RIPPLE ENGLISH
ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

Workbook for:

"Navigating the Age of Information"

問題は解きっぱなしにしないで！

英語資格試験の学習は、**解いた後の復習をしなければほとんど効果はありません。**答え合わせをしておしまいにせずに、**テキストの音読練習やリスニング、多読学習などのインプット学習を何度も反復して記憶に定着させましょう。**ホームページからダウンロードできる音読練習用のテキストをぜひご活用ください。また、数日置いてから再度解き直すのも効果的です。答えを記憶してしまっているかもしれませんが、回答の根拠をなぞりながら繰り返し解くことで有効な復習になります！

1. There is a famous proverb that goes, "You are what you eat." The health and well-being of your future self depend on what you take in every day. This is also the case with information. The information and opinions you absorb every day determine who you will be in the future. Since humans are largely the products of their environment, if you wish your future self to be good, it is particularly important to put yourself in a healthy information environment. Speaking of the information environment, it is rapidly changing due to technological development. Today, all people on earth have the potential to be connected, their relationships are sometimes **anonymous**, and everyone can be a sender of information. Above all, the volume has become huge. The Library of Alexandria, built in the 3rd century BC, contained at least 100,000 books and truly deserved to be called a reservoir of knowledge in the ancient world. According to one estimate, in 2025, the amount of information generated globally every 3 seconds is equivalent to the entire content held by the Library, and not all of it is reliable. Humans are not yet accustomed to this situation, so we are in the midst of creating the norms and manners suitable for this new information environment. For a better self and a better society, how should we engage with information?

(1) The word "anonymous" in the passage is closest in meaning to
   A. suspicious
   B. fictional
   C. dangerous
   D. unnamed

(2) According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true?
   A. The amount of information available today is smaller than what existed in ancient libraries.
   B. Humans have fully adapted to the modern information environment.
   C. The information people consume daily influences the kind of person they become.
   D. Most information generated today is guaranteed to be reliable.

2. We often witness celebrity scandals and gossip circulated on social media platforms. This kind of information is like junk food for the brain. Despite knowing that it is a waste of time and is emotionally draining, why do humans tend to be attracted to such information? The answer may lie in the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of our ancestors, which largely shaped our instincts. Until 13,000 years ago, all humans were living in a small band of around 150 people. Everyone knew each other, and there were no such things as celebrities who were known one-sidedly by many. Also, internal information sharing was crucial for a tribe to operate effectively. Negative information was particularly important to avoid potential threats and conflicts. In a small band, it was vital to know who was ill, who was committing wrongdoing, and who was in conflict with whom. As a result, Homo sapiens have evolved with a built-in impulse to learn and share information about acquaintances, especially negative ones.

3. The problem is that this tribal instinct sometimes backfires today. Your instinct doesn't understand the fact that the celebrity on the screen is not an acquaintance of yours, there is most likely no chance to meet him or her in person, and therefore, the celebrity has almost nothing to do with your life. The very instinct that prompted our ancestors to share information about their community members now prompts you to push the share button about celebrity gossip. However, if you know that this is a malfunction of your mind, you can better deal with it. Next time you feel like tapping the link to a trivial gossip, talk to yourself, "This is just my hunter-gatherer brain malfunctioning. If there is no gain—only harm—from consuming this information, why should I learn it?"

(3) According to paragraph 2, why are humans naturally drawn to celebrity scandals and gossip?
   A. Because modern society requires people to follow the lives of famous individuals.
   B. Because humans evolved to pay attention to negative information about members of their small social groups.
   C. Because gossip provides more accurate information than traditional news sources.
   D. Because our ancestors relied on entertainment to maintain social bonds.

(4) According to paragraph 3, which of the following is true?
   A. Our instincts accurately recognize that celebrities have a significant impact on our daily lives.
   B. The human tendency to share celebrity gossip comes from an instinct that originally helped ancestors share community information.
   C. Consuming celebrity gossip usually provides important benefits to our personal well-being.
   D. The paragraph states that people should follow their instincts without questioning them.

4. Since the rise of web media, every single citizen can be an active sender and receiver of information. Those who had distrust of the traditional media, in particular, celebrated it as the democratization of information, and they are willing to seek out information on their own and uncover the untold truth. But can we really celebrate it? One of the most important insights about human nature in this information age is that we possess confirmation bias. Confirmation bias is our psychological tendency to search for or interpret information that supports your existing belief, and overlook or ignore elements against your opinions. This is also called "motivated reasoning," indicating our desire to selectively look for information that justifies what you want to believe. Therefore, when we set about gathering information ourselves, we may already be prejudiced. If you just felt an urge to protest that you are gathering information fairly and correctly, you might already be caught in confirmation bias. Your mind tried to ignore the inconvenient information that threatened your sense of identity as an information-literate person.

5. What makes the situation even worse is a phenomenon called "the filter bubble" on social media. To **entice** its audience, social media algorithms are designed to show you only the posts you might like. As a result, your information environment ends up being occupied with opinions you agree with. Much like eating only sweets leads to poor physical health, we need to reflect on the consequences of constant exposure to pleasant information. In order to stay humble, open-minded, balanced, and worthy of respect, we need to be exposed, at least occasionally, to opposing viewpoints and different values. It may feel uncomfortable at that moment, but in the long run, it proves to be good for you.

(5) According to paragraph 4, what is implied about people who believe they are gathering information "fairly and correctly"?
   A. Their confidence may itself be a sign that they are already influenced by confirmation bias.
   B. They are more likely to overcome confirmation bias by relying on traditional media.
   C. They are usually free from any psychological biases when evaluating information.
   D. They tend to reject information that supports their existing beliefs.

(6) The word "entice" in the passage is closest in meaning to
   A. monetize
   B. exploit
   C. increase
   D. attract

(7) According to paragraph 5, which of the following is true?
   A. Social media algorithms intentionally show users many opposing and uncomfortable viewpoints.
   B. Constant exposure to agreeable information can have negative effects similar to an unbalanced diet.
   C. Being exposed to opposing viewpoints always feels pleasant and comfortable.
   D. The paragraph argues that people should avoid encountering values different from their own.

6. With the growth of the Internet and social media, cancel culture and public backlash have become increasingly prominent. What we need to know about the Internet in terms of information literacy is that extreme and aggressive people are conspicuous, but, in fact, very small in number. First of all, one would not dare to spend time and energy to share one's view unless they have a quite strong opinion or motives for a certain topic. This creates a dynamic in which the online space—at least among vocal participants—skews toward more extreme distribution of opinions than in reality. Moderate participants are likely to be excluded.

7. Also, if we witness a hundred critical posts on a particular subject, we might conclude that the entire society has the same view, but it is an illusion. According to a study on a certain public backlash, only one out of every 70,000 users took part in the firestorm. Still, if the total online population reaches ten million, the ratio would yield more than a hundred people making **hostile** remarks. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for this tiny minority to post obsessively and repeatedly. For example, when a journalist's blog received more than 700 negative comments, a check of the IP addresses revealed that only four users were behind them. In short, participants of the online backlash are often a tiny minority, and the most extreme yet fewest people in that minority are creating the illusion of extreme public opinions. If your social media account is flooded with hundreds of negative comments every day, it would seem like the whole world is against you, but, in reality, they are only a few. The volume of online voices can be deceptive.

8. Marcus Aurelius wrote in Meditations, "Is it possible that shameless people do not exist in the world? It is not possible. Then, do not require what is impossible. This person is also one of those shameless people who must be in the world by necessity." Obviously, if it is unacceptable to speak in person, we must not say it on the Internet either. Also, the pain and suffering of those who become the target of online outrage is immeasurable. At the same time, however, it is unrealistic to hope that such people do not exist at all. Here are two things we really need to do: try not to lose our conscience by being influenced by them; and be reminded that they are extremely small in number and therefore do not represent the general public.

(8) According to paragraph 6, which of the following is true?
   A. Most Internet users actively express their views online regardless of how strongly they feel.
   B. Online discussions accurately represent the full range of opinions in society.
   C. Extreme and aggressive voices appear prominent online even though they are actually few in number.
   D. Moderate participants are usually the most vocal in online debates.

(9) The word "hostile" in the passage is closest in meaning to
   A. unfriendly
   B. critical
   C. disrespectful
   D. noisy

(10) According to paragraph 7, why can online backlash create the illusion of widespread public opinion?
   A. Because most social media users usually participate equally in online criticism.
   B. Because negative comments are always written by thousands of different people.
   C. Because a very small number of users can generate a large volume of hostile posts, making their views seem common.
   D. Because social media platforms automatically delete moderate or neutral opinions.

(11) According to paragraph 8, what should we keep in mind when dealing with online outrage?
   A. Most online attackers represent the true feelings of the general public.
   B. We should accept that such harmful people will always exist and avoid being influenced by them.
   C. The best solution is to confront every hostile commenter directly.
   D. People who behave rudely online are usually very different from how they are in person.

9. Human society in the 21st century is inundated with an enormous volume of information—both true and false, valuable and worthless. How can we separate the wheat from the chaff and get close to a correct understanding of things? A French economist and political adviser Jacques Attali defined the truth as follows: the truth is merely a **provisional** consensus among sincere experts who are independent from power and socially accepted, and the more experts, the better.

10. First, why should it be by experts? For example, is it possible for a single individual who does not belong to a research institution to conduct a series of necessary investigations to know whether the global temperature is increasing? How could an ordinary citizen engage in tasks such as drilling Antarctic ice cores to analyze ancient atmospheric components, or examining tree rings across the globe to reconstruct climate patterns? Also, when a certain politician is suspected of corruption, if all citizens neglect their work and homes and begin an investigation on the issue, the society would not function. This approach— that since experts and the media cannot be trusted, individuals who make the effort themselves can find the truth— may sound scientific and independent, but it is impossible in reality.

11. Then, the experts must have integrity and independence from power. They have to work for the common good and the truth, rather than their own personal interests. For example, the truth should not be distorted by the motive of a person in power who wants to prioritize the economy over the environment. Politics and the truth are two separate things, so it is a possible scenario that we recognize that the climate is changing while prioritizing immediate prosperity and abandoning environmental measures. Experts need to be independent even from the will of the majority. Even if the majority of the residents want to believe in the story that humanity originated from a certain pair of ancestors, experts should not twist the fact that humans evolved from apes as archaeological and biological evidence suggests. Why are more experts better? Not all experts have integrity, and all of them are potentially fallible. What matters is that the system allows other experts to point out mistakes when a fellow specialist makes a flawed argument.

12. Most importantly, the truth is a provisional consensus. The truth is an explanation that earns approval from the largest group of experts at the time, and it is always ready to be updated. The objective universal truth may exist, but there is a limit to how precisely humans can perceive it. The truth as we perceive it is dynamic, constantly shifting, and being revised. Perhaps the most important ability in the 21st century is flexibility to always abandon and update the beliefs we held until yesterday.

(12) The word "provisional" in the passage is closest in meaning to
   A. insightful
   B. potential
   C. profound
   D. temporary

(13) According to paragraph 10, which of the following is true?
   A. Ordinary citizens can realistically collect and analyze Antarctic ice cores on their own.
   B. A society would function smoothly if all citizens paused their lives to investigate political scandals.
   C. Rejecting experts and the media is presented as an effective way to understand complex issues.
   D. The idea that individuals can independently uncover all scientific or political truths is unrealistic.

(14) According to paragraph 11, why is it important to have many experts rather than relying on just a few?
   A. Because the majority of experts always agree with public opinion.
   B. Because having more experts ensures that none of them will ever make mistakes.
   C. Because experts can correct one another, preventing flawed arguments from going unchallenged.
   D. Because experts must follow the will of political leaders to maintain credibility.

(15) According to paragraph 12, which of the following is NOT true?
   A. The universal truth should be prioritized by our perceived truth.
   B. The more experts agree, the more likely it can be seen as true.
   C. We need to be ready to replace our existing understanding of the world.
   D. The truths we accept are provisional and may change as expert consensus evolves.

(16) Connect each breakthrough on the left with its significance in history.

Answers

(1) D
(2) C
(3) B
(4) B
(5) A
(6) D
(7) B
(8) C
(9) A
(10) C
(11) B
(12) D
(13) D
(14) C
(15) A

The word "anonymous" in the passage is closest in meaning to
A. suspicious （怪しい）
B. fictional （虚構の）
C. dangerous （危険な）
D. unnamed（名前の明かされない）

(2) 1段落の内容に合致するのは？
A. The amount of information available today is smaller than what existed in ancient libraries.（今日入手可能な情報量は、古代の図書館にあった情報量よりも少ない）
B. Humans have fully adapted to the modern information environment.（人類は現代の情報環境に完全に適応している）
C. The information people consume daily influences the kind of person they become.（人々が日々消費する情報は、その人の人格形成に影響を与える）
D. Most information generated today is guaranteed to be reliable.（今日生成される情報のほとんどは、信頼できると保証されている）

(3) 2段落によると、人間はなぜ自然に有名人のスキャンダルやゴシップに惹かれるのか？
A. Because modern society requires people to follow the lives of famous individuals.（現代社会では、人々は有名人の生活を追いかける必要があるから）
B. Because humans evolved to pay attention to negative information about members of their small social groups.（人間は、自分たちの小さな社会集団のメンバーに関する否定的な情報に注意を払うように進化してきたから）
C. Because gossip provides more accurate information than traditional news sources.（ゴシップは従来のニュースよりも正確な情報を提供するから）
D. Because our ancestors relied on entertainment to maintain social bonds.（私たちの祖先は、社会的なつながりを維持するために娯楽に頼っていたから）

(4) 3段落の内容に合致するのは？

A. Our instincts accurately recognize that celebrities have a significant impact on our daily lives.（私たちの本能は、有名人が私たちの日常生活に大きな影響を与えていることを正確に認識しています。）
B. The human tendency to share celebrity gossip comes from an instinct that originally helped ancestors share community information.（有名人のゴシップを共有するという人間の傾向は、もともと先祖がコミュニティの情報を共有するのに役立った本能に由来している）
C. Consuming celebrity gossip usually provides important benefits to our personal well-being.（有名人のゴシップを消費することは、通常、私たちの個人的な幸福に重要な利益をもたらす）
D. The paragraph states that people should follow their instincts without questioning them.（この段落では、人々は自分の本能を疑うことなく従うべきだと述べている）

(5) 4段落によれば、「公正かつ正しく」情報を収集していると信じている人々について、どのようなことが示唆されているか？
A. Their confidence may itself be a sign that they are already influenced by confirmation bias.（彼らの自信自体が、彼らがすでに確証バイアスの影響を受けていることの兆候である可能性がある）
B. They are more likely to overcome confirmation bias by relying on traditional media.（彼らは、従来のメディアに頼ることで確証バイアスを克服する可能性が高い）
C. They are usually free from any psychological biases when evaluating information.（彼らは通常、情報を評価する際に心理的なバイアスから解放されている）
D. They tend to reject information that supports their existing beliefs.（彼らは、既存の信念を裏付ける情報を拒否する傾向がある）

(6) 文中の "entice" と意味が最も近いのは
A. monetize（収益化する）
B. exploit （搾取する）
C. increase（増やす）
D. attract（惹きつける）

(7) 7段落に合致するのは？
A. Social media algorithms intentionally show users many opposing and uncomfortable viewpoints.（ソーシャルメディアのアルゴリズムは、ユーザーに多くの反対意見や不快な視点を意図的に表示する）
B. Constant exposure to agreeable information can have negative effects similar to an unbalanced diet.（同意できる情報に常にさらされると、バランスの取れていない食事と同様の悪影響が生じる可能性がある）
C. Being exposed to opposing viewpoints always feels pleasant and comfortable.（反対意見にさらされると、常に心地よく感じられる）
D. The paragraph argues that people should avoid encountering values different from their own.（この段落は、人々は自分とは異なる価値観に遭遇することを避けるべきだと主張している）

(8) 6段落に合致するのは？
A. Most Internet users actively express their views online regardless of how strongly they feel.（ほとんどのインターネットユーザーは、感情の強さに関わらず、オンラインで積極的に意見を表明している）

B. Online discussions accurately represent the full range of opinions in society.（オンラインでの議論は、社会におけるあらゆる意見を正確に反映している）

C. Extreme and aggressive voices appear prominent online even though they are actually few in number.（極端で攻撃的な意見は、実際には少数であるにもかかわらず、オンラインでは目立つように見える）

D. Moderate participants are usually the most vocal in online debates.（オンラインの議論では、穏健派の参加者が最も発言力を持つのが一般的だ）

(9) 文中の "hostile" と意味が最も近いのは
A. unfriendly（敵対的な）
B. critical （批判的な）
C. disrespectful（敬意を欠いた）
D. noisy（騒々しい）

(10) 7段落によれば、なぜオンラインでの反発は世論が広く浸透しているという錯覚を生み出すのか？
A. Because most social media users usually participate equally in online criticism.（ほとんどのソーシャルメディア利用者が通常、オンライン批判に平等に参加するため）
B. Because negative comments are always written by thousands of different people.（否定的なコメントは常に何千人もの異なる人々によって書かれるため）
C. Because a very small number of users can generate a large volume of hostile posts, making their views seem common.（ごく少数のユーザーが大量の敵対的な投稿を作成し、彼らの意見が一般的なもののように見せかけるため）
D. Because social media platforms automatically delete moderate or neutral opinions.（ソーシャルメディアプラットフォームが穏健派または中立的な意見を自動的に削除するため）

(11) 8段落によると、オンライン上の怒りに対処する際に、私たちは何を心に留めておくべきか？
A. Most online attackers represent the true feelings of the general public.（オンラインで攻撃する人のほとんどは、一般大衆の真の感情を代表している）
B. We should accept that such harmful people will always exist and avoid being influenced by them.（私たちは、そのような有害な人々が常に存在することを認め、彼らの影響を受けないようにすべき）
C. The best solution is to confront every hostile commenter directly.（最善の解決策は、すべての敵対的なコメント投稿者に直接対峙することだ）
D. People who behave rudely online are usually very different from how they are in person.（オンライン上で無礼な振る舞いをする人は、通常、対面での態度とは大きく異なる）

(12) 文中の "provisional" と意味が最も近いのは
A. insightful（洞察深い）
B. potential （潜在的な）
C. profound（深遠な）
D. temporary（一時的な）

(13) 10段落に合致するのは？

A. Ordinary citizens can realistically collect and analyze Antarctic ice cores on their own.（一般市民は現実的に南極の氷床コアを独自に収集・分析することができる）

B. A society would function smoothly if all citizens paused their lives to investigate political scandals.（すべての市民が生活を中断して政治スキャンダルを調査すれば、社会は円滑に機能する）

C. Rejecting experts and the media is presented as an effective way to understand complex issues.（専門家やメディアを拒否することは、複雑な問題を理解するための効果的な方法として提示されている）

D. The idea that individuals can independently uncover all scientific or political truths is unrealistic.（個人がすべての科学的または政治的真実を独自に発見できるという考えは非現実的だ）

(14) 11段落によると、少数の専門家に頼るのではなく、多くの専門家を持つことが重要なのはなぜか？
A. Because the majority of experts always agree with public opinion.（専門家の大多数は常に世論に同意するから）
B. Because having more experts ensures that none of them will ever make mistakes.（専門家の数が増えれば、誰も間違いを犯さなくなるから）
C. Because experts can correct one another, preventing flawed arguments from going unchallenged.（専門家は互いに訂正し合うことができ、誤った主張が反論されないままになるのを防ぐことができるから）
D. Because experts must follow the will of political leaders to maintain credibility.（専門家は信頼性を維持するために政治指導者の意志に従わなければならないから）

(15) 12段落に合致しないのは？
A. The universal truth should be prioritized by our perceived truth. （普遍的な真実は、私たちが認識している真実よりも優先されるべきだ）
B. The more experts agree, the more likely it can be seen as true. （専門家の意見が一致すればするほど、真実とみなされる可能性が高くなる）
C. We need to be constantly ready to replace our existing understanding of the world. （私たちは、絶えず世界についての既存の理解を置き換える準備をする必要がある）
D. The truths we accept are provisional and may change as expert consensus evolves.（私たちが受け入れる真実は暫定的なものであり、専門家の合意が進むにつれて変化する可能性がある）