Script

■Dialogue for Introduction

T: Good morning, Edward! It is a beautiful morning, isn't it?

E: It is indeed! I fear, however, that the delightfully cool breeze I felt on the way over here today may be one of the last of the season. Japan's steaming, dripping, tropical humidity is coming soon! Ughhh…

T: Well, on a different note, my sweaty friend, I am very worried about the crime rate in Japan. I see reports of serious crimes being committed here almost weekly these days.

E: Actually Tets, I was just reading an article that stated there has been a significant decrease in the crime rate in Japan over the last ten years.

T: That would be good news! I do know that criminologists now have more technology at their disposal for the pursuit and arrest of offenders. The police recently arrested a man for murder after successfully extracting an image from a security camera. It's great that technology can be put to such good use!

E: Well, that is a good thing… but you know Tets, this gives me Orwellian goose bumps.

T: Ahh… You're thinking of Big Brother in the novel by George Orwell!

E: Yes, I am! Look, Tets, I don't like criminals and I want them to be brought to justice as much as anyone. I don't, however, think we should give up our right to privacy in the process. That would be throwing out the baby with the bathwater!

T: I don't think the government is so malevolent. The authorities should be able to use all the technology available to implement justice. Let me ask you a question. Does your fine 13-year-old son have any remote-controlled toys? You know, cars, tanks, planes and so on?

E: Yes! He has a really cool helicopter! We can fly it all around the neighborhood!

T: Great! I think you should consider mounting a mini-camera on the nose of the craft so you can form your own "neighborhood watch"! Hi-tech security from the air!

E: No, Tets! I'm shocked! What would my neighbors think? That's an invasion of privacy! It's probably against the law.

T: Not at all, my friend! Haven't you heard of drones? You know, in the United States…

E: Stop! Bring your conversation to a landing now! We can't say any more about this until our students have a chance to study this month's topic.

T: A fine idea! Shall we begin?

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

Eye in the sky （2013-1-1st E, No. 19, 20）

Unmanned aircraft fitted with cameras, commonly known as spy drones, play an important role in U.S. military operations. They are used to locate and track enemy individuals in war zones. Until now, however, images good enough to allow the recognition of individuals could only be obtained at close range, and the target was impossible to track in a crowd. To solve this problem, the U.S. military has commissioned the development of spy drones fitted with advanced facial-recognition technology. Not only can this technology recognize individuals from poor-quality images taken from a distance, but it can also pick out a known individual from a crowd.

Most Americans are aware that spy drones are used by the U.S. military, but what they do not realize is they are also being used in U.S. skies. Drones are currently used to watch for illegal immigrants attempting to cross the U.S. border from Mexico. While critics claim that such use of spy drones in civilian situations infringes on people's privacy, more law enforcement agencies in the U.S. are considering using them. Trials of spy drones to track fugitives and find missing persons are already under way.

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

No.1　　What was one problem with spy drones until now?

No.2　　What does the speaker say about most Americans?

(The choices below are just for reference.)

No.1 (19)　　1　　They were unable to travel far.

2　　They could not recognize individuals.

3　　They were easily damaged.

4　　They were not effective from a distance.

No.2 (20)　　1　　They are not fully informed about spy drones.

2　　They are becoming less tolerant of immigrants.

3　　They do not trust law enforcement agencies.

4　　They support the use of spy drones.

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward

1	無人の	unmanned
2	～が取り付けられている	fitted with
3	無人飛行機	drone
4	軍事活動	military operation
5	追跡する	track
6	近距離で	at close range
7	依頼、命令する	commission
8	～を侵害する	infringe on ～
9	取締機関	law enforcement agency
10	逃亡者	fugitive
11	進行中で	under way

■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.

Eye in the sky

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■Model answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? No.1, 'What was one problem with spy drones until now?'

E: Until now, the technology in spy drones was inadequate for tracking individuals in crowds.

T: Thank you. What is your answer for question No.2, 'What does the speaker say about most Americans?'

E: The speaker says that while most Americans are aware of the use of drones in military roles abroad, many Americans are unaware of drones in service over U.S. airspace.

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: We all know that drones are very useful in identifying enemy military facilities. Some attack drones can even go a step further and neutralize their targets with on-board weapons. It really is a pity that the facial-recognition technology can't track these bad guys in a crowd. If that were possible, far less blood would be shed as targeting would be more efficient. I hate war, but I wish we had this technology.

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

T: Actually, the technology may exist now, and could be implemented very soon. It is very likely that the U.S. military will have drones fitted with high-tech cameras. With advanced facial-recognition technology, it may soon become possible to pick out an individual face from a crowd. The U.S. military has actually commissioned the development of such drones.

■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: Security cameras can be a real help in maintaining law and order in our society. Just the other day a man was brought to justice after facial recognition technology picked him out of a crowd of people. He had previously lied about being in the vicinity of the crime. This led the police to an arrest and a successful conviction. I hope we install security cameras everywhere! Drones could also be a big help in this effort.

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

E: I think that would be a serious mistake. While the cameras are sometimes helpful for police investigations, the same data could be put to misuse. Companies wanting to identify patterns of movement in populations could use this data in very invasive ways. Privacy concerns should trump the occasional help these cameras give to the police. I don't want every movement I make to be tracked and recorded by Big Brother's cameras! We also have to consider the element of public safety. Drones are by definition unmanned. What will happen in the event of a malfunction? Although relatively small craft, a flying machine laden with camera gear, transmitters and computer hardware could cause extensive damage and loss of life in the event of a crash. Let's stick to old-fashioned police work. It's safer and often just as effective.

■Closing Dialogue

E: Well, Tets! How do you feel now about drones and the protection of individual privacy?

T: I admit that we should insist on a modicum of oversight in order to use this technology reasonably. I still think drones and facial recognition software can be powerful tools in the fight against crime and even more so against terrorism.

E: I'm not so sure. It's just ripe for abuse. I mean, we can't even see them up there, hovering above us and watching our every move. I want my son to be able to enjoy the simple pleasures of a remote controlled toy without worrying that the same technology is being used to spy on us!

T: I see your point, but maybe you're still thinking about Big Brother a bit too seriously.

E: That's a good point for our listeners to consider in the coming months.

T: Speaking of which, this is the last installment of this round of our delightful "Listen and Speak" series. I want to thank everyone out there in cyberspace for joining us for these past lessons.

E: As do I! We've really enjoyed being with you here on the Eiken Website. We would like to leave you with the sincere hope that we can:

T&E: See You Next Time!

★講師陣プロフィール★

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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。