

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

第 8 回 ギザの大ピラミッド

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: Good morning, Tets!

T: Good morning, Edward.

E: Uhh... Tets... How are you feeling today? You seem... quiet... but you're smiling.

T: Oh, I'm fine, thanks. Just fine...

E: You're as mysterious as the Sphinx today. Why so quiet?

T: Ha ha ha ha! I'm just brushing up on my Japanese inscrutability!

E: You devil! You were putting me on! Some people do, however, say that Asian people hide their emotions much more than Westerners. We have an interesting adjective for the type of expression you just demonstrated. It's "sphinx-like"!

T: A wonderful adjective indeed! But you know, Edward, Egypt has many other mysteries to intrigue us!

E: Go on, old Sphinx! Do tell!

T: Well, first let's test your background knowledge. Can you name the three most famous of Egypt's pyramids?

E: Certainly! I lived in Egypt for a while some time ago. While there are actually many pyramids in Egypt, the "Big Three" are in Giza. They are: Menkaure, Khafre, and (the big guy) Khufu! Impressed?

T: Not yet! Can you tell me, please, when The Great Pyramid of Khufu was built? Can you?!

E: Well... I would have to consider the position of the star Sirius, the ascension to the throne of the Pharaoh Khufu, some calendar data...

T: Stop! You're letting the cat out of the bag too early again!

E: Right you are. O.K., Tets! You've cleverly taken us to this month's topic. Let us journey together up the Nile on a learning adventure!

T: A fine idea! Let's begin!

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

The Great Pyramid of Giza (2013-1-1st D, QNo.17, 18)

The Great Pyramid of Giza was built as a tomb for the Egyptian pharaoh Khufu. Little is known about how pyramid was built, but Egyptian researchers now believe that they know the date construction began. The researchers already knew the ancient Egyptians traditionally began major construction projects when the Nile River flooded each year. The timing of these floods differed year by year, but it always coincided with the annual appearance of the star Sirius. The researchers also knew pharaohs started building their tombs soon after taking power. Armed with this knowledge, they studied Egyptian and modern calendars alongside records of Sirius's cycle. The researchers calculated that Khufu became pharaoh in 2470 BC, so they concluded this was the year construction began. They then determined that the flooding, and therefore the construction, would have started around August 23.

Critics doubt these findings, however. They point out that some pharaohs may have been omitted from the Egyptian calendar for political reasons, so the dates given for Khufu could be wrong. They also say the first sighting of Sirius could have been influenced by weather conditions. Finally, some believe such a large pyramid would have taken longer than usual to plan, delaying the beginning of construction.

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

No. 1 What is one thing the Egyptian researchers did?

No. 2 Why do some people question the researchers' findings?

(The choices below are just for reference.)

- No.1 (17)
- 1 They analyzed data about the star Sirius.
 - 2 They studied artifacts from Great Pyramid.
 - 3 They discovered some ancient historical records.
 - 4 They created a replica of the Egyptian calendar.

- No.2 (18)
- 1 The researchers had a political agenda.
 - 2 The data used may have been unreliable.
 - 3 The researchers exaggerated Khufu's importance.
 - 4 The data was altered to fit the researchers' expectations.

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward

1	～と一致している	coincide with ～
2	天狼星	Sirius
3	異なる	differ
4	権力を握る	take power
5	～を持って	armed with～
6	～と共に	alongside ～
7	～と結論を出す	conclude～
8	周期	cycle
9	評論家	critic
10	除外する	omit
11	目撃	sighting
12	遅らせる	delay

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

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

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No. 2 Why do some people question the researchers' findings?

■ 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.

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for the Egyptian pharaoh Khufu. //
Little is known about how the pyramid was built, /
but Egyptian researchers now believe /
that they know the date construction began. //
The researchers already knew /
the ancient Egyptians traditionally began major construction projects /
when the Nile River flooded each year. //
The timing of these floods differed year by year, /
but it always coincided with the annual appearance of the star Sirius. //
The researchers also knew /
pharaohs started building their tombs soon after taking power. //
Armed with this knowledge, /
they studied Egyptian and modern calendars /
alongside records of Sirius's cycle. //
The researchers calculated that Khufu became pharaoh in 2470 BC, /
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Critics doubt these findings, however. //
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Finally, some believe /
such a large pyramid would have taken longer than usual to plan, /
delaying the beginning of construction.

■ Model answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now, Edward, what are your answers? No.1, 'What is one thing the Egyptian researchers did?'

E: They compared Egyptian and modern calendars in relation to the cycles of the appearance of the star Sirius.

T: Thank you. What is your answer for question No.2, 'Why do some people question the researchers' findings?'

E: Critics feel that some of the data used in the calculations, such as dates of the sightings of Sirius, could be incorrect.

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: Ancient Egyptians must have had a very primitive knowledge of the natural sciences. I don't think they had a calendar and they most certainly had no knowledge of astronomy.

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

T: I think they actually did have a calendar. Some researchers used a comparison of the Egyptian and modern calendars to find when the Great Pyramid was built. The researchers also referred to records of the cycle of the appearance of the star Sirius. Combining this information with other known facts about ancient Egypt, some researchers say that they now know when the Great Pyramid of Giza was built.

■ 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: Modern archeological research has reached new heights of accuracy. In spite of the thousands of years separating us from the ancient Egyptians, we now know the construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza began on August 23rd, 2470 BC. Researchers combined knowledge of ancient Egyptian cultural practices, astronomical data, and a comparison of modern and ancient calendars to fix the exact date of the construction of The Great Pyramid of Giza. This is a monumental intellectual feat!

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

E: You should know that there is some speculation that these researchers may have used dubious evidence to arrive at their conclusion. First, some pharaohs may have been omitted from the Egyptian calendar for political reasons, so we can't fix the exact date when Khufu ascended to the throne. In addition, these researchers depended on modern knowledge of the appearance of Sirius, but weather conditions may have prevented the ancient Egyptians from accurately noting that event. Further, the sheer size of Khufu might well have entailed a longer than usual planning period, further clouding our knowledge of the actual date of the commencement of construction. I think it is best that we consider this research as possibly correct but not absolutely trustworthy.

■Closing Dialogue

E: So now my friend, all is clear as to the mysteries of the Great Pyramid of Giza!

T: Not at all! It seems to me that we are still unsure about many things related to this amazing structure. It remains, to use your description of me, inscrutable.

E: Right you are, as usual, old friend! That, perhaps, is best, don't you think?

T: Now *you* are being inscrutable! What do you mean?

E: Well... to put it simply... some mystery is a good thing in human pursuits. I have the greatest respect for all scientific endeavors, but I also enjoy thinking that some things are hidden in the bosom of time. I like the unknown. It keeps us humble!

T: Perhaps we can leave our listeners with that sense of mystery! Can we be certain of anything located in the remote depths of time? Let's think it over until our next session.

E: Well said! Until then:

E&T: 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、椙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。