



2026 年度

英語総合 S+

# 英文和訳

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次の英文を和訳しなさい。 ※出典 大阪大学

(1)

The dictionary tells us that luck is the favorable or unfavorable occurrence of a chance event that could not have been foreseen. Of course, we don't need a dictionary to define luck for us: it is one of the critical aspects of our lives, and it plays an important role in how we make sense of things that happen to us, and to others. You don't have to be a gambler or a fortune-teller to believe in luck. Even people who consider themselves completely rational and who immediately dismiss superstition will still say "good luck" every now and again; perhaps they assume that the other party believes in luck, even if they don't believe in it themselves. But believe in it or not, luck is unavoidable.

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Most living cells seldom last more than a month or so, but there are some notable exceptions. Liver cells can survive for years, though the components within them may be renewed every few days. Brain cells last as long as you do. You are given a hundred billion or so at birth and that is all you are ever going to get. It has been estimated that you lose five hundred brain cells an hour, so if you have any serious thinking to do there really isn't a moment to waste. The good news is that the individual components of your brain cells are constantly renewed so that no part of them is actually likely to be more than about a month old. Indeed, it has been suggested that there isn't a single bit of any of us that was part of us nine years ago.

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Scientists and animal trainers have devoted their lives to trying to understand what the world looks like to animals. After all, the planet is full of perceptive creatures - of whom we are a small minority - and it's more than a matter of idle curiosity to consider how life appears to them. Humans can't help approaching this problem from a human perspective. We posit our own intelligence, our behavior, emotions, and language skills, as the norm. A horse-trainer friend of mine is often asked if horses are intelligent. "It depends who's writing the test," he likes to say. I've often wondered how it would turnout if humans weren't the ones writing the tests, defining the norm.

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Communication is far more than speech and writing. Most of us are unaware that we are communicating in many different ways even when we are not speaking. The same goes for other social animal species. We rarely learn about this mostly non-verbal human communication in school even though it is very important for effective interaction with others. Growing up in a society, we learn how to use gestures, glances, slight changes in tone of voice, and other auxiliary communication devices to modify or emphasize what we say and do. We learn these highly culture-bound techniques over years largely by observing others and imitating them.

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When Takanori Shibata first began robotic research 14 years ago, he wasn't interested in inventing a robot to help with jobs around the house. He wanted to design something that would improve the quality of people's lives. Shibata thought about animals and how they enriched the lives of the people who interact with them. As Shibata studied the interplay between animals and humans, he learned how pets have positive psychological and social effects on people, and began focusing on that aspect. In addition to cheering people up, domesticated animals can reduce stress and encourage communication in humans, particularly people who suffer mental and physical problems. He decided to design a therapeutic robot, one that would be unfamiliar, yet lovable. In 1998, he created Paro, modeled after a baby harp seal.

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