

高校生英語 休講期間中の課題③～4月15日用～

●次の英文を読んで、あとの問いに答えなさい。

Words are words and pictures are pictures. Most of our information comes from words. But we are getting *more and more information from little pictures. We call them “*pictograms.”

Language is an important *means of communication. You exchange *greetings. At school you listen to your teachers, have *discussions, and enjoy talking with your classmates. At home you use language.

*Yet, there is another important means of communication.

*Look around carefully, and you will notice lots of pictograms.

*Take a look at the *following. Even little kids may know them.



The one on the left shows an *emergency *exit. The one in the *middle shows a *restroom. The one on the right shows an escalator.

Pictograms are often used in *public places. Why do people use pictograms *instead of words *such as “emergency exit,” “restroom,” or “escalator”? Aren’t words better than pictograms?

Pictograms are used for *at least two reasons. First, you can usually guess their meanings just *by looking at them. However, you cannot understand words if you don’t know the language. For this reason, pictograms are used at international airports.

Second, you can quickly *recognize pictograms *even if they are far away *because of their simple *design and *bright colors. For this reason, they are used on roads.



Take a look at these road signs:

These are not used in Japan, but you can easily guess their meanings: “*Drawbridge *ahead,” “*Watch out for *kangaroos,” and “*Roundabout ahead.”

People from different cultures can usually understand pictograms easily. But sometimes they find pictograms *confusing. Look at this pictogram:

It tells different people different things. Maybe this man is clearing a *landslide.



Maybe he is opening an umbrella on a windy day. *Actually, this man is working on a road. This is a pictogram for “*Roadwork ahead.”

You can usually get the message from a pictogram *as soon as you see it. But sometimes you have to learn the meaning of a pictogram, just like you learn the words of a foreign language.

Pictograms may never *take the place of words, but they are already an important means of communication. Some people are making full sentences and even telling stories with pictograms. A famous Chinese artist wrote the following “sentence.”

Can you read it?



From Xu Bing's Book from the Ground. See page 10 for answer.

Will pictograms *eventually take the place of words?

Will they be the language of the future? What do you think?

* more and more ますます多くの pictogram ピクトグラム、図像 means 方法、手段

greeting あいさつ discussion 討論、話し合い yet さらに、それでも look around 見て回る

take a look at ～ 一見する、見る following 次が続く、以下の emergency 非常時、緊急
 exit 出口、退出 middle 真ん中の restroom 手洗い所 public 公共の
 instead その代わりとして instead of ～ ～の代わりに ～ such as ... …のような～
 at least 少なくとも by V-ing Vすることによって recognize 認める even if ～ たとえ～だとしても
 because of ～ ～のために design デザイン(する) bright 明るい、輝く drawbridge 可動橋
 ahead 前方に watch out for ～ ～に気を付ける kangaroo カンガルー
 roundabout 回り道の、ラウンドアバウト confusing 混乱させる landslide 地すべり、山崩れ
 actually 実際に、実は roadwork ロードワーク、道路工事 as soon as ～ ～するとすぐに
 take the place of ～ ～に代わる(の代理をする) eventually 結局は、ついに

Q1 When do you use language at school?

Q2 What other means of communication do we often use?

Q3 Where do we see pictograms?

Q4 Give two reasons for using pictograms.

Q5 Pictograms are something confusing. Why?

Q6 What do we have to do if we don't understand a pictogram?

Q7 What are some people making with pictograms?

Q8 Answer the following questions by choosing (a), (b) or (c).

① Pictograms are used because

- a. people like beautiful pictures.
- b. we can understand them easily.
- c. they always mean the same thing to everyone.

② Pictograms are sometimes confusing because

- a. we cannot see them from far away.
- b. every country has its own pictograms.
- c. they can mean different things to different people.

③ Which of the following is true?

- a. Children cannot understand pictograms.
- b. Some people are making sentences and telling stories with pictograms.
- c. We cannot understand a country's pictograms until we learn its language.

Q9 Complete the summary by filling in the blanks.

Language is an important means of (1). We use language every day—at school, at home, with our friends. But we also need (2). They give us information quickly. We use them in (3) places like airports and roads. We can understand them easily even if we don't speak the (4) of the country. Pictograms can sometimes be (5), but they are certainly another important means of communication. Will they eventually take the place of words?