



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

February 06, 2026

Volume 35

Aomori Prefecture English Education Society

A Trip Down Memory Lane

For February and March, I will take a trip into the past and look back on each of the *REAL ENGLISH* volumes that have been published ... Volumes 1 to 17 for February and the remainder in March. I hope that, by reminding everyone what the past volumes included, you will be motivated to go back and revisit them. It is there that the true meaning of the **ASELE REAL ENGLISH** columns lie ... as a resource for ASELE readers.

[Volume #1](#) This was the opening volume of *REAL ENGLISH* ... it was an explanation of what was to come with some 'opening' sentences for readers to think about.

[Volume #2](#) The second volume looked at use of the words 'look,' 'watch,' and 'see' ... something that I noticed a lot of Japanese speakers were making mistakes with. Do you remember the three key phrases?

[Volume #3](#) In this volume, I focused on the 'reasons' for the particular form of past tense that we choose to use. For my ex-students, you should remember the 'SIX CRITERIA' from the textbook we used.

[Volume #4](#) This volume also took some 'textbook' content: negative yes/no questions and tag questions. Can you remember the four basic questions? And are confident about how to respond to negative questions?

[Volume #5](#) The importance of opposites and replacement vocabulary, and the slight differences they reflect, was the content for this volume. Consider: *I am getting old* versus *I am not so young anymore*. I prefer the latter.

[Volume #6](#) Metaphors were next. For me, right now ... one might say that I am approaching "the autumn of life" and getting ready for "the world's longest coffee break." One might also say that I am close to "starting a new chapter" in "the book of my life."

[Volume #7](#) Volume 7 looked at adverbs ... rather than a summary, I will advise you to check back

to this volume yourself.

[Volume #8](#) Next was VERBS: Static versus Dynamic. At the most basic level, the difference is fairly obvious (*if you are not sure why, go back and have a look*) ... but if you look at verbs more critically, you will notice these characteristics in more subtle ways.

[Volume #9](#) Volume 9 took up 'tongue twisters,' those difficult to say ... and say quickly and correctly sentences. I offered some samples, both for the fun of it, but also as a way to get readers to become more aware of what they are doing with their spoken English pronunciation.

[Volume #10](#) This volume started off 2024 ... and so the content of Volume 10 considered how sentences begin ... the variety of how sentences can begin ... and how we can best use the various ways to begin a sentence when we are using English.

[Volume #11](#) The second volume of 2024 looked at English in music lyrics. The contents offered four music genres to experience – country western, an opera aria, a song about lost love, and a big band romantic hit from the 1950s. Karaoke has always been a fun route to English.

[Volume #12](#) This volume asked readers to 'notice the difference' in similarly-structured passages. All the passages detailed a series of afternoon and evening events, but with different connections and details. Did you notice the differences?

[Volume #13](#) The phrasing we use in language is very important ... Volume 13 presented some ideas about positive phrasing [*that movie was a lot more interesting than I thought it would be (positive phrase, positive idea)*] versus negative phrasing [*that movie wasn't as boring as I thought it would be (negative phrase, positive idea)*]. The combinations that are possible [*positive grammar - negative grammar and positive vocabulary – negative vocabulary*] are the fun part of this topic.

[Volume #14](#) Volume 14 advised that making changes in a text is one way to make you feel like you are creating your own original language. When you read something, consider what small changes you could make to the sentences ... this provides experience with 'creating language.'

[Volume #15](#) This volume looked (again) at vocabulary, focusing on eight sets of words that are sometimes a problem for English learners. Go back and check the eight I offered ... then make a list of the words that you have trouble with.

[Volume #16](#) This volume focused on discourse markers, which are a powerful part of language. If you go back and read through Volume 16, you might be surprised by how much we do with – and how much we can do – with discourse markers.

[Volume #17](#) This volume looked at six English expressions that 'teach' the language ... OK, they don't actually 'teach' the language, but a thorough consideration of each will highlight the full

expressions that they reflect.

青森県英語教育学会Real English 第35号

2026年（令和8年）2月06日発行

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