

Lesson 15



Reading 15-A

日本の学校では、毎年運動会が行われます。運動会では、走るだけではなく、おもしろいレースもあります。けんくんは、パン食い競走や借り物競走など、楽しいレースをするのも、見るのも大好きです。今までは、運動会でチームが勝つかどうかは気にしたことがありませんでした。でも、今年は、高校生として最後の運動会だったので、クラスのみんなもけんくんもどうしても勝ちたいと思いました。そこで、クラスのみんなは、毎朝走る練習をすることにしました。そして、運動会でけんくんのクラスはリレーで、二位になりました。

おこな
行われる (an event) is held
か
勝つ to win

きょうそう
競走 a (foot) race
い
二位 second place

Nihon no gakkō dewa, maitoshi undōkai ga okonawaremasu. Undōdai dewa, hashiru dake dewanaku, omoshioi rēsu mo arimasu. Ken kun wa, pankui kyōsō ya karimono kyōsō nado, tanoshii rēsu o suru no mo, miru no mo daisuki desu. Ima made wa, undōkai de chiimu ga katsu kadōka wa ki ni shita koto ga arimasen deshita. Demo, kotoshi wa, kōkōsei toshite saigo no undōkai datta node, kurasu no minna mo Ken kun mo dōshitemo kachitai to omoimashita. Sokode, kurasu no minna wa, maiasa hashiru renshū o suru koto ni shimashita. Soshite, undōkai de Ken kun no kurasu wa rirē de, nii ni narimashita.

Questions 15-A

- What event is mentioned in this passage?
(A. city sponsored marathons, B. school swimming meets, C. national track and field tournaments, D. school field days)
- What does Ken like about this day?
(A. participating, B. watching, C. both participating and watching, D. organizing the event)
- Which of these statements best describes Ken?
(A. he is very competitive, B. he is not very competitive, C. he wants to win this year because it is his last, D. he hopes it does not rain and ruin the event)
- How did Ken's class prepare for the day's events?
(A. they practiced running after school, B. they practiced running every morning, C. they practiced swimming daily, D. they took a weight lifting course together)



Reading 15-B

まいさんは、冬ふゆになると、朝あさ、なかなか起きることができません。寒さむいし、朝はまだくらいからです。それに、高校生は勉強べんきょうがともいそがしいし、クラブ活動かつどうをしているとつかれて、何時間なんじかんねても足りません。でも、今週こんしゅうは毎日雨がたくさん降ふったので、クラブの練習しゅうが中止になりました。そこで、まいさんは、できるだけ早く学校の勉強をやつて、早くねることにしました。練習がなかったのはざんねんですが、いつもよりのんびりすることができました。

Mai san wa, fuyu ni naru to, asa, nakanaka okiru koto ga dekimasen. Samui shi, asa wa mada kurai kara desu. Sore ni, kōkōsei wa benkyō ga totemo isogashii shi, kurabu katsudō o shite iru to tsukarete, nanjikan netemo tarimasen. Demo, konshū wa mainichi ame ga takusan futta node, kurabu no renshū ga chūshi ni narimashita. Sokode, Mai san wa, dekirudake hayaku gakkō no benkyō o yatte, hayaku neru koto nishimashita. Renshū ga nakatta nowa zannen desu ga, itusmo yori nonbiri suru koto ga dekimashita.

Questions 15-B

- Why is it difficult for Mai to wake up during the winter?
(A. her alarm clock is broken, B. the school year just began, and she is used to the vacation schedule, C. it is winter, and it is dark and cold in the morning, D. she goes to bed late at night)
- What does Mai feel she does not get enough of?
(A. practice, B. study done, C. sleep, D. information)
- Why did sports practices get canceled?
(A. it is too cold outside, B. it is too dark outside, C. it is too rainy, D. it is too snowy)
- What did Mai decide to do with her extra time?
(A. get more sleep, B. spend more time on her homework, C. hang out with her friends, D. take a trip with her family)



Reading 15-C

これから、みなさんに、^{はつもうで}初詣について^{せつめい}説明します。初詣というのは、その年に^{はじ}初めて、^{じんじゃ}神社やお寺におまいりに行くことです。たくさん日本人はお正月の間に初詣をします。歩いて近くの神社やお寺に行く人もいるし、電車やバスに^の乗って、有名な神社やお寺に行く人もいます。お正月の間は、^{とくべつ}特別に^{おそ}遅くまで電車やバスが走っているから、^{べんり}便利です。そして、まず^{かみさま}神様に^{きょねん}去年までの^{れい}お礼を言ってから、今年もよろしくお祈りしますと^{いの}祈りをします。その後で、^{まも}お守り^かを買ったり、^{おみくじ}おみくじをひいたりする人もいます。とても特別で、^{でんどうてき}伝統的な^{ぎょうじ}行事です。これで^{はっぴょう}発表^おを終わります。

^{いの}祈り

prayer

^{まも}お守り

a charm

おみくじ a written fortune

Kore kara, minasan ni, hatsumōde nitsuite setsumei shimasu. Hatsumōde toiu no wa, sono toshi ni hajimete, jinja ya otera ni omairi ni iku koto desu. Takusan no nihonjin wa oshōgatsu no aida ni hatsumōde o shimasu. Aruite chikaku no jinja ya otera ni iku hito mo iru shi, densha ya basu ni notte, yūmei na jinja ya otera ni iku hito mo imasu. Oshōgatsu no aida wa, tokubetsu ni yoru osoku made densha ya basu ga hashitte iru kara, benri desu. Soshite, mazu kamisama ni kyonen made no orei o itte kara, kotoshimo yoroshiku onegaishimasu to oinori o shimasu. Sono atode, omamori o kattari, omikuji o hiitari suru hito mo imasu. Totemo tokubetsu de, dentōteki na gyōji desu. Kore de happyō o owarimasu.

Questions 15-C

1. What is this presentation about?

(A. one's first visit of the year to a shrine or temple, B. summer festivals on the grounds of shrines and temples, C. field day events on the grounds of a shrine or temple, D. visiting a shrine or temple the year one becomes 3, 5, or 7 years old)

2. According to the speaker, how do people travel to the shrines and temples?

(A. by walking, B. by public transportation, C. by both walking and public transportation, D. by car)

3. What does the speaker say is convenient?

(A. there is generous public parking at shrines and temples, B. famous shrines and temples are located within walking distance to most homes, C. public transportation has extended operating hours during the New Year holiday, D. many people own their own cars)

4. What does the speaker say one should do first during "Hatsumode"?

(A. purchase a charm, B. select a written fortune, C. pray for future health and happiness, D. give thanks for the blessings of the past year)



Reading 15-D

ゆきさんの家族は、長い休みに
は、いつも旅行をすることにし
ています。いつもは、色々な町
に行きますが、今回は、おきな
わにあるきれいな家を二週間、
借りることにしました。その家
からは海が見えて、歩いても海
まで十分もかかりません。その
上、あまり人がいないので、と
てもしずかで、のんびりするこ
とができます。ゆきさんもお兄
さんも毎日海で泳いだので、体
力がつきました。それに黒くなっ
たので、ひさしぶりに会った人
がびっくりしていました。とて
も楽しかったので、来年も同じ
所に行きたいと思っています。

Yuki san no kazoku wa, nagai yasumi niwa, itsumo ryokō o suru koto ni shite imasu. Itsu-
mo wa, iroiro na machi ni ikimasu ga, konkai wa, Okinawa ni aru kirei na ie o nishūkan,
kariru koto ni shimashita. Sono ie kara umi ga miete, aruitemo umi made juppun mo
kakarimasen. Sono ue, amari hito ga inai node, totemo shizuka de, nonbiri suru koto ga
dekimasu. Yuki san mo oniisan mo mainichi umi de oyoida node, tairyoku ga tsukimashi-
ta. Sore ni kuroku natta node, hisashiburi ni atta hito ga bikkuri shite imashita. Totemo
tanoshikatta node, rainen mo onaji tokoro ni ikitai to omotteimasu.

Questions 15-D

1. What does Yuki's family do during vacations?
(A. visit relatives, B. travel, C. vacation in the countryside, D. stay at home)
2. What will they do this year?
(A. stay at a rental house for two weeks, B. stay at their summer home, C. finish building their summer home, D. visit their relatives for two weeks)
3. How long does it take to get to the beach?
(A. 10 minutes by bus, B. 10 minutes by walking, C. 10 minutes by car, D. 10 minutes by train)
4. What do they like about this place?
(A. they can see the stars at night, B. the city is conveniently nearby, C. it is quiet and relaxing, D. the people in the area are kind)



Reading 15-E

しょうくんは、背が高く、かっこいいだけではありません。スポーツもできるし、頭あたまも良く、歌うたと踊りおどにも興味きょうみがあります。そこで、将来しょうらいは、できれば有名な歌手かしゅか俳優はいゆうになりたいと思っています。俳優を目指すために、今、学校の後で、ボイストレーニングをしたり、踊り方を習ったりしています。色々いろいろなことができたなら、色々やくな役やくもできるからです。友達だちも家族ぞくも、いつも「がんばって」と言ってくれます。

はいゆう actor
俳優

やく role
役

Shō kun wa, segatakakute, kakkoi dake dewa arimasen. Supōtsu mo dekiru shi, atama mo yokute, uta to odori nimo kyōmi ga arimasu. Sokode, shōrai wa dekireba yūmei na kashu ka haiyū ni naritai to omotte imasu. Haiyū o mezasu tameni, ima, gakkō no atode, boistorēningu o shitari, odorikata o narattari shite imasu. Iroiro na koto ga dekitara, iroiro na yaku mo dekiru kara desu. Tomodachi mo kazoku mo, itsumo “ganbatte” to itte kuremasu.

Questions 15-E

1. What kind of person is Shō?
(A. talkative and funny, B. short, but good at sports, C. tall and a bit awkward, D. tall and athletic)
2. What is Shō interested in?
(A. singing and playing music, B. playing and writing songs, C. singing and dancing, D. making people laugh)
3. Why is Shō taking voice lessons?
(A. he is interested in many things, B. he wants to be able to act out various roles, C. it is a requirement for acting school, D. his parents encourage him)
4. How does Shō's family feel about his choices?
(A. they wish he would be more committed to his sport team, B. they wish he would study harder, C. they do not understand him, D. they support him wholeheartedly)



Reading 15-F

この前、日本語のクラスに日本から高校生が十人来てくれました。その中にかわった自己紹介をした生徒がいました。日本人の名前はおぼえにくいのですが、その人は、「私の名前は、豊田せい子です。豊田は、有名な車の会社の名前で、せい子もセイコーという日本の時計の会社の名前と発音が似ています。会社の名前を聞いたことがある人は、私の名前をおぼえやすいでしょう。」と言ったのです。だから、クラスのみんなは、すぐにせい子さんの名前をおぼえました。せい子さんは、自然が大好きで、よく山にのぼったり、ハイキングをしたりするそうです。でも、時々、山に行くと、アレルギーのために、鼻水が止まらなくなるので、こまるそうです。

はつおん
発音

pronunciation

に
似ている similar

Kono mae, nihongo no kurasu ni nihon kara kōkōsei ga jūnin kite kuremashita. Sono naka ni kawatta jikoshōkai o shita seito ga imashita. Nihonjin no namae wa oboenikui desu ga, sono hito wa, “watashi no namae wa, Toyota Seiko desu. Toyota wa yūmei na kuruma no kaisha no namae de, Seiko mo seikō toiu nihon no tokei no kaisha no namae to hatsuon ga nite imasu. Kaisha no namae o kiita koto ga aru hito wa, watashi no namae o oboeyasui desho” to itta no desu. Dakara, kurasu no minna wa, sugu ni Seiko san no namae o oboemashita. Seiko san wa, shizen ga daisuki de, yoku yama ni nobottari, haikingu o shitari suru sō desu. Demo, tokidoki, yama ni iku to arerugii no tame ni hanamizu ga tomaranaku naru node, komaru sō desu.

Questions 15-F

1. What is this passage about?
(A. a foreign student who visited a Japanese school, B. someone who gave an interesting self-introduction, C. someone from the Toyota auto company who visited a school, D. a class that visited the Seiko watch company)
2. Why was it easy for the class to remember the person's name?
(A. it is similar to the names of two famous companies, B. it is similar to a famous actor's, C. it is short, D. it does not sound Japanese)
3. What is something this person enjoys doing?
(A. swimming, B. eating out, C. hiking, D. traveling)
4. What is this person troubled about?
(A. adjusting to the new time zone, B. adjusting to the high altitude, C. spring allergies, D. the flu season)



Reading 15-G

みなさんは、何時に寝ますか。そして、一日に何時間ぐらい寝ていますか。
 新聞によると、成績せいせきがいい人は、だいたい八時間ぐらい寝ているそうです。
 そこで、あるアメリカの大学では、大学生三千人にアンケートをとりました。
 その結果けっか、80%の学生が毎日八時間から九時間寝ていることがわかりま
 した。しかし、日本人の学生の寝る時間は、毎年、みじかくなってきて
 いるようです。夜よるおそくまで勉強べんきょうをしているからかもしれません。また、
 夜中よなかにおもしろいテレビを見ているのからかもしれません。インターネットを
 したり、友達だちとチャットをしているからかもしれません。

けっか result

よなか midnight

Minasan wa, nanji ni nemasu ka. Soshite, ichinichi ni nanjikan gurai nete imasu ka. Shinbun niyoru to, seiseki ga ii hito wa, daitai hachijikan gurai nete iru sō desu. Sokode, aru amerika no daigaku dewa, daigakusei sanzennin ni ankēto o torimashita. Sono kekka, hachijū pāsento no gakusei ga mainichi hachijikan kara kujikan nete iru koto ga wakari-mashita. Shikashi, nihonjin no gakusei no nerujikan wa, maitoshi, mijikakunatte kite iru yō desu. Yoru osoku made benkyō oshiteiru kara kamoshiremasen. Mata, yonaka ni omoshiroi terebi o mite iru no kamoshiremasen. Intānetto o shitari, tomodachi to chatto o shite iru kara kamoshiremasen.

Questions 15-G

1. What source does the speaker quote in the passage?
 (A. a science magazine, B. a newspaper article, C. a research journal, D. a national health organization)
2. According to the article, what is one of the benefits of getting about eight hours of sleep?
 (A. better grades, B. better relationships with friends, C. fewer traffic accidents, D. better attitudes about school)
3. Which demographic group is said to get about eight hours of sleep?
 (A. US high school students, B. Japanese high school students, C. US university students, D. Japanese university students)
4. What is the main cause of Japanese youth not getting enough sleep?
 (A. studying late at night, B. watching TV at midnight, C. using the internet, and chatting with friends, D. there is no main cause given in the research)