

Saturday, May 21, 2023

Volume 2

Aomori Prefecture English Education
Society



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

「見て」いるようでよく「見て」ない「見る」に関する動詞

Real English Volume 2 は、最も身近な動詞のうちの1つである「見る」を取り上げました。一概に「見る」といっても、人それぞれが持つ捉えかたは様々です。辞書で調べてみても、言葉そのものの持つ意味や一緒に使われる言葉、他動詞やら自動詞やらと、時に過剰な情報に混乱されることも少なくないでしょう。今回は look, see, watch の3つの動詞を取り上げて、より気楽にその使い方について「見て」いきましょう。

----- Making 「見る」 Easier to Remember -----

Look up 「見る」 in your Japanese – English dictionary, and you will most likely find [**look, see, watch**]. Depending on your dictionary, you might find some additional vocabulary and maybe some model sentences. Look up any of the three words in an English – English dictionary, and you will be *confronted* with columns of definitions, differences based on use as a transitive verb or an intransitive verb, uses in various phrasal verb forms, and so on. **Too much!**

But there is an easy way to remember how to use these three words correctly that will work most of time.

Step One: Three Easy to Remember Phrases

- *look at this*-

- *watch a movie*-

- *see an accident*-

Step Two: Find the Essential Element of These Phrases

When we '*look at something*,' we are focusing our attention on it ... in many cases, we need to move our head in some direction and then concentrate on the thing that we are supposed to be '*looking at*.' The essential element is '*attention*.'

When we '*watch something*,' it: (a) is intentional – we decide to do it, and (b) takes time – like '*watching paint dry*.' In order to '*watch a movie*,' we have to decide to do it ... and then when we do it ... well, the average movie is about 100+ minutes long, maybe more. The essential elements are '*intentional*' and/or '*taking time*.'

When we '*see an accident*,' it is almost like we have the opportunity to see this unpredictable, unexpected, and

unanticipated thing – an accident ... and then it is over almost in an instant. You can't plan to 'see an accident' in advance – you never know when and where one will occur – and if you would have been at that place either a couple minutes earlier or a couple of minutes later, you would not have 'seen the accident' as it happened ... only the leftover mess. The essential elements are 'opportunity' and/or 'instant event.'

Step Three: Understand that These Terms Really Do Mean Something

So, what does it mean if I say: *Let's look at this movie.*

How about: *I was tired, so I went home, ate dinner, and then sat and watched a movie.*

And finally: *Hey. Tom Cruise has a new movie out. Have you seen it yet?*

Well ...

'Let's look at this movie' means that we are going to focus our attention on this movie ...

it has the meaning that we are going to study the movie very carefully.

... 'I went home, ate dinner, and then sat and watched a movie' shows that I intentionally wanted to spend time doing something enjoyable – watching a movie.

'Have you seen Tom Cruise's new movie yet?' asks if you have had the opportunity to see the newest crazy action-packed thriller created by one of Hollywood's greatest actors (do you think so?) yet.

So ... there you have it. I hope this helps next time you need to use 「見る」.

Next REAL ENGLISH: in JUNE!

◇Real English No.2はどうでしたか。もしかして動詞の使い方について統語論的・意味論的に深く興味を持ってくれたかも知れませんね。もちろん深く学び、調べる研究的な視点も大切です。ただ、研究に行き詰まったり、指導に思い悩んだりしたときは、ふと身近な言葉の使い方について原点に立ち戻ったりすることで、脳がリフレッシュして、進めたいことの整理ができ、いい方向に物事を進めることが多々あります。スタートは「悩むより慣れろ」とか「考え過ぎるよりまず身近な景色をみろ」ってことなのかもしれません。Making X easier to remember シリーズ化しても面白いかもしれません。私も失敗を恐れずに何でも挑戦してみようと思います。えっ、新たに会員やメーリングリスト登録者になりたい友達がいる？学会への提案や相談などがある先生がいる？いつでも以下の連絡先をご利用ください。Real English No.3もお楽しみに。（文責 伴）

青森県英語教育学会Real English 第2号

2023年（令和5年）5月21日発行

発行者 青森県英語教育学会（ASELE）

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