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INTRODUCTION

This book is written and designed for intermediate to advanced learners, especially for those who are interested in:

- reading authentic Japanese texts after finishing intermediate-level textbooks.
- learning expressions that often appear in Japanese news.
- talking about current affairs in Japanese.
- improving listening skills.
- improving reading comprehension skills.

Many intermediate to advanced learners find it hard to read and listen to news articles, even after they have studied several grammar books and acquired a decent amount of vocabulary.

Certainly, the vocabulary that appears in the news can be difficult, however, by studying commonly used expressions and the typical structure of the news, we believe that it will be possible to grasp the main content, even if you come across a few words that you are unfamiliar with. We have created this book to provide you with the perfect materials for this training.

All the articles in this book are taken out of the actual news reported in 2021 and edited to suit the N4 to N3 level learners so they can challenge themselves and level up their Japanese. Eighteen articles have been carefully selected on various topics such as culture, environment, politics, and sports to keep learners interested and motivated to continue reading.

By studying this book, it's our hope that you will become accustomed to the typical news structure and develop the necessary skills to read and understand news efficiently.

Good luck with your learning!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The book contains 18 news stories covering different topics and each news story consists of the following 8 sections.

- The photo with the news title
- Three comprehension questions
- The article without furigana
- keywords
- The article with furigana
- The English translation
- Three grammar points
- Translation and answers to comprehension questions

Since the chapters are arranged roughly in order of difficulty, we recommend that you proceed in the order that is given.

Before proceeding to start the chapter, please keep in mind the basic structure of the news.

The first paragraph usually contains the most important information about the news, so it's crucial to focus on this part before going through the rest. Then, it's followed by more detailed background information about the news and the final paragraph provides additional information.

Here is an overview of each section of the chapters.

• The photo with the news title

First, you may look at the photo related to the news and read the title to broadly expect what the news will be about.

• Three comprehension questions

Then, read the three comprehension questions that are found on the same page as the photo before reading the article. These questions give you ideas about what you should expect and allow you to pay close attention to important details.

The article without furigana

The text is written without furigana for advanced learners of kanji. Even if you don't know how to read them, if you have studied the meanings of many kanji already, you can challenge yourself to read this text first to see how much you can understand before listening to the audio (which can be downloaded from our website).

You can read and listen as many times as you need to until you feel that you understand about 70% of the text. Then, try to answer the comprehension questions.

You may check the keywords as needed and read it again so that you can understand 100%.

Keywords

The definitions of all words in bold in the article are found on the right-hand side of the page for your easy reference.

• The article with furigana / English translation

In this section, all the new kanji have furigana once in the article, and each sentence is numbered so you can easily match them with English translation on the corresponding page.

The English texts are mostly literal translations thereby sacrificing the fluency so that they can be easily compared with the original Japanese texts.

Three grammar points

In this section, we examine three essential grammar points from the article. Since this is not a grammar book, there are no detailed explanations but instead, two example sentences are provided so that you can examine and analyze the grammar point. This is followed by exercises which can help you practice the grammar point.

• Translation and Answers to Comprehension Questions

This section provides the translations of the comprehension questions and example answers to them.

There are many ways to use this book.

For example, if you want to focus on improving your listening skills, you could listen to the audio before reading the article. If you find it too hard, you can go through the keyword section first, then listen to the news as many times as needed.

If you want to improve your speaking skills, after you've become confident that you've understood nearly a 100% of the texts, look at the English translations then try reproducing the Japanese text, line by line. During this process, it's important that you reproduce sentences out loud. Of course, the goal of this exercise is not to reproduce the article with 100% accuracy, but to practice using the vocabulary and grammar you have learned as much as possible to make meaningful sentences. Through this process, you can boost your speaking skills.

You can repeat this process for each chapter. As you go through more chapters, you will get used to the style of news and become able to comprehend it quicker and easier.

When you finish the book, don't stop there! It's important to go back to reading the articles again and again to reinforce your knowledge.

We hope that you make full use of this book to improve your reading, listening, and speaking skills.

NEWS#1 コロナウイルス





Pre-reading Questions



- ▶ 日本でコロナに感染した人は、合計で何人ですか?
- ▶ 今月4日に、何件のPCR検査が行われましたか?
- ▶ 4月からワクチンの注射を受けられるのは、何才以上の人ですか?

ニュース記事



3月7日に、日本**全国**で1,136人が新しくコロナウイルスに**感染** しました。また1日の死者数は、42人でした。

国内で**感染**した人は、**合計で**43万9.981人になりました。

国内の死者数は、合わせて8,263人になりました。

厚生労働省によると、**新型コロナウイルス**への**感染者**の中で、 **人工呼吸器や集中治療室**などで**治療**を受けている**重症者**は、現在 373人いるそうです。

また今月4日には、1日に3万7,203件の**PCR検査が行われました**。

日本では、新しいコロナウイルスの**ワクチン**の**注射**が、先月から病院で働く人に始まりました。日本で使われているワクチンは、アメリカの**ファイザー社**のものです。65才以上の**高齢者**への**注射**は、4月から始まる予定です。

Keywords



ぜんごく 全国	nationwide
^{かんせん} 感染	infection
···· 死者	dead
ゔヺゖぃ 合計で/合わせて	in total
こうせいろうどうしょう 厚生労働省	Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare
新型コロナウイルス	Covid-19
^{かんせんしゃ} 感染者	infected
^{じんこうこきゅう き} 人工呼吸器	ventilator
^{しゅうちゅうちりょうしっ} 集中 治療室	ICU
^{50ょう} 治療	treatment
^{じゅうしょうしゃ} 重症 者	severely ill patient
th ce 検査	exam
PCR検査	PCR test
^{おこな} 行う	to conduct
ワクチン	vaccine
^{ちゅうしゃ} 注射	injection
ファイザー社	Pfizer
	elderly

フリガナ付きニュース記事

- 1. 3月7日に、日本全国で1,136人が新しくコロナウイルスに感染しました。
- 2. また1日の死者数は、42人でした。
- 3. 国内で感染した人は、合計で 43万9,981人に なりました。
- 4. 国内の死者数は、合わせて 8,263人に なりました。
- 5. 厚生労働省<u>によると</u>、新型コロナウイルスへの感染者の中で、人工呼吸 ましゅうちゅうちりょうしつ 器や集中治療室などで治療を受けている重症者は、現在373人いる<u>そ</u> うです。
- 6. また今月4日には、1日に3万7,203件のPCR検査が行われました。
- 7. 日本では、新しいコロナウイルスのワクチンの注射が、先月から病院で働く人に始まりました。
- 8. 日本で使われているワクチンは、アメリカのファイザー社のものです。
- 9. 65才以上の高齢者への注射は、4月から始まる<u>予定</u>です。

English Translation

- 1. On March 7, 1136 people across Japan were newly infected with the coronavirus.
- 2. The number of deaths per day was 42.
- 3. A total of 439,981 people have been infected in the country.
- 4. The total number of deaths in the country is 8263.
- 5. According to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, there are currently 373 people infected with the new coronavirus who are being treated in ventilators or intensive care units.
- 6. In addition, on the 4th of this month, 37,203 PCR tests were performed a day.
- 7. In Japan, injections of a new coronavirus vaccine began last month for hospital workers.
- 8. The vaccine used in Japan is from Pfizer Inc. of the United States.
- 9. Injections for seniors over the age of 65 are scheduled to begin in April.

Grammar points

Point 1 Aによると [according to A]

例 1)WHOによると、2014年から2016年の間に、1万1,310人がエボラウイルスに感染して死亡しました。

According to the WHO, 11,310 people died after contracting the Ebola virus between 2014 and 2016.

例2)天気予報**によると、**明日は雪が降るそうです。
According to the weather forecast, it will snow tomorrow.

Exercises

- 1. According to specialists, adults should sleep at least 7 hours.
- 2. According to the teacher, the result of the exams will be out tomorrow.

Point 2 ____そうです [expressing hearsay]

- 例1) きのう、東京で大きい地震があった**そうです**。

 It's reported that there was a big earthquake in Tokyo yesterday.
- 例2) ニュースによると、もうすぐ さくらの花が さく**そうです**。 According to the news, the cherry blossoms will bloom soon.

Exercises

- 3. I heard that Mr.Kawada is leaving the company next month.
- 4. I heard that the baby will be a girl.

Point 3 ______予定だ・です [scheduled to...]

- 例1) 今週末は、友達の結婚式に出る予定です。
 - I'm scheduled to attend my friend's wedding this weekend.
- 例2)明日は、3時から会議の**予定だ**。
 I'm scheduled to have a meeting at 3 o'clock tomorrow.

Exercises

- 5. The flight is scheduled to arrive at 8 p.m tonight.
- 6. I'm scheduled to have a trip to Hawaii for summer vacation.

Answer key

- 1. 専門家によると、大人は最低 7 時間寝たほうがいい。
- 2. 先生によると、テストの結果は明日出るそうです。
- 3. 川田さんは、来月会社をやめるそうです。
- 4. 赤ちゃんは、女の子だそうです。
- 5. 私のフライトは、今晩8時に着く予定です。
- 6. 夏休みは、ハワイ旅行の予定です。

Translation and Answers to Pre-reading Questions

Q1: 日本でコロナに感染した人は、合計で何人ですか?

How many people have been infected with Corona virus in Japan in total?

Q2: 今月4日に、何件のPCR検査が行われましたか?

How many PCR exams were done on the 4th of this month?

Q3: 4月からワクチンの注射を受けられるのは、何才以上の人ですか?

Above which age can people receive the vaccine starting in April?



- 1. 合計で43万9,981人
- 2. 3万7,203件
- 3.65才以上

Note

GRAMMAR GLOSSARY

	News #1 18
1.	Aによると [according to A]
2.	そうです [expressing hearsay]
3.	予定だ・です [scheduled to…]
	News #2 28
1.	AやB、Cなど [A, B, C etc…]
2.	~やすい [easy to…]
3.	~過ぎ [too…]
	News #3 38
1.	Aも、Bも [whether A or B]
2.	いっぱい [full]
3.	ましてや [not to mention]
	News #4 •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
1.	Aが Bの中に 入っている [A is in B]
2.	Aは、Bという意味 [A means B]
3.	~し、~し [listing multiple reasons]
	<u> </u>
	News #5 58
1.	~たり~たり [listing multiple actions]
2.	せいで/おかげで [due/thanks to]
3.	人もいます [some people…]

JAPANESE-ENGLISH GLOSSARY



あたえる	与える	to give	#15
あたる	(に) 当たる	to account for	#18
あつまる	集まる	to be gathered; collected	#6
あつりょくをかける	圧力をかける	to put pressure	#9
あぶら	油	Oil	#10
あまつぶ	雨粒	raindrops	#15
あらぶしゅちょうこくれんぽう	アラブ首長国連邦	UAE	#15
あらわす	表す	to represent	#4
あわせて	合わせて	in total	#1
(L)	5 5 5 6 7		
いいんかい	委員会	committee	#16
いすらむきょうと	イスラム教徒	Muslims	#17
いすらむそしき	イスラム組織	Islamic group	#17
いぞんしょう	依存症	addiction	#16
いちじてき	一時的	temporary	#12
いちわり	1割	10 percent	#18
いっしょ	(と) いっしょ	with	#3
いっせいに	一斉に	at once	#9
いつでも		anytime	#3
いっぽう	一方	on the other hand	#2
いどう	移動	transfer	#14
いみん	移民	immigrant	#9
いれもの	入れ物	container	#4
いろいろな	; ; ;	various	#4
いんりょう	飲料	drink	#2
(3)	1 1 2 1 1		
うかぶ	浮かぶ	to float	#6
うけいれる	受け入れる	to accept	#5
うける	受ける	to receive	#4
うつ	撃つ	to shoot	#8
うつ	打つ	to hit	#13

ENGLISH-JAPANESE GLOSSARY



abuse	虐待	ぎゃくたい	#16
accept	受け入れる	うけいれる	#5
accomplice	共犯	きょうはん	#8
account for	(に)当たる	(に) あたる	#18
actress	女優	じょゆう	#5
addiction	依存症	いぞんしょう	#16
advertising	広告	こうこく	#2
agency	派遣会社	はけんがいしゃ	#14
aimed at	~向け	むけ	#2
air strike	空爆	くうばく	#17
all	全部	ぜんぶ	#7
amount	額	がく	#6
animal	動物	どうぶつ	#3
announce	発表する	はっぴょうする	#2
anytime	いつでも		#3
aquarium	水族館	すいぞくかん	#3
Arab-Israeli War	中東戦争	ちゅうとうせんそう	#17
Arctic	北極	ほっきょく	#3
area	地域	ちいき	#15
army	軍	ぐん	#9
arrest	逮捕	たいほ	#8
artificial	人工	じんこう	#3
as	~として		#13
assimilation	同化	どうか	#16
at once	一斉に	いっせいに	#9
at that time	当時	とうじ	#5
at the same time	同時に	どうじに	#13
at the same time	同時に	どうじに	#14
attack	攻撃	こうげき	#17
attempted murder	殺人未遂	さつじんみすい	#8