

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

第 7 回 モールス信号

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: Hello, Tets. Thanks for posting so many photos of your wonderful journey to Europe on Facebook. I felt as if I were traveling with you on the continent.

T: Yes, with social networks we now have almost instant communication. That's a far cry from the days of snail mail.

E: Indeed it is. But you know, Tets, there were some important interim communication technologies along the way. For example, do you know the origin of the acronym "SOS"?

T: Ah! Dot dot dot /dash dash dash/ dot dot dot! That is one of the most famous acronyms represented by the telegraph code system developed by Samuel Morse in 1836. That system was also implemented later in radio broadcasting. "Save Oh Save" or perhaps "Save Our Souls"...there is some debate as to the original meaning! There was, however, Edward, an earlier version of this call for distress! Did you know that, my friend?

E: Indeed I do! The original code was CQD! It may have meant "Come quickly: Distress!" But the dots and dashes used to indicate it were too long and...

T: Stop! We will have to send a real distress call if we spill the beans about our lesson too soon! Let's give our listeners a chance to experience this article for themselves.

E: A fine idea! Let's signal the start of this month's study!

T&E: Pip-pip-pip...pip-pip.

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

Morse Code (2013-1-pre-1st E, QNo.21, 22)

Morse code is a coding system that uses combinations of long and short signals, called dashes and dots, to represent letters. For example, one dash and two dots represents the letter D, while a dot and two dashes represents W. Morse code was widely used in early radio, since speech could not yet be transmitted. Even after talking over the radio became possible, ships and airplanes continued to use Morse code. This was mainly because it could be transmitted even when speech could not, such as when poor weather conditions caused interference.

Morse code was particularly useful in emergencies. Initially, the letters CQD were used to call for assistance when a ship was in trouble. However, this was long, and it never became universal. In 1906, the shorter and more easily recognizable SOS—three dots, three dashes, and three dots—was adopted as an international distress signal.

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

No.1 Why was Morse code still used after transmitting speech by radio became possible?

No.2 Why did the CQD signal stop being used?

(The choices below are just for reference.)

- No.1 (21)
- 1 Installing the new radio equipment was expensive.
 - 2 Morse code could be sent in poor conditions.
 - 3 Using the new radio equipment required special training.
 - 4 Morse code could be understood worldwide.

- No.2 (22)
- 1 People confused it with another signal.
 - 2 It could not be sent over long distance.
 - 3 People often sent it incorrectly.
 - 4 It was replaced by a simpler signal.

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward

1	記号	code
2	モールス信号	Morse code
3	長点、長音記号	dash
4	短点	dot
5	～を意味する	represent ～
6	伝送する	transmit
7	妨害	interference
8	当初は	initially
9	～を呼び求める	call for
10	誰にも共通する	universal
11	見分けのつく	recognizable
12	採用する	adopt
13	救難連絡	distress call

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

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■ 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.

Morse Code

Morse code is a coding system that uses combinations of long and short signals, /
called dashes and dots, to represent letters. //

For example, one dash and two dots represents the letter D, /
while a dot and two dashes represents W. //

Morse code was widely used in early radio, /
since speech could not yet be transmitted. //

Even after talking over the radio became possible, /

ships and airplanes continued to use Morse code. //
This was mainly because it could be transmitted /
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Morse code was particularly useful in emergencies. //
Initially, the letters CQD were used to call for assistance /
when a ship was in trouble. //
However, this was long, and it never became universal. /
In 1906, the shorter and more easily recognizable SOS /
—three dots, three dashes, and three dots— /
was adopted as an international distress signal.

■ Model answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? No.1, 'Why was Morse code still used after transmitting speech by radio became possible?'

E: Morse code was still used because it had the advantage of being transmittable even in poor weather when speech transmissions would be difficult to understand.

T: Thank you. What is your answer for question No.2, 'Why did the CQD signal stop being used?'

E: The letters "CQD" took too long to transmit and never became universal.

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: Why wasn't the use of Morse code discontinued with the advent of radio broadcasting? After all, radios could be used to transmit more specific emergency information, using natural language instead of a code. It just doesn't make sense.

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

(Model)

T: That may seem to be true, but the realities of technology at that time made using voice transmissions less desirable. Rough weather or other atmospheric disturbances could cause voice transmissions to be garbled beyond recognition. The simpler system of dots and dashes was more reliable in such adverse conditions.

■ 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: Morse code was an entirely ineffective and useless communication system! The system was constantly in need of change. Just consider the previous usage of the acronym “CQD.” It had to be changed to “SOS”! Anything would be better than a system like that, especially with the availability of radio broadcasting!

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 that is true at all. While the Morse code system was being constantly refined, it was actually more efficient than radio in several ways. They stopped using “CQD” simply because the dots and dashes for those letters took too long to transmit. The simple but effective change to “SOS” made sending an emergency alert much quicker. The sequence is simplicity itself, consisting of only three dots, three dashes and three dots. Its simplicity and ease of transmission lead to “SOS” being universally recognized as a standard distress signal. While radio may seem to be capable of transmitting more detailed information, emergency situations, particularly at sea, can involve atmospheric conditions that garble voice messages beyond recognition. The simple system of dots and dashes alleviates this very serious shortcoming. I think Morse code is actually very effective in certain situations.

■Closing Dialogue

E: I think this month's lesson has given some of our younger listeners a chance to learn about the origins of Morse code. Morse code was used until 1999, but was replaced by the "Global Maritime Distress and Safety System". The French Navy ceased using Morse code on January 31, 1997. I found their last transmission to be quite moving!

T: Really! What was the message?

E: It was (and I quote): "Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence." I think sailors must have felt a real affection for Morse code. Now it's all about radio and satellite positioning systems, coupled with state-of-the-art, high-frequency radio-telephone communication systems.

T: I think I understand what you're saying. If I were on a sinking ship, I would certainly want the best technology available. There was, however, a certain romance to Morse code.

E: Exactly! Those dots and dashes just remind me of Indiana Jones!

T: Ahh! You are an armchair adventurer, aren't you!

E: Not just that! You and I have both traveled the world. That's real adventure, but I think reaching out to our listeners here on the Eiken website is also a very real adventure in communication!

T: Well said, Edward! So now...We must go off into the sunset, rather like Indiana Jones!

E: Indeed we must! Until then:

T&E: See You Next Time!

★講師陣プロフィール★

◇中西 哲彦 (Tets Nakanishi)

日本福祉大学国際福祉開発学部准教授、アルファ英語会顧問、NPO 愛知善意ガイドネットワーク理事。

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。