

Test Yourself!



It is spooky season again this year. Just in time for Halloween, we are talking about something very scary... tests & contests!



Boo!

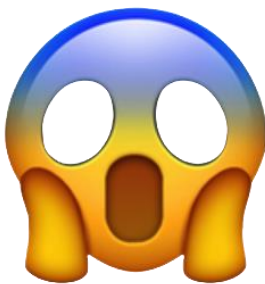
The
October
2023
Issue

What is in
this issue:

Language
Proficiency
Tests

Speech &
Recitation
Contests

Bonus:
Erin's
Japanese
Speech



Language Proficiency Tests

English Tests



Eiken (英検)

Eiken is **probably** the most **popular** English test in Japan. It starts at Grade 5- **aimed** at Junior High school first years, and goes up to Grade 1- mainly aimed at University students. You must be good at reading, writing, listening, and speaking to pass your test, so it is difficult! At Keika Girls', your **ALTs** and English teachers are always happy to help you study for Eiken! Don't be afraid to ask us anytime. Mr. Morikawa has **passed** the highest level of this test so he can really help!

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) & TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication)

These tests are both made by ETS (Educational Testing Service) to test the English skills of non-native speakers. TOEFL focuses on **academic** English, and TOEIC focuses on English for a global **workplace**. They are very useful, and often **mandatory** to enter a **foreign** university or company. They are especially helpful in the U.S.A. They do not have different levels like Eiken, but one test for everyone. This means they are more **advanced**. Mr. Morikawa also took these tests about 10 years ago. He can give you good advice.



IELTS (International English Language Testing System).

IELTS is another advanced English test. It **launched** in 1980. It uses British English, so many Universities in countries like the UK, Australia, and New Zealand **prefer** this test. There is an IELTS academic test, and an IELTS General Training test. Like the ETS tests, one is more helpful for entering University, and one is more helpful for finding an **overseas** job. Yet again, Mr. Morikawa has a high **score** on this test too. He is really a master of all types of English!

Japanese Tests



JLPT (日本語能力試験)

The JLPT stands for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. If you ever teach Japanese **abroad** or to **international** people, then it's good to know about this test. It was started in 1984 and it tests language **knowledge**, reading **ability**, and listening ability. There is no speaking or writing part of the test, so it is a lot easier than tests like Eiken. It is held twice every year in many different parts of Japan and in some places, like universities, **abroad**. It is always on the first Sunday in July and December. There are 5 levels: N5 is 'Basic Level,' N4 is 'Elementary Level,' N3 is '**Intermediate** Level,' N2 is 'Pre-Advanced Level,' and N1 is 'Advanced Level.' Usually, you need to have either N2 or N1 to get a regular job in Japan as a **foreigner**. N1 is near 'native level.'

The ALT Llew at Keika Commercial High School (京華商業高等学校) is N1! Our ALT Erin at Keika Girls' School is N2. Rachel our English teacher from the U.K. is N3. Congrats, everyone! Amazing job! So what level is Sheila? Well... she is very bad at **standardized** tests and *kanji* characters, so she is trying N3 again this December. Please support her! The test recently got more **expensive** so now it is ¥7,500. Scary, right? So, she must **pass** the test this time.

山本さんはクラスの代表に選ばれた。

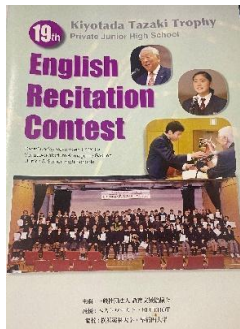
1 たいひょう

2 だいひょ

3 だいひょう

4 たいひょ

N3



Speech & Recitation Contests English Contests

Keika Girls' School in Tokyo

Every November, one girl from each grade in Keika Girls' Junior High School goes to the Kiyotada Tazaki Trophy Private Junior High School English Recitation Contest. It is usually held in the Bunkyo Ward of Tokyo. Sheila attended the contest in 2019 and watched it online in 2022. This year, 2023, is the 21st contest. Sheila records herself reading the stories for the 中1、中2、中3 girls so they have an **example** to follow. Then the girls give it their own **emotion**! They are judged on six things: pronunciation (発音), intonation (抑揚), fluency (流暢さ), enunciation (明瞭度), memorization(記憶), and audience adaptation (態度).



Schools in Morioka City

Sheila taught English in a few schools in Morioka from 2017-2019. As Morioka City is the capital of Iwate **Prefecture**, many events were held there. One was a yearly Iwate English Speech & Recitation Contest. A speech contest uses a speech that a student wrote themselves. It is their own individual **opinion**. A recitation contest is when students read one story from a set of stories from a textbook with correct **memorization**, intonation, and feeling. Teachers are allowed to help students by **coaching** them for both types of contests. Sheila and other ALTs were **judges** with other **leaders** in the city. They listened & graded the children's performances. Then they chose the winners together.



Japanese Contests

Queensland Japanese Language Speech Contest

In Australia there are **yearly** Japanese speech contests for high school & University students. Year 7 - 10 students learn 1-2 minute pre-written speeches, but add their own **details**. For example, the year 9 topic is: My good friend. Students all memorise the same speech but fill in **blanks** for things like their friend's name, birthday, and **hobbies**. In year 11 and 12 students choose from a list of **topics** and write a 3-minute speech.



The Keika Chronicle

4



The year 12 topics this year are **Identity**, Future plans, or **Social issues**. In University, you can write your own 5-minute speech about anything you like! Erin entered this contest a few times in High school, but never won a prize. **Luckily**, she did better in university! She entered the University contest twice, and won both times.

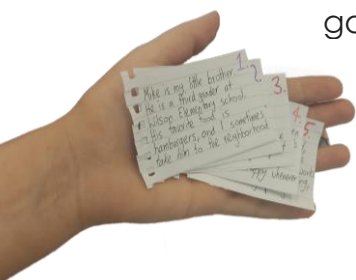
Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest

Every year the winners from the year 12 & University contests **compete** at the national competition in Sydney. There is a winner from every state, & one from New Zealand as well. You give the same speech, so you must remember it for a long time! Erin's first speech was about anime production. She talked about different jobs like **director**, producer, writer, animator, production assistant, **voice actor**, and the **difficulties** they have. The next year she spoke about a zoo she visited in Shirahama called 'Adventure World'. She described 3 animals that she thought were being **mistreated**, & gave suggestions on how to help them. Of course, she talked about the good points of the zoo too! The anime speech won 3rd place, & the animal speech won a special prize.



Erin's tips for memorising a speech:

1. Read it out loud **again and again**.
2. Write it down again and again. Typing it can still help, but doing it by hand helps you **focus** more.
3. Record yourself and listen to it later.
4. Make **palm** cards. Practice looking down at your palm cards, then up at an **imaginary** audience. Look down, look up, down, up.
5. As you're practicing like this- you'll **realise** you need to look down less and less, until you can say the whole thing without looking at the speech once!
6. Now that you don't need to be holding your paper, you can practice in any free time. Say it in the shower, in bed before you go to sleep, say it in your head while you're on the train!



XOXO,
Erin &
Sheila





Bonus!

Erin's Japanese Animal speech

人間の命と、動物の命。どっちが大切？今日皆さんに考えていただきたい質問はこうであります。私は最近大学ツアーで一か月ほど日本旅行へ行っていて、その間に本州にある白浜と言う小さな町を訪ねました。駅を出てすぐ、アドベンチャーワールドと言う動物園とテーマパークのポスターがどこを見ても張ってありました。そこに行く前はすごく楽しみにしていましたが、着いたら現実は非常に悲しい物でした。この動物園は断じて全て悪いわけではないし、良い所は確かにありましたが、思い出す時はいつも、良い事より、悪い所が目立ってしまいます。ですから今日私が皆さんを説得したいのは、このパークの排除ではなくて、ただ、とある動物にはもっと大きくて、自分に合ってる展示の建設の事。

白浜と言えば、アドベンチャーワールドや温泉や海。この町の温泉は日本中に知られていて、有名な松山にある道後温泉と神戸にある有馬温泉と同様に、日本での一番古い温泉と呼ばれています。そして、海の白い砂は日本で一番綺麗だと言えますが、その海と温泉だけで、十分にお金を作れるわけがありません。なぜなら、海はたくさんの人を白浜に引き込むけど、そこに行くには全然お金を使わなくていいし、温泉に入りたいなら百円から四百円ぐらい掛かります。ですからこの二つの場所に比べて、アドベンチャーワールドでの収入の方が白浜にとっては本当に大切に、そこは重要な観光スポットであります。

この動物園は町に住む皆に掛け替えのない所らしいですが、そうだと行っても、そのオーナーさんは動物たちに私の見たひどい扱いをする権利を持つのでしょうか。私の意見では、主に三つの動物が余りにも絶望できる人生を生きているんです。最初は自分が見てるだけで辛い物、シロクマ。あんなに大きい熊には随分小さすぎる展示の中に、一日中前と後ろに彷徨いて、時々苦しんでるような叫び声を出してしまいました。その上に、ネットで調べたら、二年前からのロコミが待ったと同じ事を語っていました。この生き物が毎日苦しんでる間に、人々はその前で、じーと見つめてるのに、だれも助けには行きません。

でも、それだけじゃありません。せめてシロクマの展示は寒い環境の中ですが、サファイアに行けば、驚いた事に、日本の夏の真ん中に雪表がいます。名前に「雪」って言葉があれば、寒い環境が必要って子供でも分かるはずですが、アドベンチャーワールドはまだその事に気付いていないようです。最後に話す動物は一番皮肉な環境にいたことが請け合います。皆さんの知ってる、アメリカにいる有名な鳥、白頭鷲を思い出させて言ったら、どんなイメージが頭に浮かぶでしょうか。自由に空を飛んだり、食べ物を自分で取ったり、そう言うイメージですね。でも、アドベンチャーワールドには、自由の印とも呼ばれている白頭鷲は自由とかなりかけ離れて、小さい籠の中、鎖に縛られたまま生活しています。

ここまでお話した内容から推定をするなら、ひどい事ばかりですが、良い事はまだ話していません。パンダと言う絶滅危惧種はここですごくかわいい赤ちゃんが生まれていて、病気の動物たちには一流の医療がいます。エミューや虹色のロリキートやカピバラたちは広い所に歩いたり飛んだり、お客さんから食べさせています。そしてやっぱり、遊園地ですから、ジェットコースターやそう言う物があって楽しいです。

結局、ほとんどが立派な所だとしても、私が見逃せないのは、ある動物の全然倫理的ではない扱いであります。アドベンチャーワールドが毎年稼ぐお金の小さな分でもいいから、それをお客さんの献金と含めば、きっと新しく、動物たちを喜ばせる展示が作れます。最初の質問に戻ると、私は迷わずに、「人間の命と動物の命の価値は平等です」と答えます。なので、その苦しんでる動物たちを助ける方法があるのなら、それ以外の選択しは考えられません。

