないが、テキスト作成で長年 Reveler 嬢と苦楽を共にしてきたので、あえてそのことを記しておきたい。

エッセイの後に記載してある NOTES は南雲堂の Jim Knudsen 氏にお世話になった。また、Knudsen 氏には英文の校閲でも随分お世話になった。さらに、本書の企画の段階から出版に至るまで南雲堂の青木泰祐氏と丸小雅臣氏には大変お世話になった。お世話になった方々に改めて感謝の意を表したい。

Norma Reveler
根間 弘海

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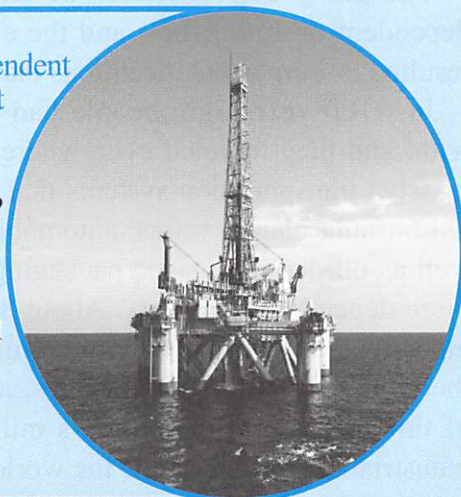
UNIT 1

▷ OIL DEPENDENCY ◁



People are becoming increasingly dependent on oil and using more and more of it for their energy and transportation needs.

1. How can we become less dependent on oil?
2. What other energy sources are there?
3. Are you worried that another giant oil spill such as the one in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 will happen again?



A Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right. Write the letters of the definitions in the parentheses.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. gadget () | a. serious; extremely bad |
| 2. numerous () | b. small mechanical device with a particular purpose |
| 3. consumption () | c. absolutely necessary; extremely important or urgent |
| 4. grave () | d. everyday task like going shopping, going to the post office, etc. |
| 5. predict () | e. using something up, such as natural resources |
| 6. imperative () | f. to reduce the brightness of a light |
| 7. errand () | g. to say what is going to happen in the future |
| 8. dim () | h. many; a lot |

B Fill in the blank in each sentence below with a word from the list above. Change the form where needed.

1. It is _____ that we find a more efficient pension system.
2. The world's _____ of oil continues to rise.
3. I have some _____ to run so I won't be able to meet you until 7 p.m.
4. The lights were _____ to create a more romantic atmosphere.
5. She has a coffee grinder, a blender, a juice maker, and all kinds of other kitchen _____.
6. The president said that _____ jobs will be created to spark the economy.
7. The worldwide economic crisis has created a _____ political situation in many countries.
8. The weatherman _____ that it will rain tomorrow.



2

READING*Read this essay carefully.*

The many conveniences of modern life have made humans increasingly dependent on fossil fuels and the energy these fuels generate. Cheap energy has resulted in **numerous** inventions that allow us **to live the high life**.

Just 100 years ago, people had to chop wood to cook and heat their homes with, and they traveled everywhere on horseback. Nowadays, however, we have massive transportation systems that run mostly on gas, which is derived from oil. Oil-burning planes, trains, automobiles, fishing trawlers, and farm implements, as well as oil-derived plastic packaging, have made food production and distribution more dependent on energy. About 84 million barrels of oil per day are consumed globally, with **consumption** growing at about 2 percent yearly. The country using the most oil is the United States, at more than 21 million barrels per day. Half of this oil powers the nation's millions of cars and trucks. As China drives to industrialize, it has become the world's second-largest user of oil.

All these energy-powered machines and **gadgets** have made life **a piece of cake**, but they are also causing **grave** damage to the environment. Carbon dioxide emitted from cars and other vehicles causes more heat to be absorbed into the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming. Experts **predict** that emissions will grow by about 3 percent annually and that by 2030, 12 billion tons of carbon dioxide will be produced each year. Compare this with the late 1700s and early 1800s, when only a few hundred million tons were emitted.

What is the solution? It's a **no-brainer**. People need to change what they do to slow down and prevent further environmental degradation. It's **imperative** that we consume less energy and change the way we develop our cities if we want the earth to continue to be inhabitable for humans and all other species. In other words, the environment should not **take a back seat** to any other issue.

What can we do to decrease the amount of energy we consume and thus the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere? For one thing, we can take the subway or even walk instead of driving our car. For another, when we do use our car, we can make sure we do all our **errands** in one area at the same time. We can also buy cars and other products designed to save energy. We can install light dimmers in our homes and offices: a bulb that is **dimmed** by 25 percent uses 10 percent less energy. We can also switch to energy-efficient refrigerators, which now use 40 percent less energy than traditional models did in 2001. We can start using alternative sources of energy such as solar or wind power. And we can plant trees that absorb carbon dioxide from the air.

These are just a few of the simple, everyday things we can do to save energy. If we don't do something, the world's growing population will consume more and more energy. Climate change will accelerate. Thus, it's vital that we change our energy-fueled lifestyles and stop global warming right now. **The ball is in our court**.

NOTES

2 fossil fuels: petroleum (gas), coal, and natural gas **6 derived from oil:** made or produced from crude oil **12- drive to (do):** to make an effort to (do); continue to (do) **24 inhabitable:** capable of supporting life; livable **30- light dimmer:** a device that automatically turns down (dims) the lights in homes and offices **32 energy-efficient:** not using a lot of energy; energy-saving **34 alternative:** other; substitute; alternate **38 accelerate:** to speed up; get faster

C *Comprehension Check: Write T if the statement is true, F if it is false.*

1. () Oil is needed to power many of the mechanized gadgets of modern life.
2. () Producing energy to run cars and other vehicles contributes to global warming.
3. () As the global population increases, there will be even greater demand for energy.
4. () China now consumes the most oil of any nation.
5. () People need to change their habits so that they consume more energy.

D *Idiomatic Expressions: Circle the letter of the word or phrase that means the same as the underlined part of each sentence below.*

1. After Tim won \$2 million in the lottery, he began **living the high life**.
 - a. Live a luxurious lifestyle
 - b. Be constantly lucky
 - c. Indulge in drugs, alcohol, and sex
2. Karen finds math **a piece of cake** and gets 100 percent on all her tests.
 - a. Interesting
 - b. Challenging
 - c. Easy
3. It's a **no-brainer** that you should stand back from the platform when the train is coming.
 - a. Something that is complicated and difficult to understand
 - b. Something that explains something else
 - c. Something so simple that it requires no thought
4. Harvey decided to **take a back seat** in the environment clean-up project because Tom knew more about toxic waste than he did.
 - a. Let other people or things take a more active or important role
 - b. Permit other people or things to get lost
 - c. Praise other people
5. The students asked for better sports equipment, so the principal **put the ball in their court** and told them to raise the money for it themselves.
 - a. Take responsibility
 - b. Give responsibility
 - c. Ignore responsibility

E Fill in each blank in the summary below with one of these words. Write the letters of the words in the parentheses.

a. consumed	b. generated	c. devices
d. emit	e. estimated	f. followed
g. globally	h. harm	

People around the world have developed numerous machines and (¹) that make their lives easier. These machines run on energy (²) by burning oil. As a result, the world's use of fossil fuels has increased dramatically. It is (³) that 84 million barrels of oil are consumed (⁴) every day. The United States, (⁵) by China, uses the most oil of all countries. Half of the energy (⁶) in the United States powers vehicles of all kinds. Unfortunately, these vehicles (⁷) carbon dioxide. These emissions (⁸) the environment and contribute to global warming. Thus, we need to reduce our dependence on oil and gas.



3

F As you listen to the dialogue, write the missing words in the parentheses.

Pauline: I read in the newspaper this morning that ice and glaciers in the Arctic are () because of () warming.

Frank: I don't read the newspaper, but yesterday I saw a () on television that outlined how carbon dioxide () are rapidly increasing. It's frightening because these greenhouse gases are () to climate change.

Pauline: I think every person should do as much as possible to be () responsible. That means changing our energy-hungry ().

Frank: Exactly. And governments around the world should enact laws to () carbon dioxide emissions. (), I don't think people will () ever change.