Hokkaido is at last connected to the Japanese main island of Honshu by bullet train, after the Hokkaido Shinkansen opened for business on March 26.

The opening of the 148.8-kilometer line from JR Shin-Aomori Station in Aomori to JR Shin-Hako-date-Hokuto Station in Hokuto, Hokkaido, comes 52 years after the Tokaido Shinkansen Line opened in 1964. Bullet train lines now extend some 2,150 kilometers from Hokkaido in the north all the way to Kagoshima in Kyushu.

Hokkaido Shinkansen trains will make the Tokyo to Shin-Hako-date-Hokuto trip in as little as 4 hours and 2 minutes. The line is expected to boost business and pleasure travel from the Kanto and Tohoku regions to Hokkaido, and stimulate the local economy in northern Japan.

An opening ceremony was held at JR Shin-Hako-date-Hokuto station, with Stationmaster Narumi Tadashi giving the signal for the first Tokyo-bound train to depart at 6:35 a.m.

Mori Yoriyuki, a 56-year-old civil servant from Okayama, was on it — changing trains to go all the way to the end of the Shinkansen network, arriving at JR Kagoshima-Chuo Station at about 6 p.m. that day.

"I'm very happy that I got to travel all the way down Japan on the line's first day," Mori said. "I wanted to truly feel that all Japan has been connected by a single train line."

On a normal day, there are 13 round-trip trains on the Hokkaido Shinkansen Line, operated by Hokkaido Railway Co. (JR Hokkaido). The trains reach a maximum speed of 260 kilometers per hour, though they have to go back to 140 kph along an 82-kilometer-long stretch that includes the Seikan Tunnel under the Tsugaru Strait because they have to use a freight train track.

The line will have to compete with the Tokyo-Hokkaido air routes for customers, and the four-hour-plus travel time could keep some people away. JR Hokkaido has said its main task now is to create demand, as some 74 percent of Hokkaido Shinkansen seats are expected to remain empty for the time being.

A regular reserved seat from Tokyo to Shin-Hako-date-Hokuto costs 22,690 yen. A 211-kilometer extension to Sapporo is scheduled to open in fiscal 2030.
Abe, Trump vow to strengthen US-Japan ties

WASHINGTON — Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed in their summit talks at the White House on Feb. 10 to strengthen the bilateral alliance and economic relations.

The two leaders also confirmed that Article 5 of the bilateral security treaty, which obligates the United States to defend Japan in case of an armed attack on the country, applies to the Senkaku Islands in Okinawa Prefecture, which are also claimed by China.

At a joint news conference after the meeting, Abe described the Japan-U.S. alliance as the “cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region,” and vowed to cooperate with Trump to strengthen the bilateral alliance.

Abe proposed to Trump that Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo and Finance Minister Aso Taro and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence hold cross-sectoral consultations aimed at deepening bilateral economic ties, which the president accepted.

UN Security Council condemns N. Korea’s missile test

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council held an urgent meeting on Feb. 13, at which all 15 members signed off a press statement condemning North Korea’s latest ballistic missile launch on Feb. 12.

North Korea’s state media reported earlier that North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un gave the order to fire the ballistic missile “Pukguksong-2.” It is believed to have flown about 500 kilometers before splashing down off North Korea’s east coast in international waters. The report said the test verified the “reliability and security” of a new mobile launching system.

The reports of the launch came as U.S. President Donald Trump was hosting Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo at his Florida estate. The launch is seen as an implicit challenge to Trump, who earlier vowed a tough line on North Korea.

Toshiba chairman quits over huge losses

Toshiba Corp. announced on Feb. 14 the resignation of its chairman Shiga Shigenori after the company logged massive losses in its nuclear business.

On Feb. 14, Toshiba delayed reporting its official financial results by a month, citing auditing problems. After the market closed, it released unaudited numbers, warning they may change “by a wide margin.”

The company projected a 712.5 billion yen loss for its nuclear business related to the acquisition of CBI Stone & Webster, a nuclear construction business, by its U.S. nuclear unit Westinghouse.

At a news conference on Feb. 14, President Tsunakawa apologized for “troubling investors and stakeholders.”

Toshiba said its net worth was at a negative, minus 191 billion yen, at the end of last year. It is forecasting a group net loss of 390 billion yen for the full year through March 31, instead of the 145 billion yen net profit it had projected earlier. (AP)

N. Korean leader’s brother killed in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was assassinated on Feb. 13 at the budget terminal of Kuala Lumpur international Airport as he waited for a flight to Macau. According to Malaysian officials, the elder Kim, 45, died on the way to a hospital after suddenly falling ill at the terminal.
Kisenosato wins his 1st tourney as yokozuna

OSAKA — Making his debut at sumo’s highest rank of grand champion, Japanese wrestler Kisenosato won the Spring Grand Sumo Tournament in dramatic fashion on March 26.

Kisenosato, 30, is the eighth wrestler to win his first tournament as a yokozuna. The last to do so was Takanohana, in 1995. Needing a win in regulation to force a tiebreaker, Kisenosato beat Mongolian Terunofuji to give both wrestlers a record of 13-2. Kisenosato then threw down Ozeki Terunofuji in a play-off to win the Emperor’s Cup and his second straight title. Making the win all the more impressive was the fact that Kisenosato badly injured his left shoulder in a bout with fellow Yokozuna Harumafuji on March 24.

During the national anthem at the award ceremony on March 26, Kisenosato repeatedly wiped away tears.

He said his first tournament as a yokozuna was “completely different” from others in his 15-year career. As for his injury, he stated, “I want it to heal properly, so I can show myself in good form for the May tournament.”

(Compiled from AP and Mainichi reports)

Wall Street’s ‘Fearless Girl’ statue to stay into 2018

NEW YORK (AP) — The globally popular statue of a young girl will keep staring down Wall Street’s famed “Charging Bull” — a symbol of Americans’ financial resilience and can-do spirit since 1989 — through February 2018 instead of being removed in early April 2017.

She’s “standing up to fear, standing up to power, being able to find in yourself the strength to do what’s right,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio, who appeared with the “Fearless Girl” statue on March 27 on the lower Manhattan traffic island where the two bronze figures face each other.

The 120-centimeter-tall girl statue was installed on March 7 for International Women’s Day, standing strong against the 3-meter-tall bull.

The girl immediately became a tourist draw and internet sensation. What was intended as a temporary display to encourage corporations to put more women on boards is now getting a second look in light of its popularity, which has spawned an online petition seeking to keep it.

Massive gold coin worth millions stolen from German museum

BERLIN (AP) — Thieves broke into the German capital’s Bode Museum and made off with a massive 100-kilogram gold coin.

A police spokesman said that thieves apparently entered through a window early morning on March 27, broke into a cabinet where the “Big Maple Leaf” coin was kept, and escaped with it before police arrived.

The 3-centimeter-thick coin, with a diameter of 53 centimeters, has a face value of 1 million Canadian dollars. By weight alone, however, it would be worth almost $4.5 million at market prices.

The museum says the coin is in the Guinness World Records for its purity of 999.9/1000 gold. It has a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on one side and maple leaves on the other.

It was produced in limited quantities by the Royal Canadian Mint to promote a new line of its Gold Maple Leaf bullion coins in 2007.

It has been on display at the Bode Museum since December 2010.

Odd Ronaldo bust steals show at ceremony

FUNCHAL, Portugal (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo has an airport named after him, but it was his odd-looking statue that attracted attention in a ceremony honoring the Portuguese footballer in his hometown.

The Real Madrid star’s bronze bust, which was unveiled on March 29 at the airport in Ronaldo’s native Madeira Islands, hardly does the handsome athlete justice. It squashes his eyes close together, and the cheekily raised-eyebrow smile more resembles a leer. The face is also unusually chubby, in contrast to Ronaldo’s chiseled looks.

Dozens of guests and hundreds of fans were at the unveiling of the bust. It was part of an official ceremony to rename the local airport as Aeroporto Cristiano Ronaldo. Ronaldo, 32, also attended the ceremony, but did not appear bothered by the odd look of his bust.
Topic 1: What is the ‘right to be forgotten’?

Q: With the growth of the internet, information that attracts people’s interest now spreads quickly through tools such as search engines. Information that would previously require looking through old copies of newspapers to find is now quickly accessible through a computer or smartphone. This also means that information about oneself is hard to delete once it has been released on the internet. This has led to a large demand for removing information about oneself from public view. The European Union (EU) has recognized this as a legal right — the “right to be forgotten.” In 2014, the Court of Justice of the EU made headlines when it ruled that Google had to erase search results related to the debts of a Spanish man.

A: Without touching on the right to be forgotten, the Supreme Court declared for the first time that search results should be deleted when the benefits of the nondisclosure of facts concerning the individual’s privacy clearly exceed the public value of information disclosure. Awareness of the right to be forgotten is increasing. In the future, courts — which have built up a record of rulings on news reporting and privacy violations in print media — will have to face this new demand, weigh factors such as the right to know, freedom of speech and press freedom, and make practical rulings.

Q: If, for example, a person was arrested for theft and a news article came out about it, the article could have a negative effect on that person’s life as they try to reform themselves after they serve their sentence. It is possible that the public value of information about a crime could diminish or disappear. Therefore it can be argued what information should be deleted from the internet.

A: In Japanese courts, decisions on this have been made within the framework of privacy and personal weights, weighing up the value society places on news reports on arrests or criminal convictions as well as the severity of the crimes, against the individual rights of those who have returned to society after serving their sentences. The Supreme Court ruling largely followed this precedent and did not adopt the idea of the right to be forgotten.

Q: When was the “right to be forgotten” legalized?

A: The “right to be forgotten” was legalized in 2014 by the Court of Justice of the EU.

Keywords:
- legal right 法的権利
- Court of Justice 法廷裁判所 (最高裁判所)
- rule 制限 (判断)
- weight 重量

Topic 2: Why is cheating in shogi, Go games being tackled?

Q: Since the end of last year, the Japan Shogi Association has banned the use of electronic devices by its players during shogi matches, and it has started confiscating those devices for the duration of matches. Meanwhile the Nihon Ki-in, the organization that governs Go, announced this January that it would also ban the use of electronic devices by Go players during matches, although it would leave the devices in the players’ care. Both organizations have said that punishment for players that violate the bans could include losing membership in the organizations.

A: Chess Federation has banned bringing electronic devices into its matches, and if any are found being brought into the venue by a player, the player is immediately disqualified. According to the Japan Chess Association, at international competitions there are metal detectors like those at airports set up at the entrances.

Q: How is cheating prevented in shogi?

A: Chess Federation has banned bringing electronic devices into its matches, and if any are found being brought into the venue by a player, the player is immediately disqualified. According to the Japan Chess Association, at international competitions there are metal detectors like those at airports set up at the entrances.

Keywords:
- duration of ～の間 時間
- govern 管理する
- violate 侵入する
- ethical 道徳
- suspicion 怖い
- sophisticated 精巧な
- venue 会場
- disqualify 失格させる
- metal detector 金属探知機
- backgammon ボードゲーム
-藤野 正明

Q: How is cheating prevented in Go?

A: Despite this, there are sometimes cases of cheating, such as hiding smartphones in restrooms. In online backgammon matches, monitors are sent to watch over both sides.

In this way, all competitive board games are facing the same issue of having to revise their professional rules due to the development of powerful software that can be used to cheat.
Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

The robbers held a meeting and decided to cut Cassim’s body into pieces and hang two pieces on each side of the door inside the cave. This was to terrify any other person who might try to enter the cave and take their treasure. Then they got on their horses and left.

When night came and Cassim had not returned, his wife became very afraid and went to see Ali Baba.

“You know that your brother went to the rock in the forest this morning,” she said. “It is already night, but he has not come back yet and I fear that he is in trouble.”

Ali Baba explained to her that he was sure Cassim would think it best not to return with part of the treasure until late at night.

Early the next morning, when Cassim had not come home, his wife went again to Ali Baba with tears in her eyes, and so he left with his mules to look for his brother.

He went to the forest and when he came to the rock, he found some blood near the door which made him very afraid. After the door had opened, he was terrified by the fearful sight of Cassim’s body.

He put the pieces of the body into bags on his mules and on the other mules he put more bags of gold. Then he left the cave, but he was careful to arrive home at night. He left the gold with his wife, while he took his brother’s body to Cassim’s house.

There the door opened by Morgiana, who was a wise slave whom he knew he could trust.

As he took his brother’s body off the mule, he said to her, “Do not talk to any person about this. Your master’s body is in these bags and we must bury him as if he had died naturally. I trust you to take care of this for me.”

Morgiana went out to buy some medicine which was effective for those who are very ill. When the man in the shop asked her who she was sick, she replied, “My master Cassim. He can neither eat nor speak.”

She took the medicine home, but the next day she returned with tears in her eyes to buy some medicine for those who appeared to be close to death. “I fear,” she cried, “that even this medicine will not save my master’s life.”

Since the people in the town had seen Ali Baba and his wife with sad faces visiting Cassim’s house many times during the day, they were not surprised to learn that evening that Cassim had died.

---

Keywords:

- body 死体
- huang 思苦
- cave 蜂巢
- preserve 保存
- treasure 宝物
- rock 石頭
- sight 视力
- slave 奴隷
- effective 有效
Rock of Ages

STORY

July 21, 2012

Directed by Adam Shankman, starring Julianne Hough as Sherrie, Diego Boneta as Drew and Tom Cruise as Stacee Jaxx.

In the story, a young man named Tom goes to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of becoming a rock star. He meets Sherrie, a young woman from small-town Oklahoma who comes to L.A. to become a singer. The two fall in love and become part of the rock band 'The Dirt Dogs.' However, Tom's past comes back to haunt him, and he must decide whether to follow his dream or stay with Sherrie. The story is filled with music, romance, and drama.

L.A.'s biggest rock star, Drew, is tired of the Hollywood lifestyle and wants to break free from the fame game. He meets Sherrie, a young woman from small-town Oklahoma who dreams of becoming a singer in L.A. The two fall in love and become part of the rock band 'The Dirt Dogs.' However, Tom's past comes back to haunt him, and he must decide whether to follow his dream or stay with Sherrie. The story is filled with music, romance, and drama.
A Dutch town in Germany

ROWS OF HOUSES WITH STEPPED GABLES, “GRACHTEN” (city canals) BUSY WITH BOATS, AND PEOPLE ON CYCLES SKILLFULLY NAVIGATING A COBBLED STREET THAT RUNS ACROSS A SLOTTED ARCHED BRIDGE. DESPITE THE DEFINITE DUTCH FLAIR HERE, I AM ACTUALLY IN FREIDRICHTAD -- A LITTLE TOWN IN THE GERMAN STATE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN NEAR THE DANISH BORDER. AND, INDEED, IT IS A DUTCH TOWN, FOUNDED BY DUTCH SETTLERS ALONG 400 YEARS AGO IN 1621. HOW DID THIS COME TO BE?

While the Thirty Years’ War that raged from 1618 to 1648 affected southern and central Germany most severely, bitter disputes over minute details of faith also took place in what are today the Netherlands. Calvinism eventually prevailed there, which was the so-called de facto state religion; other religious groups faced serious disadvantages.

Meanwhile, Duke Frederick III of Holstein-Gottorp had ambitious plans concerning the development of trade, which was increasingly enriching other European countries such as Spain, Portugal, France, and England, as well as the Netherlands. Technical advances had it made it increasingly feasible to drain marshlands, which subsequently required people to settle in order to develop the area further. Frederick consequently invited the Dutch Remonstrants, one of the religious groups facing persecution in their homeland, to settle in his realm. This was a smart move indeed, since these weren’t poor refugees — rather, educated, hard-working lot who brought along ships loaded with goods.

What did not materialize, however, was Frederick’s dream of world trade with the ongoing Thirty Years’ War being one reason. If it is any comfort to him, at least the town bears his name. With about 2,500 residents during the 17th century, Friedrichstadt was sizable for its time. Its population still remains unchanged today, making it into a lovely small town.

Numerous tourists who come to enjoy a look at this Dutch town in Germany make Friedrichstadt a lively place, especially in summer. The visitors include many Dutch tourists, as I also hear people conversing in the Dutch language. Local residents have been cut off for a while — except for when reciting the Lord’s Prayer during church service at the Remonstrant Church.

The land surrounding the town is completely flat, with the landscape’s highest points being the dikes that keep the waters out during times of flooding. This makes Friedrichstadt and its vicinity a cyclist’s paradise — just as long as you’ve got the wind at your back, since it can be quite strong in these parts. The rivers and canals around town also draw boat enthusiasts, while the numerous restaurants and outdoor cafes attract gourmet adventurers.

An often-photographed Friedrichstadt landmark is the row of historic houses on a large market square. Another commonly seen Dutch detail is that of the house markers, which were used instead of addresses in order to identify residences. While it would have seemed logical to use something symbolizing the profession of a home’s residents — such as a windmill for the miller, or a fish for the fisher — this was not necessarily the rule. What profession would be symbolized by a cat, a squirrel or a parrot, I wonder? Since it takes some practice to really notice these house markers, even though they are in plain view, going on a walk around Friedrichstadt while trying to spot them is a fun activity to engage in while exploring this lovely town.
タイ、オンライン、英国から交流でお届けするイラストエッセイ。各国の文化や人々を紹介します。

ムンコン

Mondo Manga

Thailand, the Social Networking Kingdom!

Sawasdee Ka (Hello)! My name is Zunko. I am a manga artist living in amazing Thailand — where social media is even more popular than it is in Japan.

And selfies! In Thailand, people take "cute" selfies and upload them onto social media at a level of enthusiasm rarely seen in Japan.

Which is why the non-display setting for photos is often used.

In Thailand, not as many people modify photos as in Japan, and photos are often posted as is. I think this is great.

When I ask a Thai person to take a photo, they often photograph me from various angles, like a pro photographer!

I think that taking photos is part of the Thai national psyche. I’m keen to keep watching people’s posts in Thailand.

In Thailand, the smartphone ownership rate is even higher than it is in Japan.

I think that Thailand’s social media market is one of the largest in the world.

Some say that social media is vital for business success. As one approach, many firms produce LINE stamps to promote their brands.

Thailand wins many global awards for its videos and photos, and the country has a deep interest in expression.

KEYWORDS

vital 不可欠な
selfie 自撮り写真
swipe 画面を指で動かして選らせる(ここでは役割を非表示)
(non-display)にする操作
as is (ここでは加工をしない)
(he) off to 〜に向かう
national psyche 国民の心
(he) keen to 〜したい

He Said, She Said

Kenchichi: I’m so ready for the summer to be over!
Rachel: (Laughs) We still have a ways to go.
Kenchichi: But I have severe "natsumate," and I’m sick of it.
Rachel: I don’t think it helps that all you eat is ice cream.
Kenchichi: I don’t have an appetite for anything else.
Rachel: Didn’t your mom say she would send us herbal teas that are supposed to rest your stomach and cool your body?
Kenchichi: Yeah, she did. But you have to drink them hot, and I just can’t bring myself to make and drink something hot.
Rachel: Well, it does feel like summer started early this year. We barely had a rainy season. But that, unfortunately, doesn’t make the fall come earlier.
Kenchichi: (Sighs) That means I still have weeks and weeks of natsumate to suffer. What’s natsumate in English, anyway?
Rachel: I don’t think there’s a specific term for it. I would say that you’re exhausted from the heat, or are suffering from the heat. But those expressions don’t do justice to what natsumate truly feels like here. It must be something to do with the combination of the high humidity and the heat.
Kenchichi: Whatever it is, I want it to be over...

He Said, She Said

Kenchichi: ねえ、今日の天気はどうする？
Rachel: ねえ、手紙を書くのって楽しい？
Kenchichi: もしも手紙を書くのが本当に好きなら、それはいいけどね。
Rachel: やってみちな。
Kenchichi: ちょっと、手紙を書くのが苦手だよね。
Rachel: ちょっと、手紙を書くのが苦手だよね。
From mechanic to kimono enthusiast

整備士から着物インフルエンサーに

Welcome to my brand new column on "kimono!" I hope to inspire you every month with exciting topics on traditional Japanese clothing. First of all, you surely want to get to know me a little better, right? So let me share a summary of my life and what brought me to Japan.

Born in the late 1980s, I grew up in northern Germany — in a small town called Luenen. Although I'm a woman, I never showed much interest in dolls or other stereotypical "girls'" toys. I enjoyed climbing trees with friends, playing with cars and building houses with Lego bricks.

Watching my father repair his motorbikes and car in the garage was also one of my favorite things to do.

In school, I got rather good grades. However, after doing some internships, I felt that an office job wasn’t for me. Instead of studying further, I decided that I wanted to earn money and have an independent life early. My dream was to build airplanes like my father, so I got myself a job at Airbus as an airplane mechanic.

At this point, you might already feel slightly confused. How does a girl with no interest in fashion move across the globe and exchange her blue overalls for a kimono?

Well, due to Japanese rock music, I developed a curiosity in Japanese language and felt the urge to study it for fun. I did so for a few years and naturally started to get interested in Japan itself. Whenever possible, I used my holidays to travel to Japan and got hooked on the country and its people. At the same time, I met my now-husband in Hamburg and we lived a few years together, then some years apart from each other, due to him working in Shanghai. Later, I became curious about living abroad and wanted to create a future with my husband, so I gave up everything in Germany, sold all my belongings and moved to Tokyo with a single suitcase.

新たな挑戦と着物への情熱

I knew starting from zero wouldn’t be easy, but I was eager to do anything at the time. For two years I worked an office job, only to find out that I really couldn’t! Sitting caged in a dark room all day every day made me depressed. During that time, I discovered Harajuku and its colorful fashion and creativity. Being there made me feel alive. I started dying my hair again like I used to when I was a teenager. After work and during weekends, I started designing and handcrafting jewelry, accessories and clothing. Dreaming of creating my own brand, I moved on to do creative work on my own terms and quit my job.

After years of trial and error, creative peaks and self-doubt, I finally found my ultimate passion: Kimono. It almost felt as if I had finally found home after a long journey. Kimono is something which fulfills me completely. It is something I can talk about all day without getting tired.

Actually, even before moving to Japan, I wore "yukata" and had an interest in kimono. However, I hadn’t realized its beauty and complexity until I spent a full day wandering around Kyoto in a rental kimono. After that experience, I felt the urge to own one myself, but always felt insecure about how to start.

"Oh, I don’t know how to wear them. What if I do something wrong?" The fears floated around in my head.

After wearing another kimono (from my mother-in-law) at a wedding, I swore to myself not to make any more excuses and bought three kimonos and two "obi" at once, and started to learn from there.

Just over two years have passed, but I am embracing kimono more than ever. There is so much to learn about "wafuku" and so much beauty, stories behind the artwork and how to wear kimono.

Currently, I wear kimono at least once a week to meet friends or go to events. Don’t forget: Starting is always hard, but if you have the determination and curiosity, you can achieve anything.
金井真奈香のビジネス会話 ABC!

試業活動に効果的なinformation interview

私は友人や人種の教養をもって、彼の元にはさまざまな出版社の営業担当者が訪れました。その中で以前私が求人に応募したPearsonという出版社の担当者がおりました。それを覚えていた友人はinformation interviewを申し込んでみたらとアドバイスをくれました。information interviewとは、ある社員や人材を誘導してもらうことで、会社の様々な部分を理解するのに役立つ面接です。情報を集めると、あなたに面積するための効果的なネットワークリングの方法といえます。

会話１

インフォメーション・インタビューのために来社する人がいるようです。

ジョン: はい、先生。今週の水曜日に1時間ほど時間

を割いてもらうことができるか？インフォメーション・インタビューで来社する人がいるので、由利のとこの親友だそうです。

先生: へえ、すごいですね。先月も1人来ながらかり

じゃありませんでしたので、最近見積もってインフォメーション・インタビューをしている人が多いみたいですね。

ジョン: 今の新たな市場では、競争がとても激しいから

ね。

先生: それはそうです。従来の販売や購入力のやり方よりもインフォメーション・インタビューの方がずっと効果的です。

ジョン: はい、やり方を間違わなければ。

会話２

ジョンはケイコに、インフォメーション・インタビューの利点について説明しています。

ケイコ: 何を意味しますか？

ジョン: インフォメーション・インタビューはネットワークを広げる一つの方法です。多くの場合、それが直接就職につながるわけではありません。

ケイコ: それは分かりますが、それでも役に立つと見受けますね。

ジョン: もちろんです。重要な書き残さないことを見落とす面がありますよ。もし特定の意思を求めることが可能であれば、その人によって別の人との面接につながるよう努力してみましょう。

ケイコ: 今度は希望する仕事に直接関わりが深いそうな

人についてですか？

ジョン: それです。
commerce [商業] も mercurey [水銀] も、元は「天からの報酬」

at the mercy of 〜「〜のないがままになってしまって」の mercy は「慈悲」、「優しさ」を意味します。この mercy は、ラテン語 merces [雇金、報酬] から来た単語です。商業ラテン語では「人を販売された人々に対する天国の報酬」の意味でした。現在は merces の同義語を紹介します。

merchant 貸人
merceri [売買・取引する]
+ -ant 〜する人

merchandise 商品
marchand [商人]
+ -ise 〜化する

comerce [共に] + mercari [売買・取引する]

mercury 水銀
ローマ神話の神 Mercurius [メルクシウス] から

merit 賛否、真善
ラテン語 merarium [報酬、當然の報酬] から

merciless 容赦ない、無情な
mercy [慈悲] 〜less 〜のない

問題
次の英文はどういう意味でしょうか？

(1) “The Merchant of Venice” is a play by William Shakespeare, which is believed to have been written toward the end of the 16th century.

(2) We have very little merchandise in stock now.

(3) The agreement established a sound basis for international commerce.

(4) People say that she is really kind, but in fact she does everything for purely mercenary reasons.

(5) Mercury is the smallest and closest to the sun of the eight planets in the solar system.

(6) Frequently eating fish from that lake can build up mercury in your body.

(7) The committee looked at the relative merits of the two proposals.

(8) The cherry blossoms were blown away in a single night of merciless rain.

解説

1. merchant [商人] は、ラテン語 mercari [売買・取引する] から、フランス語 marchand [商人] を経てきました。merchant の語尾 -ant は、「人を販売された人々に対する天国の報酬」を意味します。なお、market 「市場」も同義語です。

2. merchandise [商売、貿易] は、ラテン語 marchand [商人] + -ise 〜化するという意味の語尾を付けてきました。同義語で「商人、貿易促進を図る」という意味もあります。

3. commerce [商取引] は、com-「一の」共にという意味の語尾を + mercari [売買・取引する] から来ました。commercial 「コマーシャル」は名詞として日本語にもなっていますが、元は英語の「商業の」です。

4. mercenary [金銭の従者、報酬を得る者] は、merces [雇金、報酬] + -ary 〜に関するという意味の語尾から来ました。名詞「金銭で働く人、（外人部隊の）雇い兵」の意味もあります。

5. Mercury [水銀] は、ローマ神話の神 Mercury [ラテン語では Mercurius] から名付けられました。Mercury は神々の使者で、動キタニの管が神々の守護神です。「水銀」は太陽に近いため、公私兼用の路が短く、その動きが速さから Mercury の名が付けられたようです。また、ニュースなどを届ける人」の意味もあり、新聞や雑誌の名前にしばしば使われます。

6. mercury 「水銀」はその流動性の高さから、動きが速さの神々の使者 Mercury に関連して付与された名付けました。昔、「赤銅」と呼ばれる赤銅銅がありませんでした。これは、有機水銀を用いたマキシマックス溶液のことです。

7. merit 「賛否、真善」は、ラテン語 merarium [報酬、当然の報酬] から来ました同義語で「善良な」〜「木造、長所」などと発音するもので、なぜ、日本語の「メリット」は、英語では advantage と訳すことが多いので注意して欲しい。

8. merciless 「容赦ない、無情な」は、mercy 「慈悲」+ -less 〜のないという意味の語尾から来ました。mercy は前述の通り「天からの報酬」を意味します。
10) What goes around comes around

by Jackie Hoffart

Vancouver Vibe

In the foyer of my apartment building, wedged between the mailboxes and the stairs, is a little shelf — you can’t miss it as you come in the front door. Usually there are a few notices sitting there for community events, but from time to time books show up too, the implicit signal being, “I’m done with these books, would anyone like to have them?”

I’ve never taken a book from this randomly appearing and disappearing collection (I have too many books sitting unread in my own apartment), but I have left a magazine there for others to enjoy.

I live in a pretty friendly building, where people greet each other warmly and take pride in the condition of their building, but this level of anonymous sharing is one of my favourite parts of living here. Across Vancouver, a city known for its skyline of endless condominiums, community ties are thin. Many people do not know their neighbours.

But it’s precisely because of this bleak trend that I find the growing “Little Free Library” movement so heartening. All over Vancouver (and in many other cities across the world), small libraries have been popping up over the past five or six years. These mini-structures are always erected out of the initiative of the person who owns the property they sit on. They range in size and scale, but are generally small rainproof shelves that can hold a dozen or so books, maybe more. The idea is simply that people in the community can take and leave books as they please.

The idea of book exchanges is nothing new, and certainly not unique to Vancouver, but the rise of the Internet has allowed for these underground gems to become accessible to more people — to be mapped — which is precisely what Little Free Library is. At littlefreelibrary.org, you can read all about this movement, locate one near you, and also buy a variety of different libraries (the structures) to put in your yard.

Obviously there is no real need to be part of this global system of free libraries, and many people have simply made their own. But let me tell you — those Little Free Library boxes are very sturdy and weatherproof. Just from checking out some around Vancouver, I can tell you it pays to go premium.

One of the free libraries I visited that has not registered with this network (you can tell because they don’t have an identity number), was also not weatherproofed, and almost all the books inside were soggy. It could be that the box just hasn’t been maintained, but it was pretty unsightly.

There’s another angle to these library boxes: because they are often anonymous, the type and quality of book varies greatly. Racy Harlequin novels sit next to university tomes and “airport fiction.” Self-help and spiritual guides can be found next to kids’ books. Sometimes, there’s something for everyone.

A well-kept little library tells you a lot about the type of community you are in — not just by the type of books, but by the way the library is maintained and even how accessible it is from the street. There’s nothing not to love about these boxes, and except for a lack of geographic space to place them, they do seem like the kind of thing that would work well in Japan. Why don’t you give it a go in your hometown? What goes around comes around.

Jackie Hoffart is a writer-director-performer who lives in Vancouver, Canada, and works in the local film & TV industry. She is originally from the Canadian Prairies, and has also lived in Germany, England and Japan. She has a cat named Darren.

---

**Keywords**

what goes around, Little Free Library, implicit signal, community, anonymous, condominium, peers, weatherproof, premium, identity number, soggy, sturdy, race, geographic space, give it a go, apartment fiction

---

MACHIGAI! © Tim Young

彼女はお金持ちのビジネスマンと結婚した。

X She got married with a rich businessman.

It seems logical to use “with” here, because getting married is something that two people do together. However, in English we think of “getting married” as making a connection to another person:

○ She got married to a rich businessman.

---

MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim’s students made this mistake?

Visit: http://www.machigai.com for podcast, online quiz, and more!
ASTROLOGY

Aries 3/21 – 4/20
Don’t believe everything you hear. Feisty spontaneity must be tempered with a pinch of patience. Feisty spontaneous action is not always the answer.

Leo 7/24 – 8/23
You could encounter roadblocks along the way. Hasty actions and half-baked plans will only lead to long-term frustration. Take your time. Look beyond the immediate picture.

Virgo 8/24 – 9/23
You’ll find ideas and inspiration come from daydreaming and creative visualisation. As you retreat into your own private world. Visualisation helps you reach your goals.

Scorpio 10/24 – 11/22
Don’t use me. Your charm and direct diplomacy will get you into trouble with your reputation intact. Trust yourself to get through it. Don’t let it get you down. Trust yourself.

Sagittarius 11/23 – 12/21
It’s time to dream big dreams. The future requires you to see things in a more positive perspective. Be patient and persistent.

Capricorn 12/22 – 1/20
When it comes to business matters, financial opportunities or creative inspiration, things are unpredictable and hazardous at the moment.

Aquarius 1/21 – 2/19
You may find that you are more loved than you think, but just a strong indication of the future is hard to come by. Take time to talk things through.

Pisces 2/20 – 3/20
Are you feeling bored with the daily grind? Seek out stimulating people, shake up your routine and do something different. Daily grind is good for you.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Taurus 4/21 – 5/21
Perhaps 100% honesty isn’t the best policy. The system will give you some constructive feedback. Communication is the key. Improve your negotiation skills.

Libra 9/24 – 10/23
If you nurture close relationships and network with colleagues, you can combine your talents on a creative joint project. Nurtures smells. Combine one’s talents on a creative joint project.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Gemini 5/21 – 6/21
Gregarious Gemini are keen to share information with friends. Make sure your cheerful manner doesn’t turn into a gossipy glibness. Gossiping will alienate those nearby.

Scorpio 10/24 – 11/22
Don’t use me. Your charm and direct diplomacy will get you into trouble with your reputation intact. Trust yourself to get through it. Don’t let it get you down. Trust yourself.

Leo 7/24 – 8/23
You could encounter roadblocks along the way. Hasty actions and half-baked plans will only lead to long-term frustration. Take your time. Look beyond the immediate picture.

Libra 9/24 – 10/23
If you nurture close relationships and network with colleagues, you can combine your talents on a creative joint project. Nurtures smells. Combine one’s talents on a creative joint project.

Aries 3/21 – 4/20
Don’t believe everything you hear. Feisty spontaneity must be tempered with a pinch of patience. Feisty spontaneous action is not always the answer.

Virgo 8/24 – 9/23
You’ll find ideas and inspiration come from daydreaming and creative visualisation. As you retreat into your own private world. Visualisation helps you reach your goals.

Scorpio 10/24 – 11/22
Don’t use me. Your charm and direct diplomacy will get you into trouble with your reputation intact. Trust yourself to get through it. Don’t let it get you down. Trust yourself.

Sagittarius 11/23 – 12/21
It’s time to dream big dreams. The future requires you to see things in a more positive perspective. Be patient and persistent.

Capricorn 12/22 – 1/20
When it comes to business matters, financial opportunities or creative inspiration, things are unpredictable and hazardous at the moment.

Aquarius 1/21 – 2/19
You may find that you are more loved than you think, but just a strong indication of the future is hard to come by. Take time to talk things through.

Pisces 2/20 – 3/20
Are you feeling bored with the daily grind? Seek out stimulating people, shake up your routine and do something different. Daily grind is good for you.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Taurus 4/21 – 5/21
Perhaps 100% honesty isn’t the best policy. The system will give you some constructive feedback. Communication is the key. Improve your negotiation skills.

Libra 9/24 – 10/23
If you nurture close relationships and network with colleagues, you can combine your talents on a creative joint project. Nurtures smells. Combine one’s talents on a creative joint project.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Gemini 5/21 – 6/21
Gregarious Gemini are keen to share information with friends. Make sure your cheerful manner doesn’t turn into a gossipy glibness. Gossiping will alienate those nearby.

Scorpio 10/24 – 11/22
Don’t use me. Your charm and direct diplomacy will get you into trouble with your reputation intact. Trust yourself to get through it. Don’t let it get you down. Trust yourself.

Sagittarius 11/23 – 12/21
It’s time to dream big dreams. The future requires you to see things in a more positive perspective. Be patient and persistent.

Capricorn 12/22 – 1/20
When it comes to business matters, financial opportunities or creative inspiration, things are unpredictable and hazardous at the moment.

Aquarius 1/21 – 2/19
You may find that you are more loved than you think, but just a strong indication of the future is hard to come by. Take time to talk things through.

Pisces 2/20 – 3/20
Are you feeling bored with the daily grind? Seek out stimulating people, shake up your routine and do something different. Daily grind is good for you.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Taurus 4/21 – 5/21
Perhaps 100% honesty isn’t the best policy. The system will give you some constructive feedback. Communication is the key. Improve your negotiation skills.

Libra 9/24 – 10/23
If you nurture close relationships and network with colleagues, you can combine your talents on a creative joint project. Nurtures smells. Combine one’s talents on a creative joint project.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Gemini 5/21 – 6/21
Gregarious Gemini are keen to share information with friends. Make sure your cheerful manner doesn’t turn into a gossipy glibness. Gossiping will alienate those nearby.

Scorpio 10/24 – 11/22
Don’t use me. Your charm and direct diplomacy will get you into trouble with your reputation intact. Trust yourself to get through it. Don’t let it get you down. Trust yourself.

Sagittarius 11/23 – 12/21
It’s time to dream big dreams. The future requires you to see things in a more positive perspective. Be patient and persistent.

Capricorn 12/22 – 1/20
When it comes to business matters, financial opportunities or creative inspiration, things are unpredictable and hazardous at the moment.

Aquarius 1/21 – 2/19
You may find that you are more loved than you think, but just a strong indication of the future is hard to come by. Take time to talk things through.

Pisces 2/20 – 3/20
Are you feeling bored with the daily grind? Seek out stimulating people, shake up your routine and do something different. Daily grind is good for you.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Taurus 4/21 – 5/21
Perhaps 100% honesty isn’t the best policy. The system will give you some constructive feedback. Communication is the key. Improve your negotiation skills.

Libra 9/24 – 10/23
If you nurture close relationships and network with colleagues, you can combine your talents on a creative joint project. Nurtures smells. Combine one’s talents on a creative joint project.

Cancer 6/21 – 7/22
Impulse buys today could lead to cash flow problems tomorrow. Avoid making expensive purchases this week. Impulse buy expensive items. Lead to a nagging feeling. Purchase quality.

Gemini 5/21 – 6/21
Gregarious Gemini are keen to share information with friends. Make sure your cheerful manner doesn’t turn into a gossipy glibness. Gossiping will alienate those nearby.

Scorpio 10/24 – 11/22
Don’t use me. Your charm and direct diplomacy will get you into trouble with your reputation intact. Trust yourself to get through it. Don’t let it get you down. Trust yourself.

Sagittarius 11/23 – 12/21
It’s time to dream big dreams. The future requires you to see things in a more positive perspective. Be patient and persistent.

Capricorn 12/22 – 1/20
When it comes to business matters, financial opportunities or creative inspiration, things are unpredictable and hazardous at the moment.

Aquarius 1/21 – 2/19
You may find that you are more loved than you think, but just a strong indication of the future is hard to come by. Take time to talk things through.

Pisces 2/20 – 3/20
Are you feeling bored with the daily grind? Seek out stimulating people, shake up your routine and do something different. Daily grind is good for you.
焼き鳥
焼き鳥は外国人に人気がある日本食材の一つですが、部位の差が大きく分かれていて説明が難しいことも。鶏肝やせんなり、味や風味は知っていてもどこか分からない部位があるとな、この機会に見て、英語で説明できるようにしてみましょう。

まずは、3文で簡単に説明してみましょう。
1. "Yakitori" literally means grilled chicken.
2. The various bite-sized parts of the chicken are skewered on bamboo sticks.
3. They are then usually grilled over a charcoal fire.

次に、右上の写真を見てから、さらに詳しい説明をしてみましょう。
空欄は、日本語を参考に埋めてください。

Five (個数) of yakitori are lined up on a metal net in a square pan. From the left, you see “tsukune,” or a minced chicken patty, "kawa," or chicken skin, “negima,” or (もも肉) and Japanese leek, liver and “teba,” or chicken wings. You can usually choose from two flavorings, salt or “tare,” which is made from (しょうゆ), sugar and other ingredients. These five (個数) look like they are covered in sauce.

最後に、豆知識やトレンドの確認です。

The current style of yakitori began in the ( ) period. Even though chicken is contained in the name, there are also beef and pork yakitori. In Higashimatsushima, Miyagi Prefecture, pork yakitori is served with ( ) sauce.

空欄に当てはまる答えを選択肢の中から選んでください。

・[ ] "Shichirin" (焼鳥) with miso and rice is a dish that is popular in Japan.
・The meat is ( ) in the fire.
・You can also ( ) or ( ) chicken wings.

Let's eat ~... 少々を食べましょう (食事を避けたり、何を食べ物を勧められる時に使う) Let’s eat “Yakitori.”