

Changing UK & Unchanged UK

変わる英国変わらない英国

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NAN'UN-DO

はじめに

エリザベス 2 世が 2022 年 9 月 8 日、96 歳で逝去されました。1952 年から 2022 年までの 70 年 214 日の在位期間は、イギリスの君主としては最長の統治期間でした。よく比較されるヴィクトリア女王の在位期間は 1837 年から 1901 年までの 63 年と 216 日で、逝去されたのは 81 歳でした。両女王ともイギリスの変動期を見守った歴史に残る君主として知られています。このテキストは現在のイギリスの姿をその歴史に絡めて、様々な角度からイギリスについて学ぶテキストです。16 世紀のエリザベス 1 世も含め、イギリスは女王の時代に発展したと言われていますが、もちろん女王だったからではなく、変動の時代が偶然女王の時代であったのでしょう。このテキストでも彼女たちの統治時代の話が度々登場することからも重要な時代だったことがうかがえます(エリザベス 1 世については、父親のヘンリー 8 世の時代もよく取り上げられています)。本テキストのタイトルは「変わる英国変わらない英国」で、イギリスの様々な要素を、その歴史的起源やその変遷、そしてその現在の姿という形で切り取っています。

日本の英語の授業では、日本の歴史と世界情勢を鑑みて、米語及びアメリカが主流ですが、それでもイギリス英語の知識は大事ですし、アメリカの文化・政治・言語・歴史を扱う時にもイギリスについて触れることは多々あります。また「イギリス愛好家」も多くいますが、彼ら／彼女らにとって、イギリスの魅力とは何なのでしょう。シェイクスピア、ビートルズ、ウエスト・エンドのミュージカル、ハリー・ポッターなどイギリスには魅力的なコンテンツは多々ありますが、最も重要なものとして、歴史と伝統が挙げられると思います。イギリスにはあちこちに「ブルー・プラーク (blue plaque): イギリス国内に設置されている青い史跡案内板」があり、その場所で何が起こったのか、誰が住んでいたのかを伝えてくれています。イギリスにはあらゆるところに歴史があり、これが外国人にとっての魅力なのかもしれません。遠い過去と現在の姿を結びつけたり、まったく新しい要素を見出したるのがイギリス研究の楽しみでしょう。

本テキストでは「イギリス」と聞いて連想するものを中心にトピックを選んでいます。紅茶、ハリー・ポッター、ビッグ・ベン、王室、大学、フットボールなど、学生の皆さんが興味を持ちそうなトピックを揃えました。イギリスについてもともと興味があったものの知識をさらに深め、今まで知りえなかった知見を広げ、イギリスをもっと知ってもっと好きになっていただけたらと願います。

イギリスに関して書くときにいつも苦労するのが、国の呼称です。タイトルには UK を使っていますが、実際にはこのテキストでも Britain をよく使っています。地域的にイングランドだけのものについては England を使っていますが(歴史的にイングランドとしかあ

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てはまらないような場合や、イングランド独自の教育制度などを表すとき)、イングランド・スコットランド・ウェールズ・北アイルランドを総称する場合には Britain または UK を使っています。これについても比較的歴史が古いものや文化・民族を表すものは Britain を使い、比較的新しく、政治的なものを表すものには UK を使っていますが (UK が正式に認められたのは 1927 年)、時々あいまいになっているところもあるのでご容赦ください。

本テキストの使い方

各課の扉ページにクイズや質問があります。クイズについては、わからなければ調べたり、またその課が終わった後にもう一度トライすることもできます。質問については、基本自由に答えてください。本文は 2 ページで、それぞれのページの右側に確認テストが付されています。1 から 3 の問いについては左側の本文を参照して英語で答えてください。最後の 1 から 3 の日本語で答える問題は、本文全体を読み終わったあとに少し考えさせる問題を用意しました。各チャプターの最後のページには、Conversation (会話) を用意しました。アメリカ人 (Mary) とイギリス人 (John) と日本人 (Takashi) の会話で、それぞれの課のテーマについて自分の国の事情を話しています。会話の終わりでは必ず Takashi が話をふられて日本の事情を話すことになっています。それまでの会話の流れに合うように、空白の行に自分の考えを書き込み、まわりの友達とロール・プレイをしながら会話してみてください。その課で読んだことの有効な review になるはずです。

このテキスト作成についてはいつも英文を丁寧に確認し、今回は fact check も行ってくれた Christofer Bullsmith 氏に深い感謝の言葉を捧げます。またイギリス人の友人 Genevieve Fox 氏、William Warner 氏にもイギリス事情についてチェックして下さったことに、お礼を申し上げます。

2026 年 石谷由美子

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Chapter 1

Politics



1. Who is Prime Minister of the UK now?
2. Can you name any former British prime ministers?
3. What are two major political parties in the UK?
4. Have you heard of Big Ben? What is it?



1 Introduction Everybody knows Big Ben, the clock tower. A lot of people think the clock tower is called Big Ben, but in fact, Big Ben is the name of the bell inside the clock tower. Big Ben is part of the UK's Parliament building, which is known as the Houses of Parliament. It is said that Big Ben was named after Sir Benjamin Hall, who was involved in the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament after a fire. The tower's name was changed to "Elizabeth Tower" in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (celebrating her 60 years on the throne). This tower has been a major attraction for foreign tourists. However, we should not forget that it is also a symbol of the UK's parliamentary democracy, which was the model for the parliamentary systems of many countries, including Japan.

2 An Outline of the British political system The UK has the most famous and popular royal family in the world, but their power is limited by the constitution. This system is called a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy. In this system, the monarch (king or queen) is the head of state, while the prime minister is the head of government. In Parliament, there are two chambers, a system called the bicameral system. The two chambers are the House of Commons and the House of Lords. This system has been adopted by other countries, especially those that were once part of the British Empire. The US is one of them.

3 History The British parliamentary system started with the Magna Carta in 1215, which restricted the power of King John. In the 1330s, the House of Lords and the House of Commons were founded. Charles I tried to suppress parliament, where many Puritan gentry held power. This led to the Puritan Revolution (1642), and surprisingly, Charles I was executed. He was the only British monarch ever to be executed. A republic led by Oliver Cromwell was created, but it did not last long. In 1660, Charles II returned to the throne, and then James II became king. James II was Catholic and insisted on the divine right of kings, and ignored Parliament. Angry members of Parliament deposed him; this incident is called the Glorious Revolution (1688), because no blood was shed. James II's daughter Mary and her Dutch husband William became Queen and King and signed the "Bill of Rights". This confirmed the power of Parliament over the king. People who supported strong royal power became known as Tories, and those who supported parliamentary power became known as Whigs. This was the beginning of the Conservative (Tory) Party and the Liberal (Whig) Party. George I was invited from Germany as the first king of the House of Hanover. To help this German-speaking king, Robert Walpole of the Whig Party became the first Prime Minister and formed his Cabinet in 1721. In this way, the monarchy and parliament were incorporated into a united political system.

1 True or false questions

- 1) Big Ben is actually a bell. T / F
- 2) Big Ben is named after a prime minister. T / F
- 3) Big Ben is officially called Elizabeth Tower. T / F
- 4) Big Ben is in Buckingham Palace. T / F

2 Complete the summary.

The UK is a constitutional monarchy, which means the monarchy's power is restricted by the (¹). In this system, political power is held by the (²) minister. The UK has two chambers: the House of (³) and the House of Lords. This system is called the (⁴) system.

3 Answer the following questions in English

- 1) Why was the Magna Carta significant in British parliamentary history?

.....

- 2) Why was Charles I executed?

.....

- 3) What significance did the "Bill of Rights" have in British history?

.....

1 ~ 3 次の質問に日本語で答えよ。

- 1) Big Ben はなぜ Elizabeth Tower という名前になったのか？

- 2) Tory Party と Whig Party の違いは？

Notes

1 parliament 議会 rebuilding 改築 celebrate 祝う the Diamond Jubilee 即位 60 周年の記念式典 throne 王座
2 constitution 憲法 monarchy 王制 chamber 院 bicameral system 二院制 the House of Commons 庶民院・下院
the House of Lords 貴族院・上院 adopt 採用する **3** restrict 制限する found 設立する suppress 抑圧する
Puritan gentry 清教徒ジェントリ (郷紳・下級地主階級) execute 処刑する republic 共和国 last 続く the
divine right of kings 王権神授説 depose 廃位させる shed (血が) 流れる shed-shed-shed Bill of Rights 権利の章
典 confirm 確認する the House of Hanover ハノーヴァー朝 Cabinet 内閣 incorporate 統合する

4 Bicameral System The House of Lords consists of three different types of members: hereditary peers, life peers, and bishops and archbishops. Hereditary peers are those who inherit their status from their ancestors. In 1999, Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair tried to remove all hereditary peers from the House of Lords. He did not succeed, but the number was reduced from 750 to 92. Life peers are those who have shown excellence in their area of expertise. They are nominated by the prime minister for a title, but their title is not hereditary. The third category consists of 26 bishops and archbishops of the Church of England. None of the members of the House of Lords are elected by the public. The House of Lords mainly checks the decisions of the House of Commons. Therefore, the political power of the House of Commons is much greater than that of the House of Lords. The House of Commons has 650 members and they are all elected by the public. These members are called Members of Parliament (MPs), while the members of the House of Lords are called Lords. The House of Commons proposes new laws and checks government policies. The House of Lords is equivalent to the Upper House (or the Senate) in the US, while the House of Commons is equivalent to the Lower House (or the House of Representatives).



5 Two Party System It is said that the British political system is a two-party system. However, this is not exactly a formal system. Historically, British general elections have been dominated by two main political parties. Before 1924, those parties were the Conservative Party (Tories) and the Liberal Party (Whigs). After that, the dominant parties were the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. Many British people agree that this system is the most efficient and reliable. The Conservative Party was formed in 1678 and was called the Tory Party. The present Conservative Party was formed in 1834. The modern Liberal Party was formed in 1859, and it was a rival party of the Conservative Party until the 1920s, when it rapidly declined in popularity. It was finally defeated by the Labour Party in 1924. The Labour Party was founded in 1900 and formed its first government in 1924. Since then, the Labour and Conservative Parties have been the two dominant parties. Of course, other parties have existed as well: for example, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), the Green Party, the Scottish National Party (SNP), Plaid Cymru in Wales, and Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland.

Questions

4 True or false questions

- The House of Lords includes religious people. T/F
- Life peers are people given titles for their achievements. T/F
- The members of the House of Lords are elected by the public. T/F
- The House of Lords is equivalent to the House of Representatives of the USA. T/F

5 Complete the summary.

The British political system is considered a two-party system. In the past, the Tories competed with the Whigs; the former became the (¹) Party, and the latter became the (²) Party. The popularity of the (³) Party was overtaken by the (⁴) Party in 1924. Now, the Conservative Party competes with the Labour Party.

4 ~ 5 について次の質問に日本語で答えよ。

- 貴族院 (the House of Lords) と庶民院 (House of Commons) の違いを説明せよ。
- イギリスは二党制と言われているが、これは二党しか選挙に出られないのか？



Notes

4 consist of ~から成る hereditary peer 世襲貴族 life peer 一代限りの貴族 bishop 司教 archbishop 大司教 inherit 受け継ぐ status 身分 ancestor 祖先 remove なくす expertise 専門 nominate 指名する title 称号 the Church of England 英国国教会 be equivalent to ~と同等である **5** dominate 支配する reliable 信頼のおける form 結成する defeat 負かす found 設立する dominant 支配的な

Conversation

A: American: Mary B: British: John J: Japanese: Takashi



- B:** Let's talk about politics. We call the place where we make laws "Parliament".
- A:** We call it "Congress" in the US.
- J:** We call it the "Diet" in Japan.
- B:** The US and Japan have two Houses. I heard you copied our system. We have the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The members of the former are called Lords, and members of the latter are called Members of Parliament, or MPs. Lords are peers and religious leaders, and they are not elected.
- A:** We call them the Senate and the House of Representatives. The members of the former are Senators, and those of the latter are Representatives. Both are elected. I'm surprised to hear that Lords are not elected. That sounds quite British. Class society still exists in the UK!
- B:** You're right, but there are many people who do not agree with the House of Lords being unelected. People also question why there are only Church of England bishops in the House of Lords, instead of representatives of all faiths. How about Japan?
- J:** We have the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives. Both are elected, too. They are called Diet members.
- B:** Now I'd like to know about the two-party system. In the UK, the Labour Party and the Conservative Party are the two major parties. The former focuses on social welfare and the latter emphasizes competition and a "small government".
- A:** In the US, we have the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The former is similar to your Labour Party and the latter is equivalent to your Conservative Party. How about Japan?

J:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Chapter 2 Cuisine



1. What British dishes do you know?
2. Do you think British food tastes bad?
3. Do you know the difference between an English breakfast and a Continental breakfast?



1 Introduction

Heaven is an American salary, a Chinese cook, an English house, and a Japanese wife. Hell is defined as having a Chinese salary, an English cook, a Japanese house, and an American wife.

This is an old American joke. British cuisine has long been described as “bad” or “terrible”. Every country has jokes about nationality, culture, food customs, and so on. In many cases, these jokes are made by rival countries. For example, the English expression “go Dutch” means “split the bill”. The Netherlands was Britain’s rival in the 17th century, and the British made fun of the Dutch people, with this expression by suggesting that they were stingy. France was Britain’s enemy for a long time. It is likely that French people wanted to insult British people by making fun of them, especially in terms of their food.

2 Possible reasons for the bad reputation of British food

Whether a dish is good or not depends on who eats it. If an Italian person or a French person eats British food, they may say it is bad, but people from other cultures may find it delicious. What would Americans say about British food? It may be a kind of joke that British food is bad, and very often the British themselves make fun of their food. Making jokes is a British tradition. If we accept this idea and think about why British food has a bad reputation, we can point to three main reasons:

- 1) **Climate and land.** Many areas of Britain have land and climate that are not ideal for agriculture. The variety of vegetables and fruits is limited, and their quality is not as high as in France or other warmer, drier, and more fertile countries.
- 2) **Thrift has been encouraged.** It is interesting that Catholic countries, like France, Italy and Spain, have a good reputation for food and cuisine, while Protestant countries, like Britain and Germany, often do not. One possible reason is that thrift is valued in Protestantism, rather than gourmet living. In these countries, diligence and hard work are emphasized. Therefore, British people have thought “eat to live”, not “live to eat”. This could be the reason why Britain has produced so many philosophers and intellectuals.
- 3) **The lack of seasoning.** For a long time, until Britain expanded into China and India, it did not have easy access to seasonings from the East. Other European countries gained seasonings through the Silk Road. This may be why traditional British food was plain.

Questions**1 True or false questions**

- 1) According to an old American joke, a Japanese wife is “bad”. T/F
- 2) The expression, “go Dutch” praises Dutch people’s diligence. T/F
- 3) British people made fun of Dutch people, because Dutch people liked jokes. T/F
- 4) French people made fun of British food. T/F

2 Complete the summary

Some reasons can be given for why British food is believed to be “bad”. First, the variety of vegetables and fruits was limited due to Britain’s (¹) and land. Second, according to (²) values, simple cuisine was encouraged. Third, as Britain could not access the (³) Road, (⁴) was not readily available.

1 ~ 2 について次の質問に日本語で答えよ。

- 1) go Dutch の意味と、なぜその意味になるのか説明せよ。
- 2) ここでは宗教の要素がイギリス人の食事に影響を与えたかもしれない、とあるがなぜか？

Notes

1 cuisine 料理 Dutch オランダの stingy けち the Netherlands オランダ enemy 敵 insult 侮辱する make fun of ~をからかう **2** reputation 評判 thrift 倹約 value 価値をおく gourmet グルメの diligence 勤勉 seasoning 香辛料 plain (味が) あっさりとした・薄い

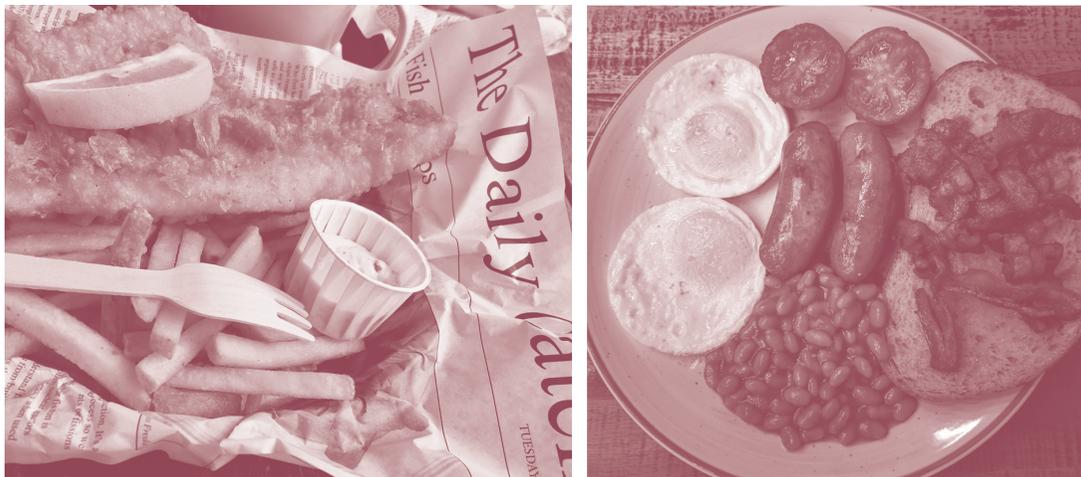
3 New Trends

However, British food is now changing. Tourism is one of the main industries in the UK, so it is important for British food to develop a new image. We can see three new trends in British cuisine. The first trend is “Modern British”. This is a new style of British traditional cuisine. The second trend is the fusion of different national cuisines. In the UK, there are many immigrants, including from the Commonwealth. Many of them open restaurants serving their national cuisine. The third trend is the invention of new types of cuisine by “TV chefs” through their TV programs, cookbooks, or cooking websites.

4 Curious food for foreigners Here are some British foods avoided by foreigners—and sometimes by British people too!

1. Black Pudding (a black sausage containing pig’s blood and other ingredients)
2. Haggis (a Scottish dish consisting of sheep’s organs cut up with onions and spices, and cooked inside a sheep’s stomach)
3. Marmite (a soft, dark brown, salty food made from yeast, usually eaten on bread)

5 English breakfast Somerset Maugham, an English novelist, said, “To eat well in England, you should have breakfast three times a day”. A traditional “English breakfast” (sometimes called a “full English”) typically consists of eggs (fried, scrambled or poached), sausages, bacon, baked beans, tomato, mushrooms, toast, and coffee or tea. A “continental breakfast (European-style breakfast)” usually consists of only cereal, toast, pastries or croissants and coffee or tea. If you go to England and stay in a hotel or B&B, you can expect a breakfast that is nicer than in any other European country. However, the number of B&Bs which serve a “full English” is said to be decreasing.



Questions

3 What are three new trends in British cuisine?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

4 True or false questions

- 1) Black pudding is a black and sweet dessert. T/F
- 2) Haggis is a mixture of sheep’s organs and some vegetables that are cooked in a sheep’s stomach. T/F
- 3) Marmite is a salty and sweet spread for bread. T/F

5 Answer the following questions in English.

- 1) What did Somerset Maugham mean by saying, “To eat well in England, you should have breakfast three times a day”?
.....
- 2) What is a “continental breakfast”?
.....
.....

3 ~ 5 について次の質問に日本語で答えよ。

- 1) 今、イギリスの食べ物のイメージを変える必要があるのはなぜか？
- 2) イギリスで多国籍料理が多いのはなぜか？

Notes

- 3 fusion 融合 immigrant 移民 the Commonwealth イギリス連邦
4 ingredient 材料 organ 内蔵
5 B&B ベッドと朝食付きのイギリスの民宿・ホテル

Conversation

A: American: Mary B: British: John J: Japanese: Takashi



J: Last week I was in the US and stayed at a business hotel. I was surprised that doughnuts and coffee were served for breakfast. Is it common for American people to have doughnuts for breakfast?

A: Oh, yes, it's quite common. Since everyone is busy in the morning, we usually have a very quick and simple breakfast, like doughnuts, toast, or cornflakes. I heard that the British breakfast is very nice. Is it true?

B: When they are at home, people in the UK often just have cereal like cornflakes or muesli with milk, or toast and marmalade. Tea, coffee and fruit juice are common drinks at breakfast. In B&Bs or hotels, you can expect a traditional English breakfast with toast, eggs and bacon, beans, sausages, and tea or coffee.

J: What's a B&B?

B: Ah, it stands for Bed and Breakfast. You get a bed for the night and breakfast at a reasonable price. It's also sometimes called a guest house. Some people prefer this kind of accommodation to hotels, because it's more friendly and makes you feel at home.

J: We call it "minshuku".

A: How about Japanese breakfast? I heard "natto" is common for Japanese breakfast.

B: What's "natto"?

A: It's fermented soybeans. It sounds bad, but strangely, Japanese people love it.

J: Yes, we love natto, although some people living in the western part of Japan don't like it.

B: What do you eat for breakfast other than natto?

J:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Chapter 3

The Royal Family



1. How many members of the British Royal Family can you name?
2. What are some similarities and differences between the British Royal Family and the Japanese Imperial Family?
3. Do you know of any scandals involving the British royal family?

