

めざせ 1 級！ 英語上級者への道 ～Listen and Speak II～

第 3 回 環境に優しい自転車の復活

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: You've got a new car!

T: Yes. This car gets good mileage since it's a hybrid car. I like to hear the sound and feel the vibration of a gasoline engine, but with the recent hike in gasoline prices, I couldn't resist getting a hybrid.

E: I know what you mean. I'm thinking of buying a bicycle.

T: Me, too. If we think of mobility, nothing can beat bikes.

E: I agree, though the range of mobility is limited to smaller areas and they're not good for carrying a lot of cargo.

T: I used to travel by bicycle with a tent and other camping gear loaded on the rear, but that was a long time ago.

E: I think Japan has a great bike culture. High school students use bikes to commute and some business people do, too. And what surprises me is that mothers drive their children to nursery schools and kindergartens on bikes specially designed for carrying small children.

T: You've reminded me of the old days of the Showa Era. We had '*riyakars*'.

E: What are they?

T: They were a kind of two-wheel trailer attached to the rear of bicycles to carry cargo.

E: That sounds like a bicycle trailer.

T: Maybe. They were very popular, but the problem was those trailers were very heavy and didn't look cool. I wish we could buy a bike with some space for cargo. Then we could go and enjoy shopping at one of those economical high-volume stores.

E: If you listen to this month's passage, you might start looking for the bike that best fits your needs!

T: Really? Let's begin, shall we?

E: Here we go!

■ Listen to the passage and answer the two questions that follow.

Cargo Bikes Make a Comeback 【2013 -1 pre1st B No.15, 16】

Cargo bikes are three-wheeled bicycles fitted with a rack or box. They were originally used by shops and businesses early in the 20th century to deliver items such as groceries and mail. The drawback of these bikes, however, was that their weight made them difficult to steer. The bikes disappeared when motorized vehicles became more affordable, but they have recently made a comeback. New, improved cargo bikes are becoming popular with businesses and individuals in many cities across Europe and North America.

The new bikes have become popular for several reasons. To solve the weight problem, they are made with aluminum frames. They are also designed to have more space. They can carry up to 100 kilograms of cargo, and many have seats and safety belts for carrying children. With power-assisted models also being developed, cargo bikes may be here to stay.

【Questions】 Answer the following 2 questions, spending 30 seconds on each.

No.1 (No.15) What was problematic about the original cargo bikes?

No.2 (No.16) What is one reason the new cargo bikes have become popular?

(The choices below are just for reference.)

- No. 15
- 1 They did not look attractive.
 - 2 They were hard to control.
 - 3 They did not have a rack.
 - 4 They cost a lot to maintain.

- No. 16
- 1 They are cheap to buy.
 - 2 They have a more compact design.
 - 3 They are power-assisted.
 - 4 They can carry more cargo.

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward

1	～が取り付けられている	fitted with～
2	欠点	drawback
3	操縦する、進ませる	steer
4	動力を取り付けた	motorized
5	手ごろな価格の	affordable
6	復活する	make a comeback
7	改良された	improved
8	アルミの	aluminum
9	骨組み	frame
10	設計する	design
11	最大で～まで	up to～
12	補助電動力つきの	power-assisted
13	普及している	here to stay

■Listen to the passage and once more answer the two questions that follow.

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Cargo bikes are three-wheeled bicycles fitted with a rack or box. They were originally used by shops and businesses early in the 20th century to deliver items such as groceries and mail. The drawback of these bikes, however, was that their weight made them difficult to steer. The bikes disappeared when motorized vehicles became more affordable, but they have recently made a comeback. New, improved cargo bikes are becoming popular with businesses and individuals in many cities across Europe and North America.

The new bikes have become popular for several reasons. To solve the weight problem, they are made with aluminum frames. They are also designed to have more space. They can carry up to 100 kilograms of cargo, and many have seats and safety belts for carrying children. With power-assisted models also being developed, cargo bikes may be here to stay.

【Questions】 Answer the following 2 questions, spending 30 seconds on each.

No.1 (No.15) What was problematic about the original cargo bikes?

No.2 (No.16) What is one reason the new cargo bikes have become popular?

■Repetition and Interpretation Drill

The passage is read with pauses and Japanese interpretation.

- 1) Repeat during each pause. Practice again and again until your repetition becomes perfect.
- 2) Listen and interpret during the pauses. You should finish your interpretation before the model interpretation starts. Practice again and again.
- 3) Shadowing and Interpretation. While listening to English, shadow the part in English. During the pauses, interpret into Japanese.

Cargo bikes are three-wheeled bicycles /
fitted with a rack of box.//

They were originally used by shops and businesses early in the 20th century /
to deliver items such as groceries and mail. //

The drawback of these bikes, however, /
was that their weight made them difficult to steer. //

The bikes disappeared when motorized vehicles became more affordable, /
but they have recently made a comeback. //

New, improved cargo bikes are becoming popular with businesses and individuals /
in many cities across Europe and North America. //

The new bikes have become popular for several reasons. //

To solve the weight problem, /
they are made with aluminum frames. //

They are also designed to have more space. //

They can carry up to 100 kilograms of cargo, /
and many have seats and safety belts for carrying children. //

With power-assisted models also being developed, /
cargo bikes may be here to stay.

■ Model answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? No.1, 'What was problematic about the original cargo bikes?'

E: The cargo bikes, while useful, were too heavy to steer easily.

T: Thank you. What is your answer for question No.2: 'What is one reason the new cargo bikes have become popular?'

E: The new cargo bikes now benefit from lighter weight aluminum frames and efficient designs giving them more cargo space.

T: Thank you.

■ Challenge 1

T: Now, Edward is going to make a statement about the article. Please express your agreement or disagreement with this statement. You should continue to speak for at least 30 seconds.

E: Bikes are an excellent means of transportation. It is a pity that we can't use them to carry cargo, isn't it?

E: Model. Now, let's listen to Tets. He will show you a model. Listen and compare with your answer.

T: Yes, they are a good means of transportation. No other type of transportation beats their environmental friendliness. Bikes are now actually very good carriers of cargo. Recently, new, improved cargo bikes have become available. They are gaining popularity with businesses and individuals in Europe and America.

■ Challenge 2

E: Please listen. Disagree with the following statement for at least one minute. Your statement should include some points introduced in the passage that you have listened to. Ready?

T: Bicycles are disappearing. They are only good for carrying a single rider. Carrying cargo on them is difficult and it is also dangerous to carry a passenger. In the past, parents used them to carry their children to kindergarten, nursery schools or when shopping, but not anymore. They have too many drawbacks.

T: Model. Now let's listen to Edward. He is going to show you a model. Listen and compare with your statement.

(Model)

E: I don't think so. There are some new and improved bikes on the market now. We have new three-wheel cargo bikes which are much more efficient and stable. One of the past drawbacks of cargo bikes was weight. New bikes, however, are built with lightweight materials such as aluminum. They are also designed to have more space and carry children safely. Some bikes are power assisted. You can carry heavy cargo on these new machines easier than you might think. I hear these new bikes are gaining popularity with businesses and individuals in both Europe and America. With new technology eliminating older drawbacks, cargo bikes are making a comeback.

■ Closing Dialogue

T: Good-bye, Edward. I'll see you in a few hours.

E: Where are you going?

T: I'm going home to search for this new type of bike.

E: Good idea but... where? They are after all...well...very new!

T: On the Internet. A cargo bike with an aluminum frame must look cool. I want to buy one.

E: I will, too. Hmm... My house is actually at the top of a REALLY steep hill... I'm no spring chicken... AH! Got it! I will need a power assisted bike!

T: Sounds great. Now, I can solve the problem of going to the convenience store in my neighborhood. Instead of driving my car, I can go there by bike.

E: Both ecologically and economically sound Tets! Taking your age into consideration, I... er... I recommend you that you pick up a three-wheel bike. And before you leave, let's say good-bye to our listeners.

T: Good idea.

E: Ready?

T: Yes. Good-bye and...

E&T: See you again!

★講師陣プロフィール★

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愛知教育大学出身。三重県立高校、大手英語学校を経て、現在、小学生～社会人まで幅広い層を対象に英語を指導している。英検セミナー派遣講師として各地の特別授業や英語教育セミナーにて活躍。2007年度まで、5年間にわたって三重県英語教員集中研修講師も務めた。

◇エドワード・スクラグス (Edward Scruggs)

テネシー出身。比較文学の分野で博士号、音楽の分野で修士号。

翻訳、英語教授に大活躍し、現在、相山女学園大学国際コミュニケーション学部准教授を務めるほかアルファ英語会(津市)アドバイザーとしても活躍中。