

Question No. 1

W: Look! What a cute panda!

M: Which one?

W: He's lying on his stomach like he's sleeping.

M: Oh, I see him! He's kind of hidden behind the rocks.

Question No. 2

M: The flight at 7:30 is 15,000 yen.

W: That's too early.

M: The 11 am and 2 pm flights are both 17,000.

W: It's a bit more, but I'll take the afternoon one.

Question No. 3

W: Is the brochure ready?

M : We have the text and photos. All we need is Dylan's illustrations.

W: Will he send them in time?

M : Hopefully. Oh, we also need Pedro's recipe.

Question No. 4

M : I'm worried about the opening remarks at the party tomorrow.

W: I heard Jim will do that.

M: He said he'll be late.... Would you mind taking his place?

W: Not at all.

Question No. 5

W: You have so many DVDs!

M: I have a hundred here, but it's only half of my collection.

W: Wow, that's a lot!

M: Actually, I'm thinking of ordering 20 more.

Question No. 6

M: The salmon catch was lower again in 2018.

W: Yes. It's been a continuous trend in recent years.

M: Well, not in 2016.

W: Right. That year was an exception.

Question No. 7

W: This muffin is delicious! What's in it?

M: Well, I baked them with fresh blueberries and walnuts.

W: I notice another flavor too. What is it?

Question No. 8

W: Good afternoon, Seaside Medical Clinic. How may I help you?

M: My son has been sick since this morning. Can the doctor see him some time today?

W: Well.... How about 3 o'clock?

Question No. 9

M: OK. Thanks for your great ideas! How about lunch?

W: I wish I could, but I've got an important meeting.

M: Oh, too bad. Anyway, I really appreciate your help.

Question No. 10

M: I may have left my wallet on the table. It's brown leather. I just had lunch here.

W: I'll check with the manager. What's your name?

M: John Smith.

Question No. 11

M: Does it take you long to come to school?

W: Yeah, about an hour by train.

M: Really? That's tough. How do you get to the station?

Question No. 12

M: What are you reading?

W: A novel by an American writer. It's pretty famous, but a little long and complicated.

M: Do you think it's worth reading?

Question No. 13

W: You got 90 on your test, Yuto. Well done!

M: Thank you very much, Ms. Hayashi. Actually, I wanted a perfect score.

W: Don't be so hard on yourself.

Question No. 14

M: I just came from the grocery store, and they charged me for a shopping bag!

W: Didn't you know? Some supermarkets do that.

M: What for?

W: They want you to bring your own bag to reduce waste.

M: Oh, I see. It's a good idea.

W: Yeah, think about the environment.

Question No. 15

W: What did you do at the weekend workshop?

M: Let's see. . . . Oh, I went to the Stacey Jones lecture.

W: Oh. Did you get anything out of it?

M: Yeah, basically she said you need to find your passion in order to experience happiness.

W: Interesting. Have you found yours?

M: Yeah, eating good food!

Question No. 16

W: Excuse me, where's the computer lab?

M: Ahh, in the next building on the fourth floor.

W: Oh.... So, I climbed these stairs for nothing?

M: Yeah, people make this mistake all the time. Don't worry, there's a connecting bridge on this floor.

W: Great! And then just one floor up?

M: Yeah.

W: Thanks!

Questions No. 17 to 19

W: Hey, take a look at these ads for part-time jobs. You haven't got one yet, have you?

M: No, not yet. Is there anything good?

W: They're all interesting. How about delivering pizza?

M: I love pizza, but I don't have a license.

W: Too bad. Then, how about this? Do you have any experience?

M : Hmm, that's nice and I have served at a café before—

W: So that's a possibility.... What about the other ones?

M : Well, I have a bike.. Ah, dog walker.... What is that?

W: Just what it says--you take someone's dog for a walk.

M: They pay people for that? Well, my family has only had cats, so-

W: Tough luck. Still it looks like there are two jobs suited for you. What about your schedule?

M: Well, I have soccer practice every weekday afternoon and on Saturday mornings.

W: Ah, so I guess that narrows your choices...

Questions No. 20 to 22

The way cultures relate to tea and time is interesting. As an American teacher with experience in both Japan and Nepal, I have noticed similarities and differences concerning tea and time. Both countries have a tea culture. Tea is a part of most meals and a popular drink enjoyed throughout the day. It is also often served at meetings. On the other hand, their views of time are quite different. For example, in Japan, trains and buses generally arrive and leave on time, and run according to schedule. I thought this happened everywhere. Working in Nepal, however, showed me that concepts of time could be quite different. Buses did not run on a schedule; they moved only when they were filled with passengers. As another example, I would arrive at school ready to teach but found myself first having tea with the principal. The lessons started late, but it seemed that the time schedule was not as important as our morning tea and chat. In Japan, I think we would have kept to the schedule and had tea after class. But working in Nepal taught me the value of building the bonds of smooth, lasting relationships... over tea.

Questions No. 23 to 25

Mark: Hi, David. . . . Hi, Amy. What's up?

David: Hey, Mark. I was just telling Amy about my guitar lessons.

Mark: Oh yeah? How're they going?

David: Actually, I'm thinking about quitting. They aren't cheap, and my teacher's kind of strict. But even more than that, they're so boring! She makes me practice the same thing over and over to get it right. That's all we do. Amy thinks I should continue though, right, Amy?

Amy: That's right. Your teacher knows what you need to do to make progress. You should trust her. If she thinks you should start with the basics, she's probably right.

David: Yeah, I know. But I'm just not enjoying myself. When I decided to play the guitar, my dream was to have fun playing music with my friends. I want to learn how to play some songs. I don't need to know everything, just enough so I can start enjoying myself.

Mark: I see what you mean, David. If you played in a band, it would increase your motivation to practice. It's a lot of fun playing with other people. I suppose you could quit your lessons and teach yourself how to play.

Amy: I think if you're really serious about learning to play the guitar, you should continue taking lessons. Your teacher will show you the right way to play. If you quit and try to learn on your own, you might develop bad habits that will be hard to change later. It may not be fun now, but just imagine how good you'll be in a few years.

Mark: You know what? Maybe you should stick with it. You can always put together a band while taking lessons.

David: Good idea! That way, I can practice what I learn from my teacher. Are either of you interested in starting a band?