

次の英文を読み、その内容について思うところを50-60語の英文で記せ。ただし、understand と pain は、一度しか用いてはならない。

(2011年 東大・前期 第二問 B)

It is not possible to understand other people's pain.

※「understand と pain は、一度しか用いてはならない」というユニークな指定がついているが、この指定の意図はよく分からない。せめてこの程度の条件を付さなければさすがに平易にすぎると考えたからなのか。他大学との差別化を図っているのか。

そもそもこの程度の課題文でも書くべき内容が浮かばない受験生が多いのだろうか。まさか文法・構文的に破綻した英語しか書けないということはないだろう。語数の少ない(A)も同種の問題であることを考えると、受験生の想像力の不足あるいは欠如は相当に深刻だということになる。背景は国語力の不足だと思われるが、そのよって来る原因は？

東大の問題を早稲田法・政経に先立って取り上げた理由は、時間の余裕がない身にとって東大の問題のほうが簡単だからである。こう言うと東大受験生は反発するかもしれないが、実際に早稲田・政経の自由英作文を解いてみれば納得するだろう。

#### 【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

It is possible to perceive what painful conditions other people are in. In this sense, we can understand their pain. But we cannot sense or feel it just as they do; we cannot wholly [fully/entirely] identify with other people. What is happening to other people is not what is happening to us ourselves. (Each individual is each individual.) (52-57 words)

※阿佐谷英語塾の解答例がベストだなどと言うつもりは毛頭ないが、昨年も指摘したとおり、大手予備校の解答例は一部を除き、日本語に置き換えると内容はせいぜい高校受験レベルである、という指摘を撤回するつもりはないが、スペルミス等基本的な誤りがあり訂正しました。

#### 【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this opinion. Different people feel differently about the same thing. For example, what is painful to one person may be pleasant to another. So it can be said that if we really want to understand other people's pain, the only way is to be that person, but that's absolutely impossible. (53 words)

※第二文の what 以下は何の論証もないと論理の飛躍になる。第三文の So 以下はまさに中学生レベルの発想と表現である。

#### 【A予備校・解答例2】

I totally disagree with this statement. When a really good friend of yours goes through some sad experience, such as breaking up with a boyfriend, you sometimes feel as sad as if it actually happened to you and can't help crying about it. This clearly illustrates that there are times when you can understand someone else's pain. (57 words)

※女子高生の立場から論じた例として挙げたのだろうが、それほど説得力がない。最後に、This clearly illustrates と無理に説得されても納得するわけではない。

【B予備校・解答例1】

I agree that it is impossible to know how other people feel when they are suffering. Each person's experience of hardship is different, and as much as we can try to empathize with their situation, it's impossible to fully understand their pain unless we experience exactly what they are going through. (51 words)

※第二文の and 以下を一読して理解できる人がいるのだろうか。as much as ... を譲歩の副詞節として用い、sympathize の代わりに empathize を用いているが、これは読解問題ではなく自由英作文である。[この項補足]

【B予備校・解答例2】

Although we can imagine another person's physical pain, we cannot understand their psychological suffering. Everybody has different experiences in life so their personalities are very different. As a result, one person may be sad for a long time when their dog dies while another may soon be cheerful again. They cannot imagine how the other person feels. (57words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

I agree with the above statement and the reason is simple. Unless I experience the exact same thing myself, with my own feelings and senses, no matter how much I read, study or listen to stories from others, I will never be able to understand that same pain or grasp the same thing. (53 words)

※最後の主節で that same pain が出てくるが、これが受けるべき語が存在しない。前に在るのは the exact same thing であり、この語句は必ずしも pain を意味しているわけではない。多少の減点は避けられないだろう。

【C予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with the statement above because much of our understanding of things around us is instinctual, and not learned. When we see a young baby or even a small puppy or kitten, we all smile and feel protective. We do not need to actually have a baby ourselves to feel this. (52 words)

※搦手から攻めたつもりかもしれないが、これでは課題文の It is not possible to understand other people's pain. を論じた文にはなっていない。understanding はあるが、understand も pain も一度も出て来ない。大幅な減点あるいは零点もあり得るだろう。

もし他人の心が読めたらどうなるか、考えられる結果について 50～60 語の英語で記せ。複数の文を用いてもかまわない。 (2012年 東大・前期 第二問 B)

※英語の問題全体としては明らかに易化し、また第二問のBは私大型の語彙の問題に変わっているが、自由作文自体は昨年度と似たようなテーマである。「複数の文を用いてもかまわない」という指示は言わずもがなのように思われるが、早稲田文/文化構想 要約問題の in one sentence という指定を意識しているのかもしれない。実は今回のテーマは、2009年度東大第五問の読解問題の内容と重なる部分が少なくないが、読解問題を自由英作文に応用するレベルまで、パッセージの内容を読み込むことが出来る受験生がはたしてどれだけいるだろうか。以下にまず大手予備校の解答例を提示し、少し視点を変えて、阿佐谷英語塾の解答例を提示してみる。

【A予備校・解答例1】

If you could read other people's minds, you would be able to make good friends far more easily, because you would have no difficulty knowing whether people were lying or not. All you would have to do is to spend time with people who always said what they really meant and then make friends with them.  
(56 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

This would bring about disastrous consequences for human society. Sometimes we have to hide our true feelings in order to create good friendships. If mind reading were possible, people would often feel hostile towards each other. This would cause trouble not only at the personal level but also at the international level. (52 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

If we could read each other's minds, we would know exactly how others thought about us and we would have no secrets. Although this would help us to avoid many misunderstandings, it would also make it impossible for us to have any privacy, which would put people under a lot of stress. (52 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

If we were able to read others' minds, we would soon know who our real friends were because people would not be able to hide their true feelings from us. However, our conversational skills would decline. Human beings are naturally lazy, and if we didn't have to make an effort to express our ideas, we wouldn't. (56 words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

If I could read someone's mind, I would know what the person is about to say or do and I could act accordingly. This could help prevent a lot of misunderstandings and even fights and conflicts. For example, if I knew my sister had eaten my piece of cake, I would pretend it had never existed.  
(56 words)

【C予備校・解答例2】

If I could read the other people's thoughts, I could know exactly what they were about to do before they did it. If I was in love with a girl and could read her mind and see that she did not like me for some particular reason, then I could fix that problem and then she would like me. (59 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例1】

If a certain [particular] person could read others' minds, it would be a supernatural [psychic] power. But if all people could read each other's mind, then speech, silence, thinking itself, would all lose their meanings. Our lives and the world surrounding us would be completely changed. Who could really live in such a world or society? (55 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例2】

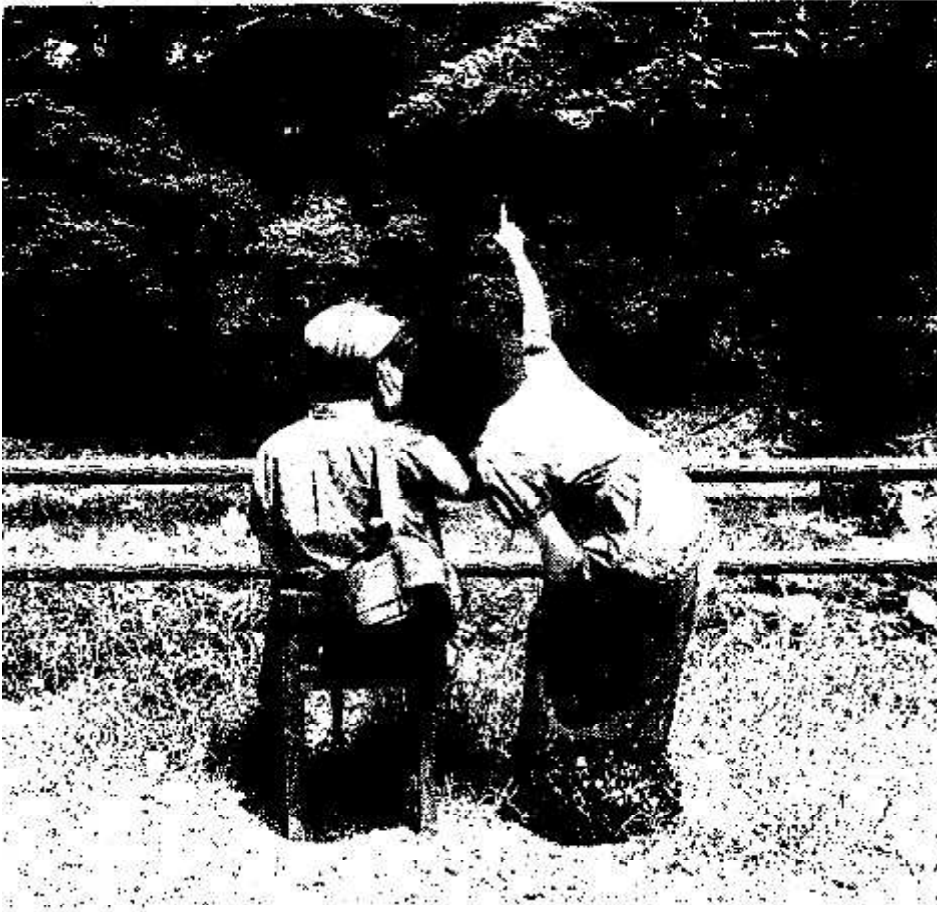
If you alone could read others' minds, it would seem a great advantage in human relationships. But actually it would cause a restless and stressful life. If everyone shared mind-reading, things would go worse; indirectness or indifference as social manners would lose its meaning. At last we would say nothing, and human society would be lost. (57 words)

※大手予備校の解答例のうち5例が友人、恋人、家族の例を挙げている。「もし他人の心が読めたらどうなるか、考えられる結果について...記せ」という課題は、まともに考えたら大変なテーマである。要するに言葉（や仕種や表情）がすべて意味を失うことになるからだ。ただし「50~60語の英語で」という条件からすると、元々たいした内容を書くことは求められていないのだろう。これは東大・自由英作文の一貫した傾向と言ってよいかもしれない。

ただ某予備校の分析に「論説型」と分類しながら「極力抽象的な内容にしないよう書くことが重要」とあるのがいささか気になる。これは現実の東大受験生の思考力と英語力に配慮したアドバイスなのか、それとも大学の採点基準を秘かに把握した上でのコメントなのか。さすがに後者の可能性はないと思われるが、秋入学で留学生の受け入れと送り出しを本格化しようという大学の入試英語が易化の一途を辿るのは不思議なことである。学力上位層は、（阿佐谷英語塾の解答例を含めて）一部の解答例では物足りない、というより納得できない【この項補足】はずである。

(A) 下に示す写真の左側の人物をX, 右側の人物をYとして, 二人のあいだの会話を自由に想像し, 英語で書け。分量は全体で 60~70 語程度とする。どちらが話しているかわかるように, 下記のように記せ。XとYのどちらから始めてもよいし, それぞれ何度発言してもよい。 (2013年 東大・前期 第二問A)

X:----- Y:----- X:-----  
Y:-----



※他大学でも頻出した, イラストを用いた一昔前の出題傾向に戻ったが, この手の問題の狙いは何なのか。日本語で答えるのであれば, 小学校受験で出題されてもおかしくない。子供の想像力や発想のユニークさは半分大人の大学受験生をはるかに上回っているからだ。多教科の受験勉強に追われた東大受験生に, 枯渇しかけた柔軟な想像力を取り戻させたいという, (私の予想通りあっさり破綻して仕切り直しとなった)「秋入学」にも共通する思いが込められているのだろうか。しかし, あくまでも英語の試験である。採点基準はどうなっているのだろうか。会話文特有の表現を多用してコミュニケーション能力をアピールした解答に高得点が与えられるのか。それとも平易な表現で誤りのない英語を書けばよいのか。その場合やはり想像力のテストになるが, 会話として一応の筋が通っていれば減点はできないだろう。これはイラストではなく写真を題材にしているが, 実に奇妙なシチュエーションである。夫とおぼしき男性Xが, どこから持ち込んだのか, 車椅子でも折りたたみ椅子でもない普通の椅子に座っていることである。この写真のユニークさはこの一点に

ある。もしこの点に触れる必要はないとすれば、なぜこのような写真をあえて選んだのか。出題者の趣味趣向に過ぎないのか。はっきり言ってその見識が問われる。

※「阿佐谷英語塾」の解答は留保するので、大手予備校の解答を参考にしてほしい。

**【A予備校・解答例】**

Y: Can you see the bird on top of that tree.

X: Yes ... but why are you speaking in such a low voice? I can't hear you.

Y: So I won't frighten the bird.

X: Then I have to speak quietly, too.

Y: What do you think it is?

X: I don't know. Maybe a chicken?

Y: Be serious. Chickens can't fly. Isn't it an eagle?

X: I don't think an eagle would come to a city park.

(70 words)

**【B予備校・解答例1】**

X: Can you hear that? It sounds like a cat

Y: You can see it over there in the tree. It looks like the neighbor's kitten has gotten loose again.

X: How do you think it will get down? She looks pretty stuck.

Y: I don't know, but maybe we should call Mr. Jones to bring the ladder.

X: Okay! Then I'll go ask him.

(60 words)

**【B予備校・解答例2】**

Y: Can you see that monkey in the tree?

X: With my bad eyesight I can't see that far, but I can certainly hear it. It sounds very angry about something.

Y: Yes, it does seem to be quite upset. Maybe it doesn't like our hats.

X: I hope it doesn't attack us. Perhaps we'd better move.

Y: Yes, I'll get the nurse to bring a wheelchair for you.

(64 words)

**【C予備校・解答例1】**

X: Mary, can you hear that singing? I wonder what kind of bird it is.

Y: Up there, Jack, sitting on that branch. Don't you see it?

X: Where exactly? What color is it? It certainly is making a lot of noise.

Y: Just follow my finger and look up to the right ... it is grey with a ring of red around its neck. (60 words)

**【C予備校・解答例2】**

Y: Oh, James, look up there at that bird singing.

X: Well, I can certainly hear it, but for some reason I can't see the thing. Where exactly is the bird?

Y: Goodness, James, almost in front of you. Look, the second branch from the top.

X: Perhaps I should go see the eye doctor when we get back to town ... my hearing is fine, but I can't see a thing. (67 words)

(B) これまで学校や学校以外の場で学んできたことなかで、あなたが最も大切だ  
と思うことは何か。またそれはなぜか。50~60 語の英語で答よ。ただし英語に関  
すること以外について述べること。 (2013年 東大・前期 第二問B)

※この問題について、大手予備校の講評は、標準、やや易、やや難と三通りに分かれ  
ているが、これをやや難と評するのは理解し難い。易そのものではないか。東大受  
験生もずいぶん甘く見られたものである。全国公私立大学の自由英作文問題の中  
でも最も平易な部類に属する。

なお、この設問自体、「あなたがこれまで（の人生で）学んできたことなかで、  
最も大切だと思うことは何か。…」と、どこが違うのか。せめて東大の入試問題  
は、出題者の論理的な思考力を感じさせるものであってほしいが、それすらもす  
でに無い物ねだりに過ぎないのだろうか。

#### 【A予備校・解答例】

Friendship is more important than anything else. I have a lot of friends at  
my school. When I feel sad, they try to comfort me; When I have a problem, they  
listen to me and try to think of a solution. I've learned that without friends,  
I wouldn't be able to do anything. (53 words)

#### 【B予備校・解答例1】

The most important thing I've learned at school is that you shouldn't be too  
competitive with others if you want to be happy. Everyone has their own  
weaknesses and strengths and you feel more fulfilled if you concentrate on  
discovering your own talents and pursue your own interests rather than just  
trying to be better than others. (57 words)

#### 【B予備校・解答例2】

The most important thing I learned outside school is to never give up. During  
a baseball game, we were losing by six runs in the seventh inning and no one  
expected to win. However, we all kept playing hard, scored seven runs, and won  
the game. If you give up when things look bad, you never discover your true  
abilities. (60 words)

※to never give up は never to give up という普通の不定詞の語順を取らず、い  
わゆる分離不定詞 (split infinitive) の形を取ることは許容されるのか。ただし、  
never が is にかかると取られないためには必要なことかもしれない。

#### 【C予備校・解答例】

The most important lesson I learned outside of school was that it's OK to  
say, "I don't know." I learned this while reading about a female judge who grew  
up very poor and yet became one of the top judges in America. I think the world  
would be a better place if more people realized the importance of being humble.  
(60 words)

**【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例1】**

The most important lesson I have learned in my life is to be honest [true] to myself and do things in my way. This does not always benefit me; it has caused conflicts with family members or close friends and sometimes injured myself. However, what we obtain by concealing feelings or thoughts is false happiness, which is sure to bring regrets. (60 words)

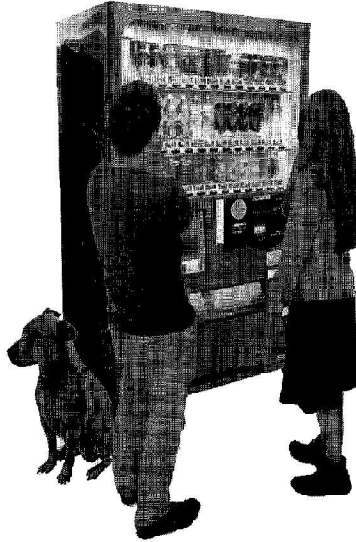
**【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例2】**

It is most important to know what we can do and what we cannot do. This means we know ourselves; to “know ourselves” means at once having self-confidence and realizing limitations in abilities. Everyone has both his or her merits and demerits. I learned this through various human relationships, especially in schools. (53 words)



- (A) 下に示す写真の左側の人物をX, 右側の人物をYとして, 二人のあいだの会話を自由に想像し, 英語で書け。分量は全体で 50~70 語程度とする。どちらが話しているかわかるように, 下記のように記せ。XとYのどちらから始めてもよい, それぞれ何度発言してもよい。 (2014年 東大・前期 第二問A)

X:----- Y:----- X:-----  
 Y:-----



**【A予備校・解答例1】**

X: Well, I don't know what to choose.  
 Y: You said you liked orange juice. Why don't you get one of those?  
 X: It's not for me. It's for Maggie.  
 Y: Maggie? Oh, you mean your dog.  
 X: Yes. She likes cold tea, but this machine only sells hot tea.  
 Y: In winter you sometimes have a lot of trouble finding cold drinks.  
 (57 words)

**【A予備校・解答例2】**

Y: Oh no!  
 X: What's the matter?  
 Y: I wanted a peach juice, but there are none left!  
 X: A peach juice? I didn't know you liked such strange stuff.  
 Y: There are hardly any machines that sell peach juice. I only know this one.  
 What should I do? Incidentally, is that your dog?  
 X: No. For some reason, he's following me. Maybe he likes me.  
 (60 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

X: Oh, no! They have sold out of water.

Y: Why don't you buy a sports drink instead? They are very refreshing.

X: Yes, I agree, but it's not for me. It's for my dog.

Y: I see. Yes, I suppose it wouldn't be very good for him.

X: I guess I should try to find a convenience store and buy some water there.  
(59 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

Y: What do you want to drink?

X: I haven't decided yet, but do you know whose dog this is?

Y: No, but I recognize him.

X: You do?

Y: Yes, he's always waiting by this vending machine.

X: I wonder if he wants a drink.

Y: Maybe this is the last place he saw his master.

X: Oh, like Hachiko!

(53 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

X: Mary, do you know what this machine by the dog is?

Y: I read about them in our history class. In the old days people used to insert a coin into them and then a can or bottle of some drink would come out.

X: Really? What a strange custom!

Y: And our teacher told us that they were most popular in a country called 'Japan.'

(63 words)

※この解答で1点でも得点出来るのだろうか。もっぱら少子化と浪人生の減少による大幅な規模縮小が話題になっているが、もはやそのレベルに止まるものではないだろう。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

Y: Which should I choose, tea or coffee?

X: You prefer tea to coffee, don't you?

Y: Yes, but this vending machine sells only tea with milk. It's too sweet for my taste.

X: How about buying something you like at a convenience store nearby? By the way, I wonder why this dog is beside this machine.

Y: Me, too! I've seen him here more than once. That's so curious.

(65 words)

(B) 以下のような有名な言葉がある。これについてどう考えるか。50～70語の英語で記せ。ただし、下の文をそのままの形で用いてはならない。

(2014年 東大・前期 第二問B)

People only see what they are prepared to see.

※東京大学の自由英作文としては、過去最高の難度と言ってよい本格的な出題である。優秀な受験生は、ようやくやり甲斐のある問題に出会えたという充実感を覚えたことだろう。一方、この問題であえなく沈没した人も少なからずいただろう。

ポイントは、ソローやホイットマンに影響を与え、また奴隷制反対論者でもあった Ralph Waldo Emerson (エマーソン[エマソン] 1803-82) が言ったとされる上記の言葉の解釈である。正確にどのような文脈で彼がこの言葉 (saying) を用いたのかは定かでないが、設問文は「これについてどう考えるか」であり、批判的に捉える解答も可能である。しかし、大手予備校の解答例に見られるように、肯定的に捉えるほうがはるかに答え易いだろう。内容的にはB予備校の[解答例1]あたりが最もまともなように思われるが、得点は採点基準次第である。

【A予備校・解答例1】

This quotation applies to almost everyone, except a few very rare exceptions: geniuses. Geniuses do not blindly accept what is widely believed as true at the time and can see things as they really are. For example, Einstein probably learned a lot from theories that existed at the time, but he was able to make his great discoveries only because he could truly see things objectively. (66 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I think this saying expresses an important truth. For example, children often get mad when their parents don't buy the expensive toys they want. They may even think their parents are wicked. But when they grow up and have their own children, they realize it isn't good for children to have excessively expensive things. They realize their parents were right. Their experience has prepared them to see this. (68 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

I believe most people's perceptions of a situation are heavily influenced by their own opinions and moral standpoints and when they look at a situation they tend to believe only what they want to believe. For example, if something goes against their own values, they tend to want to see it only in a very negative light and do not see its positive aspects. (64 words)

※ ... by their own opinions and moral standpoints, and when they look ... とカンマを打った方が読み易いのでは。ただし、採点にはおそらく影響しないだろう。

【B予備校・解答例2】

Being able to physically see something is different from being able to understand what you are seeing. Suppose there is a camouflaged chameleon on a wall you are looking at, but you do not know it is there. It is in your field of vision so you can physically "see" it, but because you think nothing is there, in some sense you actually cannot "see" it at all. (68 words)

※able to physically see something という分離不定詞は, able to see physically something でも支障はないように思われる。

【C予備校・解答例】

I tend to agree with this statement and because I enjoy studying history, I have noticed that whenever a pioneer or visionary appears with a new idea, he or she is usually turned away, rejected or even sometimes killed. This is because most people cannot see beyond their own small world of experience and cannot accept something totally new. (59 words)

※I tend to agree with this statement, and because I enjoy ... とカンマを打った方が読み易いのでは。ただし, 採点にはおそらく影響しないだろう。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例1】

In no time in modern history, has this saying seemed to hold [be] true for Japan, as well as the world at large. People eagerly stick to the comfortable conventional concepts of their culture and history. Meanwhile, they jump at new discoveries or theories in science and technology that promise the public uncertain — maybe, only illusory — rose-colored futures. (60 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例2】

The given saying seems to be true, but if it is so, neither people nor society should change. However, their endless curiosity has always driven them and allowed [given] them limitless desires: People are apt to see what they are not ready to see, what they do not need to see. That causes and accelerates restless changes. Who can be sure it doubtless makes people happier? (65 words)

※なお, エマーソンの言葉を今日的に解釈するならば,

People filter their thoughts and perceptions when they see someone or something so that a certain social group can easily accept them.

くらの意味になるのではないだろうか。