

Basic English for Architecture

—Reading & Writing—

建築を学ぶ人のための総合英語
—リーディング&ライティング—

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by

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はしがき

グローバル化が進む中、それぞれの分野における英語運用能力が求められており、ESP (English for Specific Purposes) の重要性と必要性が認められています。しかし、実際に専門分野に関連した内容のリーディング教材を通じた語彙強化や、その分野に関連する内容でのライティング練習に特化した英語テキストは多くはありません。EGP (English for General Purposes) ・ EAP (English for Academic Purposes) として作成されたテキストは、その目的から非常に広い範囲のトピックを含んでいます。しかし、限られた学習時間の中で建築関連学習や仕事において「使える英語」の力をつけるためには、その分野に特化した語彙を強化し、コミュニケーション力をつけるための学習が必要となります。

本書は Basic English for Architecture: Listening and Speaking に続き、建築系を学ぶ、あるいは建築系の仕事に携わり始めた学習者のために開発された語学 (英語) 学習テキストです。Basic English for Architecture: Listening and Speaking と同様の建築に関連するテーマに基づいた Reading Section と Writing Section からなる 12 ユニットで構成されています。

Reading Section では、様々なトピックを扱ったパッセージを通して、基本的な建築関連の語彙の強化と読解力を養います。Writing Section では、基本的なパラグラフの書き方から最終的には複数のパラグラフで構成された essay が書けるように、段階的にライティングの力をつけていきます。

学習者のターゲットとしては TOEIC400 点～550 点レベルを設定しています。建築関連企業でも新入社員の英語力は課題の一つとなっているという声も聞こえてきます。本書は、建築系の大学生および企業における語学研修で使える入門レベルの建築系英語テキストを目指しました。

各ユニットは、以下のように構成されています。

Reading Section:

- 各ユニットのテーマに関連する 500 ワード前後の Reading Passage
- 本文に使用されている Vocabulary の意味
- 単語ベース・文章ベースの問題で語彙力を高める Vocabulary Exercise
- Reading Passage の読解問題

Writing Section:

- パラグラフの書き方を基礎から学ぶ Writing Focus
- Model Paragraph を使った Writing Focus 内容の理解確認
- Model Paragraph を参考にしたライティング応用練習

本書の作成にあたり、芝浦工業大学建築学部の多くの先生方のご協力とご助言をいただきました。また、伊藤洋子教授 (Unit 6)、隈澤文俊教授 (Unit 4)、志村秀明教授 (Unit 2)、古谷浩教授 (Unit 7) には日本語原案を作成いただき、本書のクオリティを高めることができました。皆様に感謝申し上げます。

CONTENTS

Unit 1	
Introduction	6
Unit 2	
Planning	10
Unit 3	
Floor Plan	14
Unit 4	
Building Structure	18
Unit 5	
Kitchen	22
Unit 6	
Living Room	26

Unit 7	
Design Styles	30
Unit 8	
Scales and Dimensions	34
Unit 9	
Colors	38
Unit 10	
Sustainable Design	42
Unit 11	
Natural Hazards	46
Unit 12	
Urban Design	50

Unit 1

Introduction

READING SECTION

What Is Architecture?



If we look in the dictionary for a definition of *architecture*, we find something like architecture is

1) the process of planning, designing, and constructing

buildings and other physical structures and 2) the product of this process. In other words, architecture means both the buildings themselves and the process that occurs to build the buildings. But is architecture more than that?

If we examine the contents of an architecture course at a university, our understanding of architecture becomes more complex than the dictionary definition. We can learn more about what architecture is. Looking at the viewpoints of people who design architecture courses, we can see that architecture is a highly integrated and multi-dimensional creative process. Architecture schools combine a variety of different elements—aesthetic, technical, social and environmental—to make a whole. We also learn that architecture doesn't exist in isolation.

When we listen to architects, we can get a better sense of the meaning of architecture and our understanding deepens again. We can see that architecture is not just physical; it is also philosophical and connected to society. For example, the French architect Le Corbusier (1887-1965) believed that a house was a 'machine to live in'; it should be modern and convenient. He thought architecture should use the technological advances in society. Le Corbusier also saw a social role for architecture in raising the quality of life for the working classes. Odile Decq, a contemporary French architect, also emphasizes the philosophical interconnection between architecture and society. From her point of view, to contribute to society, architects need a "deep cultural, sociological, economical, political and ethical understanding of the world."

Toyo Ito, who won the Pritzker Prize in 2011, emphasizes different aspects of architecture. Ito believes that architecture is a way to create order in a world that is always changing. In his work, he wants to bring architecture closer to nature and the local community. His philosophy has influenced Kazuyo Sejima's and Ryue Nishizawa's architecture. Like Ito, they also emphasize 'openness.' In their Pritzker Prize acceptance speech in 2010 they talked about building the Kanazawa Art Museum. They designed it so that people would feel comfortable coming into the building even if they didn't know anything about art.

Although different architects have different views, there are similarities, as they consider the meaning of architecture for both people and the environment. In your studies you will have many opportunities to learn, discover, and deepen your understanding of architecture. You will meet different philosophies and look at architecture from a variety of points of view. As you study and in your daily life, pay attention to the environment around you and the effect that it has on people, and reflect on what architecture means to you. (455 words)

Vocabulary

definition (定義), process (過程), physical (物理的), complex (複雑な), viewpoint (見方, 観点), integrated (統合された, 総合的な), multi-dimensional (多次元の), element (要素), aesthetic (審美的), isolation (隔離), deepen (深める), quality of life (生活の質), contemporary (現代の), philosophical (哲学の), community (コミュニティ, 地域社会), emphasize (強調する), consider (考える, 考慮する), reflect (反映する)

Vocabulary Exercise

1 Find the closest meaning from a-e for each word below.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. isolation () | a. appreciation of beauty |
| 2. definition () | b. a way of looking at or thinking about something |
| 3. viewpoint () | c. separated from other persons or things |
| 4. aesthetic () | d. an explanation of the meaning of the word |
| 5. reflect () | e. think over |

2 Write the most appropriate word to complete the sentences. (You may need to change the form of the word). There are some words in the box that you don't use.

- Architects () the lifestyle of residents when designing a house.
- He is quite () and always thinking about the meaning of life.
- You can () your knowledge of architecture by reading widely.
- She () the importance of design over function.

physical emphasize philosophical consider elements deepen

Comprehension Questions

1 Write T if the statement is true according to the text and F if it is not true.

- According to the dictionary definition, the word "architecture" has two meanings. ()
- Philosophy is important in architecture. ()
- Toyo Ito designed the Kanazawa Art Museum. ()
- Ito's belief about architecture is to use the technological possibilities of the day. ()
- Sejima, Nishizawa, and Ito emphasize the importance of 'openness.' ()

2 Write an answer to each question below.

- What two aspects does the dictionary definition of architecture include?

- What elements are found in an architectural course?

- What social role did Le Corbusier believe that architecture has?

- What advice does the text give to you as a student?

WRITING SECTION

WRITING FOCUS: The Organization of a Paragraph

What is a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences focusing on one main idea. The main idea is expressed in a sentence that is called a topic sentence at or near the beginning of the paragraph. The topic sentence is usually followed by supporting sentences. Supporting sentences provide details, such as examples, explanations, statistics, and experts' opinions.

Seven basic rules for writing a paragraph

When you are writing a paragraph/paragraphs, pay attention to the following points.

1. Have a topic sentence.
2. Have relevant supporting sentences.
3. Indent the first sentence of the paragraph.
4. Do not start each sentence on a new line.
5. Keep margins on both sides. (If using a word processor, use justification (両端揃え), or leave about an inch space on both sides if writing by hand.)
6. Use a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence.
7. Use a period, question mark, or exclamation point at the end of each sentence.

Exercise

- 1 Read the model paragraph and answer the questions.

A MODEL PARAGRAPH

Why I'm studying architecture

My junior high school trip to Kyoto inspired me to become an architect. We visited many famous temples and shrines, including Kinkaku-ji, Ginkaku-ji, and Fushimi Inari. While these temples and shrines were impressive, I was more attracted to Kyoto's narrow and long houses called "machiya." Since I was inspired by the shrines, temples, and machiya, I became very interested in different types of houses. Since then, looking at books and magazines of house design has become one of my hobbies. now, I'm studying architecture at my university and finding out that architecture means much more than simply designing houses. The more I know about architecture, the stronger my desire becomes to study all aspects of architecture (116 words)

1. Write the topic sentence of the model paragraph.
-

- 2 Identify the following supporting sentences and match them using the choices in the box. You may not need to use all of the choices.

1. Since I was inspired by the shrines, temples, and machiya, I became very interested in different types of houses. ()
2. For example, I visited Kinkaku-ji Temple, Ginkaku-ji Temple, and Fushimi Inari shrine. ()
3. While these temples and shrines were impressive, I was more attracted to Kyoto's narrow and long houses called "machiya." ()

examples explanations statistics expert's opinion

- 3 Read the model paragraph again and put a check mark (✓) if the following rules are satisfied.

- Rule 3:** () Indent the first sentence of the paragraph.
- Rule 4:** () Do NOT start each sentence on a new line.
- Rule 5:** () Keep margins on both side. (If using word a processor, use justification, or leave about an inch space on both sides if writing by hand.)
- Rule 6:** () Use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence.
- Rule 7:** () Use a period at the end of each sentence.