

U.K. Update

いま、イギリスを読む

Jim Knudsen

annotated by Takeshi Uno

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はしがき

本書は、ジム・カヌーセン氏 (Jim Knudsen) の書き下ろしによるイギリス社会や文化の理解を目的としたリーディング教材です。目次からもわかるように、イギリスでは、今何が起きているのか、一番話題になっているのはどういう事なのかが取り扱われています。

具体的には、犯罪防止を目的とした監視カメラの設置によるプライバシー侵害の問題や、日本ではあまり重きを置かれていない動物権 (animal rights) の話題、工作中的喫煙タイムを勤務時間に含まない自治体の登場、巨額の財政赤字解消による社会的影響、増え続ける離婚の解消策など、現代イギリスに於ける最新トピックスを読みやすい英語で楽しむことができます。

このような幅広いテーマを扱った本文を教室で読み易くする為に、解りやすい注釈を施しています。また、Exercises では、本文の理解を高めることを目的に、COMPREHENSION や WORD STUDY、WRITING WITH IDIOMS などを設けてあり、更に DICTATION / PARAPHRASE そして MAKING CONVERSATION など、幅広い練習問題も用意されており、英語の総合的な運用能力を高める事ができるように編集されています。

ここで、著者のカヌーセン氏をご紹介致します。彼は、アメリカ・シアトルの生まれで、ワシントン大学を卒業後、イギリスのサセックス大学で修士号 (20 世紀英文学) を取得しました。日本滞在は 40 年を超え、大学生の英語力向上の為にテキストを精力的に出版していらっしゃいます。同氏はアメリカ人ではありますが、かなりのイギリスファンで、年に複数回は必ず滞在しているとの事です。本書は、アメリカ人から見たイギリス論という事ができましょう。ですから、本文中の英語表記は基本的にアメリカ式のスペリングですが、引用部分ではイギリス流のスペリングがでてくることがあります。

本文の施注にあたっては、本文の理解を手助けする為に細心の注意を払ったつもりではありますが、思わぬ思い込みや誤解等もあろうかと思われまので、読者諸賢のご指摘を待ちたいと思います。

最後に、本テキストの刊行に当たり、南雲堂編集部に加藤敦氏には、大変お世話になりました。ここに記して感謝の意を表します。

2011 年 晩秋
宇野 毅

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READING: Read this essay carefully.



Dame Helen Mirren is one of Britain's best-loved actresses. She has won nearly every acting award imaginable, including an Oscar, four BAFTAs, and two best-actress awards at Cannes. (Perhaps you know her best as Queen Elizabeth II in *The Queen*). Mirren started out as a Shakespearean actress and during her long career has performed many of Shakespeare's greatest roles for women. So when she suggested not too long ago that U.K. schools should stop making children read Shakespeare, many people were taken aback. "Honestly, I don't think kids should be made to read Shakespeare at all," she said. Does that mean that pupils should not study the Bard of Avon? Definitely not. "Children's very first experience of Shakespeare should always be in performance, in the theatre or on film," Mirren said.

One well-known drama critic disagrees with Dame Helen. The problem is not Shakespeare or the difficulty of his language and ideas, he believes. "It's the shortage of good, passionate teaching in schools. I now feel that when it comes to English literature, teachers should not be interviewed, but auditioned. What passion can they bring to the subject? If they manage to make the most vivid writer of all dull, then sack them."

Newspaper headlines indicate that the problem is not limited to the teaching of literature, however. Recent government statistics show that the majority of U.K. teenagers fail to get C grades or better in English and math and that Britain lags well behind other nations in math and science education. What to do about it? Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, thinks the answer is to run state schools more like offices and factories. He announced a plan that would have school days run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. He also wants schools to open on Saturdays and to add two weeks to school terms, totaling 40 weeks a year. This would give "disadvantaged youngsters" an opportunity to catch up with their "more privileged peers." It would also help working parents who are struggling to "fit early school finishing times in with their jobs," says Gove.

More controversially, Gove recently criticized what he calls the "declining virtues of the country's young." He wants troubled teenagers and unruly pupils taken out of school and sent to "boot camps" where former military officers and war veterans would teach them respect for others. "These men and women have many of the traditional values that parents feel have disappeared from our schools and need to be restored: self-discipline, a sense of purpose and a belief in the importance of working as a team."

Notes

Dame Helen Mirren 「ヘレン・ミレン；1945年生まれのイギリスの女優」 Oscar 「オスカー賞」 BAFTA 「英国アカデミー賞」 at Cannes 「カンヌ映画祭で」 not too long ago 「つい最近」 taken aback 「びっくりさせられる」 Bard of Avon 「エイヴオンの詩人；シェイクスピアのこと」 when it comes to 「...の事になると」 sack 「首にする」 teenagers 「(13歳から19歳の)若者」 lags 「遅れる」 Education Secretary 「教育相；イギリスでは、Secretaryは大臣の意味」 disadvantaged 「恵まれない」 privileged peers 「特権階級に属する貴族」 declining virtues 「モラルの低下」 unruly 「手に負えない」 boot camp 「更正施設」 sense of purpose 「目的意識」



EXERCISES



COMPREHENSION 1: DETAILS: Write the requested information on the lines.

1. _____ how many BAFTAs Dame Helen has won
2. _____ what Mirren started out as
3. _____ where Mirren says kids should first experience Shakespeare
4. _____ what one drama critic says there's a shortage of
5. _____ how many U.K. teens don't get good grades
6. _____ Michael Gove's title or position
7. _____ number of hours Gove wants kids to be in school each day
8. _____ who Gove says needs to catch up in school
9. _____ who would teach in Gove's "boot camps"
10. _____ the people who feel that schools no longer teach traditional values, according to Gove

COMPREHENSION 2: READING BETWEEN THE LINES: Complete each sentence below with the best choice.

1. Dame Helen Mirren believes that
 - (A) schools should not teach Shakespeare at all
 - (B) children should perform not read Shakespeare
 - (C) young kids should not be made to read Shakespeare's plays
2. The well-known drama critic thinks that literature teachers should
 - (A) be actors not teachers
 - (B) be fired if they make their lessons boring
 - (C) never teach Shakespeare through reading
3. Secretary Gove believes all of the following EXCEPT
 - (A) some students have greater advantages than others
 - (B) state schools should be more like workplaces
 - (C) parents should fit their jobs to their children's school schedules

COMPREHENSION 3: TRUE-FALSE LISTENING: Listen to the sentences. Circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.

1. T F
2. T F
3. T F
4. T F

WORD STUDY 1: MEANINGS: Listed below are the key words for this lesson. Listen to the definitions. As you listen, choose the word that best matches each definition. Write the words on the lines.

imaginable
indicate
vivid

definitely
privileged
restored

controversially
virtues

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

WORD STUDY 2: WORD FORMS: Fill in the blank in each sentence below with the correct form of one of the words above.

1. The _____ of the building will take over a year. After it is finished, it will look just as it did 200 years ago.
2. The novelist describes scenes and characters so _____ that they come to life on the page.
3. I can't _____ why Richard would suddenly quit his job like that, can you?
4. Once you have a _____ schedule, let me know, and I'll make your hotel arrangements.
5. Everything the prime minister says these days becomes a matter of _____. He really stirs up debate.
6. I think the patient's aches and pains are _____ of a psychological not a physical problem.
7. If you don't take better care of the books you borrow, you will lose your library _____.
8. In the movie, an idealistic and _____ young politician is destroyed by the system.

WRITING WITH IDIOMS: Rewrite each sentence below by substituting one of these phrases for the underlined part of the sentence. Make the necessary changes. Listen to check your sentences.

(be) taken aback

lag behind

take out of

1. Statistics show that Denmark is ahead of all other nations in happiness.

2. As you remove the computer from the box, be very careful not to damage anything.

3. What shocked us was how much the scenes of the disaster on TV looked like something in a movie.

DICTATION/PARAPHRASE: As you listen, write what you hear on the lines. Then choose the sentence that is closest in meaning to each sentence you have written.

1. _____
(A) Pupils get lost easily.
(B) Pupils don't know what they want to do with their lives.
(C) Pupils don't mean to do what they do.
2. _____
(A) Teaching literature is not a real problem.
(B) Literature teachers are not such a big problem.
(C) There are problems in other areas besides in the teaching of literature.
3. _____
(A) Poorer youngsters have no chance at all to do well.
(B) It would help poorer young people win the race.
(C) It would help less fortunate youths to succeed in life.

MAKING CONVERSATION: As you read the questions below, listen to the three possible answers for each. Choose the best answer.

1. What Helen Mirren movies have you seen recently?
(A) (B) (C)
2. Were you ever made to read Shakespeare in school?
(A) (B) (C)
3. How many weeks do you go to school each year?
(A) (B) (C)