



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

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Aomori Prefecture English Education
Society

日本語にしたら同じかも、でも英語すると…

日本語でも「見る」といっても、使われる場面等によっては「眺める」「俯瞰する」「拝見する」など様々な表現があります。英語と日本語は1対1にはもちろんなりませんので、単語のチョイスには表したい日本語とそれに対応する英語の双方のニュアンスを考えなければいけません。ただあまり細かく違いをとらえることにとらわれすぎると、スムーズなコミュニケーションに支障をきたしかねません。言語使用を円滑に行う大前提を外さないように見ていきましょう。

Confusing Words (2)

In a previous column (Real English Vol. 2, May 17, 2023), we looked at how to understand and correctly use look, watch and see. I would like to repeat that column ... with some other vocabulary. Like look, watch and see, the vocabulary that follows presents difficulty due to very subtle differences in meaning and use.

Number One: **LISTEN** and **HEAR**

Listen is used to describe an intentional action – something we do on purpose and with a purpose. **Hear** is used for the opposite – listening that is unintentional ... or perhaps heard by chance.

Example 1: I hear some funny noises coming from my car engine. I am going to take it to the mechanic so he can listen to it.

Example 2: I was listening to some wonderful piano music last night and I heard one of my favorite performances of Chopin.

Number Two: **HOPE** and **WISH**

We use the word **wish** when we talk about a past or present reality that we would like to change. We use the word **hope** when we are talking about future dreams and goals. **Wish** is also used for things that are unlikely to come true ... **Hope** is for those that are possible.

Example 1: I wish I had studied English more because I hope to get a job in international relations in the future.

Example 2: I wish I could win the lottery ... then, I could buy a new car. Oh well, I suppose the best I can hope for is a good job ... I will get my car eventually.

Number Three: **ROB** and **STEAL**

Even though these words come after something unfortunate, it is still important to get them right. **Rob** is used in reference to people and places. **Steal** is used to refer to things.

Example: I WAS ROBBED. Actually, my house was robbed ... and my luxury watch was stolen.

Number Four: **ALONE** and **LONELY**

Alone is used to describe someone (or something) that is separated from others – it is a state of being. **Lonely** is used to describe the feeling of being sad because you feel that you don't have any friends or companions.

Example 1: He was very lonely until he met his future wife.

Example 2: I am nervous around other people; I can only relax when I am alone.

Example 3: I can be lonely, even if I am not alone ... I can also be alone, but not feel at all lonely.

Number Five: **GROW and RAISE**

Grow is used to show (1) increase in size or age, (2) an end-state condition, or (3) a process associated with most things other than humans and animals. **Raise** reflects a process that is associated with humans and animals, for example, something that parents do with their children.

Example 1: I am growing tomatoes this year (process) ... look at how much they are growing (increase in size) ... once they are fully-grown (end-state), they will be delicious.

Example 2: I raised my son from birth until he was 18 ... and he has grown to become a fine young man.

Number Six: **WIN and BEAT**

When we **win**, we are referring to the type of competition (a game, a contest, a race, the World Cup competition, ...) or the object of that competition (1st place, 1st prize, a Gold Medal, a new car as the prize, ...). **Beat** refers to the team or opponent that lost that competition: my friend in chess, South High School in the volleyball championship, the runner from Germany in the marathon, ...)

Example: Argentina beat France to win the 2022 World Cup ... and the same year, I beat my son in chess for the first time and won the right to be 'House Chess Champion.'

Number Seven: **EFFICIENT and EFFECTIVE**

We use **efficient** to describe something or someone that works in a quick and organised way. We use **effective** to describe something that gives you the results you want

Example 1: The new online banking system offers a convenient and efficient way to check your account.

Example 2: This medicine is a very effective cure for travel sickness.

And Last ... Number Eight: **LEND, BORROW, LOAN and RENT**

Lend means that a person allows another person to use an item for a period time; *she lends a pencil to him*. **Borrow** refers to the act of using the item for a period of time; *he borrowed a pencil from her*. **Loan** has the same meaning as lend – however, it is also used as a noun when the bank lends or loans money to a customer; *she loaned him her pencil or the bank gave him a large loan to build a new house*. **Rent** means that there is a payment for this action; *she rented him the pencil for 300 yen per day*. Notice that the verbs attach to both sides of the transfer.

If I lend you my car – that means you borrow it from me. If you borrow my car – that means I loan it to you.

You can ask: "Can I borrow your car for a week?"

You can also ask: "Can you loan me your car for a week?"

You can also put it this way: "Can you lend your car to me for a week?"

Tourists often rent a car when they are on vacation away from home.

There are many companies that rent cars to tourists in popular places.

I hope this helps with this set of CONFUSING WORDS.

Next REAL ENGLISH: July 2024!

◇いよいよ初夏ですね、4・5月は学校現場はとても忙しかったでしょう。6月も最初は高校総体が始まり、その後はテストでしょうか。大学も本格的な授業がいよいよ波に乗ってきた頃でしょうか。忙しいって悪いことではないです。日々、勉強ってことですからね。健康第一で、周囲とコミュニケーションをはかりながら持続可能な学び・仕事を心掛けたいですね。(文責 伴)

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