

# RIPPLE ENGLISH

## ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

Workbook for:

“The Media and Democracy”

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せず、**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！

## The Media and Democracy

1. Democracy is in **peril** all around the world. After the 2020 US presidential elections, supporters of Donald Trump stormed and occupied the Capitol, claiming that the election had been rigged. Democrats and Republicans could not agree on even the result of the elections and could hardly hold a civil conversation without appealing to violence. Not only in the US but also in other democracies such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, political views have been polarized, partisan conflict has intensified, and civil dialogue has become difficult.
  2. Perhaps democracy, by its very nature, is not something that is easily established. Democracy is not a modern invention; as early as the 6th century BC, small city-states like Athens were known for their democratic governance. However, it was only after the modern era that we could witness democracy in large nations, and we may not continue to do so in the 21st century. For democracy to thrive, there must be adequate mass-communication technology, the media has to fulfill its role, and each citizen must possess sound information literacy skills. As technology advances and the nature of the media changes, how can we sustain a healthy democratic society?
- (1) The word “peril” in the passage is closest in meaning to
    - A. jeopardy
    - B. war
    - C. dump
    - D. progress
  - (2) According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true?
    - A. In the United States, both political parties peacefully accepted the 2020 election results.
    - B. Political polarization and intensified partisan conflict are occurring only in the United States.
    - C. Supporters of Donald Trump stormed the Capitol because they believed the election was fraudulent.
    - D. Civil dialogue has improved in democracies such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.
  - (3) According to paragraph 2, which of the following is implied about the future of democracy?
    - A. Democracy is guaranteed to flourish as technology advances.
    - B. Ancient city-states like Athens had better communication technology than modern nations.
    - C. Large nations have always struggled to maintain democracy due to their size.
    - D. The stability of democracy depends on citizens’ ability to handle information properly.

3. Democracy is not only a matter of ideology but also technology. For democracy to thrive, citizens must be able to engage in public debate on important issues. Obviously, it requires the attitude and ability to talk with humility and respect, but they are not enough. People need to be within hearing range of one another, and have at least a basic understanding of what they are talking about. This is increasingly difficult as the scale of community grows. For example, ancient Rome, which started as a tiny city-state, had long been governed with a democratic ideal, but it shifted toward imperial rule during the 1st Century BC. As the territory expanded and the members increased and diversified, people could not make their voice heard to each other, and citizens in each region could not share the basic understanding of all issues across the empire. People in the Iberian Peninsula and Sicily could not have dialogue across the Mediterranean, nor could they learn their political issues from one another. The rise of imperial rule is not because Caesar and Augustus personally wanted to be a dictator; it is because they lacked mass-communication technology to enable democracy in a large society. This was already **acknowledged** by ancient Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle, arguing that democracy is only possible in small-scale city-states.
4. In the modern era, many countries adopted democracy partly because it was technically possible. The rise of mass media, such as newspapers, the radio and TV, allows us to know issues across the nation. When Florida is hit by a hurricane, people in California can learn the damage and reconstruction. When a newly elected President delivers an inaugural address, citizens can listen to it in real time, and the press responds with a wide range of opinions, representing the public. Through the media as a gatekeeper, people can learn and share their views on various issues. Without this technology, how can we choose whom to vote for?

- (4) The word “acknowledged” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. criticized
  - B. recognized
  - C. grateful
  - D. concluded
- (5) According to paragraph 3, which of the following is NOT true?
- A. Democracy requires citizens to communicate with mutual humility and respect.
  - B. The expansion of Rome made it harder for citizens across different regions to share basic political understanding.
  - C. Caesar and Augustus intentionally destroyed democratic governance for personal power.
  - D. Ancient Greek philosophers believed that democracy could function only in small communities.
- (6) According to paragraph 4, why did democracy become more feasible in the modern era?
- A. Because citizens became less interested in national issues and relied more on local leaders.
  - B. Because mass media enabled people to access and share information across the nation.
  - C. Because modern presidents no longer need to communicate directly with the public.
  - D. Because natural disasters became less frequent, allowing governments to stabilize.

5. The media is responsible for democracy in three ways. First, they set the agenda. Since our time and mental capacity are limited, we cannot be aware of everything happening within the community. The media coverage effectively decides which topic is to be informed and discussed. When the newspapers report an earthquake on the front page instead of a celebrity scandal, people are directed to learn about the disaster and ignore the scandal.
6. Secondly, the media represents the public opinions. For example, when the Prime Minister makes a speech, media outlets carry various views, including both praise and criticism. Since it is impossible for millions of residents to gather in a place and exchange their opinions, the media speak for their political stances on behalf of the public, by which people can indirectly engage in political discussions.
7. Thirdly, they provide us with opportunities for **incidental** political learning. When you turn on the TV for whatever the purpose—be it the sports news or the weather forecast, you end up watching the news for politics and the economy. Those who reach for the paper to check the TV schedule end up being exposed to the main topics featured on the front page. Scholars argue that this has helped sustain the basic level of political interest and understanding among the public.
8. We will refrain from discussing whether the media have fulfilled these roles sincerely and effectively. At least, however, modern information technology has enabled the mass media, and democracy in large nations has been impossible without the media. With the spread of the Internet and the development of IT technology, the media gradually shifted to the Web, and the way we get news and handle information have changed. Modern democracy has been enabled by information and mass-communication technology. Ironically, will democracy be impossible because information technology is becoming too sophisticated?

- (7) According to paragraph 5, what does it mean that “the media set the agenda”?
- A. The media decides which events will occur in society.
  - B. The media chooses which topics the public pays attention to.
  - C. The media forces people to agree with its political opinions.
  - D. The media prevents people from learning about natural disasters.
- (8) According to paragraph 6, why is the media said to “represent the public opinions”?
- A. Because the media expresses a variety of perspectives that reflect what many people think.
  - B. Because the media allows citizens to directly debate with the Prime Minister during speeches.
  - C. Because the media always supports the government’s official position.
  - D. Because the media limits political discussions to only a small number of experts.
- (9) The word “incidental” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. intentional
  - B. indispensable
  - C. subsidiary
  - D. subliminal
- (10) According to paragraph 8, which of the following is true?
- A. Democracy in large nations has developed independently of information technology.
  - B. The shift of media to the Internet has had no impact on how people receive news.
  - C. Modern democracy depends on information and mass-communication technology.
  - D. The paragraph claims that the media have always fulfilled their democratic roles effectively.

9. In democratic nations, the media are mostly for-profit private companies. It allows their independence from the government, but it also brings the media a dilemma inherent in the commercial sector. Any private business must earn profit to survive and grow, which requires their service and products to be purchased and used. The media cannot carry on their business unless their contents are viewed or subscribed. The problem is that the more sensational and tailored to public interest the content is, the more likely it is to sell. This fact often conflicts with the mission of the media to deliver accurate and high-quality information.
10. The Spanish-American war in 1898 was triggered by an intense competition among mass media that lacked commercial ethics. At the time, The New York Journal and The New York World were fiercely competing to increase their circulation. Even before the war, the two papers were spreading intriguing exaggerations and sensational lies. As the momentum for independence was growing in Cuba, which was then a Spanish colony, both newspapers exaggerated the brutality of the Spanish military with fabricated stories and dramatic imagery. Many citizens were stimulated by their sense of justice and driven to buy their papers. When the US battleship Maine sank in Havana Harbor by an unexplained explosion, killing 268 sailors, The New York Journal accused Spain of this incident before any inquiry was completed, and further intensified the public outrage. The US government gave in to the public sentiment and reluctantly decided to go to war. After the outbreak, these papers reporting the war sold like hot cakes.
11. Business has to be what brings benefit to society and profit is just a means to continue and develop. If the mission and ethics are neglected and profit becomes the end in itself, business could rather harm society. This dilemma is particularly the case with the media. On the flip side, problems of the media are, in turn, problems of the general audience as well. The media outlets provide sensational content precisely because there is a public that consumes it.

- (11) According to paragraph 9, what is the dilemma faced by for-profit media companies in democratic nations?
- A. They must follow government orders to maintain their independence.
  - B. They struggle because sensational content is less profitable than accurate reporting.
  - C. They cannot attract audiences unless they eliminate all entertainment-oriented content.
  - D. Their need to make profit can conflict with their duty to provide reliable information.
- (12) According to paragraph 10, which of the following is NOT true?
- A. The New York Journal and The New York World used sensational and fabricated stories to increase sales.
  - B. Public outrage toward Spain intensified after the sinking of the USS Maine.
  - C. The U.S. government enthusiastically declared war on Spain from the outset.
  - D. Both newspapers benefited commercially from reporting on the war.
- (13) According to paragraph 11, what is suggested to be a root cause of problems in the media?
- A. The media's lack of technological innovation prevents them from producing quality content.
  - B. The audience's demand for sensational content encourages the media to prioritize profit over ethics.
  - C. Profit is inherently incompatible with any form of socially beneficial business.
  - D. Ethical business practices can be maintained only when companies completely ignore profit.

12. Being a citizen of democracy is not easy. It requires various skills and attitudes, such as having an interest and understanding in public issues, listening humbly to different opinions, and being able to talk with respect. These are becoming even more difficult since the spread of the Internet and social media services. Unlike TV and newspapers, which offer a limited selection at a given time, online platforms like Facebook and YouTube let you consume only the content you like.
13. Even more seriously, the business model of Internet media is usually engagement-based advertising; the longer users stay on the platform and the more views and likes they generate, the more profitable it becomes. Therefore, the algorithms of social media are designed to learn the preference of each user and only show the content they prefer. Also, social media tends to be flooded with intense, sensational opinions for two reasons; people with strong and polarized views are usually more motivated to post content, and emotionally provocative content are more likely to go viral. As a result, one's newsfeed is filled with extreme and agreeable opinions. Those spoiled with such comfortable and stimulating information environments often find it difficult to listen calmly to opposing views or to treat everyone with love and respect regardless of their backgrounds and political beliefs.
14. Essentially, democracy is about making compromises by listening patiently to each other, so a certain degree of discomfort and frustration is not a flaw in democracy, but a feature by design. Winston Churchill famously said, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried." In a sense, we avoid the harm of dictatorship and totalitarianism in exchange for the discomfort of listening and effort of dialogue. As an individual, we might only see what we want and associate with only those we can agree, but then democracy will inevitably fail, and consequently, we all would suffer in the end. As information technology and the media are constantly changing, how can we maintain robust democracy? How should each citizen approach information?

- (14) According to paragraph 12, what challenge has the rise of the Internet and social media created for citizens in a democracy?
- A. They force people to watch only political content chosen by major news companies.
  - B. They make it harder for citizens to encounter diverse viewpoints naturally.
  - C. They require every user to post their political opinions publicly.
  - D. They limit people's access to information about public issues.
- (15) According to paragraph 13, which of the following is true?
- A. Engagement-based advertising encourages platforms to keep users online longer.
  - B. Social media algorithms intentionally expose users to a wide range of opposing views.
  - C. People with moderate opinions are the most active posters on social media.
  - D. Exposure to extreme yet agreeable content helps users communicate respectfully with those who disagree.
- (16) According to paragraph 14, what is implied about the "discomfort" involved in democracy?
- A. It is a sign that democracy is fundamentally failing.
  - B. It is an unavoidable and purposeful part of how democracy works.
  - C. It can be eliminated if citizens choose to avoid opposing views.
  - D. It proves that dictatorship is a more efficient system of government.
- (17) Within the whole passage, all of the following are mentioned, EXCEPT,
- A. Ancient Greek philosophers argued that democracy is only feasible in small-scale city-states because of technological limitations.
  - B. Commercial competition among newspapers contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.
  - C. Modern mass media help sustain democracy by setting agendas, representing public opinion, and enabling incidental political learning.
  - D. Government-owned media organizations play a central role in ensuring democratic stability in modern nations.

## Answers

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

(1) 文中の“peril（危機）”に意味が最も近いのは

**A. jeopardy（危機）**

B. war（戦争）

C. dump（ゴミ捨て場）

D. progress（進歩）

(2) 1段落の内容に合致するのは？

A. In the United States, both political parties peacefully accepted the 2020 election results.（アメリカ合衆国では、両党とも2020年の選挙結果を平和的に受け入れた）

B. Political polarization and intensified partisan conflict are occurring only in the United States.（政治的二極化と党派間の対立の激化はアメリカ合衆国でのみ発生している）

**C. Supporters of Donald Trump stormed the Capitol because they believed the election was fraudulent.**（ドナルド・トランプ氏の支持者たちは、選挙が不正であると信じて国会議事堂を襲撃した）

D. Civil dialogue has improved in democracies such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.（イギリス、フランス、ドイツなどの民主主義国では、市民間の対話が改善されている）

(3) 2段落によると、民主主義の将来について示唆されているのは次のうちどれですか

A. Democracy is guaranteed to flourish as technology advances.（技術の進歩に伴い、民主主義は必ず繁栄する）

B. Ancient city-states like Athens had better communication technology than modern nations.（アテネのような古代都市国家は、現代国家よりも優れた通信技術を持っていた）

C. Large nations have always struggled to maintain democracy due to their size.（大国は常にその規模のゆえに民主主義の維持に苦勞してきた）

**D. The stability of democracy depends on citizens' ability to handle information properly.**（民主主義の安定は、国民が情報を適切に扱う能力にかかっている）

(4) 文中の“acknowledged（認知されている）”と意味が最も近いのは

A. criticized（批判されている）

**B. recognized（気づいている）**

C. grateful（感謝している）

D. concluded（結論づけられている）

(5) 3段落の内容に合致しないのは？

A. Democracy requires citizens to communicate with mutual humility and respect.（民主主義は、市民が互いに謙虚さと敬意を持ってコミュニケーションをとることを必要とする）

B. The expansion of Rome made it harder for citizens across different regions to share basic political understanding.（ローマ帝国の拡大により、異なる地域の市民が基本的な政治的理解を共有することが困難になった）

**C. Caesar and Augustus intentionally destroyed democratic governance for personal power.**（カエサルとアウグストゥスは、個人の権力のために民主的な統治を意図的に破壊した）

D. Ancient Greek philosophers believed that democracy could function only in small communities.（古代ギリシャの哲学者たちは、民主主義は小さな共同体でのみ機能すると信じていた）

(6) 4段落によれば、近代において民主主義がより実現可能になったのはなぜか？

A. Because citizens became less interested in national issues and relied more on local leaders.（国民が国家の問題への関心を失い、地方の指導者への依存度が高まったため）

**B. Because mass media enabled people to access and share information across the nation.**（マスメディアによって、国民が全国の情報にアクセスし、共有できるようになったため）

C. Because modern presidents no longer need to communicate directly with the public.（現代の大統領はもはや国民と直接コミュニケーションをとる必要がなくなったため）

D. Because natural disasters became less frequent, allowing governments to stabilize.（自然災害の頻度が減少し、政府が安定するようになったため）

(7) 5段落によると、「メディアが議題を設定する」とはどういう意味か？

A. The media decides which events will occur in society.（メディアは社会でどのような出来事が起こるかを決定する）

**B. The media chooses which topics the public pays attention to.**（メディアは人々がどの話題に注目するかを選択する）

C. The media forces people to agree with its political opinions.（メディアは人々に自らの政治的意見に同意するよう強制する）

D. The media prevents people from learning about natural disasters.（メディアは人々が自然災害について知ることを妨げる）

(8) 6段落によれば、メディアはなぜ「民意を代表する」と言われているか？

**A. Because the media expresses a variety of perspectives that reflect what many people think.**（メディアは、多くの人々の考えを反映した多様な視点を表現するから）

B. Because the media allows citizens to directly debate with the Prime Minister during speeches.（メディアは、国民が演説中に首相と直接議論する機会を提供しているから）

C. Because the media always supports the government's official position. (メディアは常に政府の公式見解を支持しているから)

D. Because the media limits political discussions to only a small number of experts. (メディアは、政治的な議論を少数の専門家だけに限定しているから)

(9) 文中の “incidental (偶発的な、二次的な)” と意味がもっとも近いのは

A. intentional (意図的な)

B. indispensable (不可欠な)

C. subsidiary (副次的な)

D. subliminal (無意識の)

(10) 8段落の内容に合致するのは?

A. Democracy in large nations has developed independently of information technology. (大国における民主主義は、情報技術とは独立して発展してきた)

B. The shift of media to the Internet has had no impact on how people receive news. (メディアのインターネットへの移行は、人々がニュースを受け取る方法に影響を与えていない)

C. **Modern democracy depends on information and mass-communication technology.** (現代の民主主義は、情報技術とマスコミュニケーション技術に依存している)

D. The paragraph claims that the media have always fulfilled their democratic roles effectively. (この段落は、メディアが常に民主主義の役割を効果的に果たしてきたと主張している)

(11) 9段落によれば、民主主義国家における営利メディア企業が直面するジレンマは何か?

A. They must follow government orders to maintain their independence. (独立性を維持するために政府の命令に従わなければならない)

B. They struggle because sensational content is less profitable than accurate reporting. (センセーショナルなコンテンツは正確な報道よりも収益性が低いため、苦戦している)

C. They cannot attract audiences unless they eliminate all entertainment-oriented content. (娯楽志向のコンテンツをすべて排除しない限り、視聴者を引き付けることができない)

D. **Their need to make profit can conflict with their duty to provide reliable information.** (営利を追求する必要性は、信頼できる情報を提供する義務と衝突する可能性がある)

(12) 10段落の内容に合致しないのは?

A. The New York Journal and The New York World used sensational and fabricated stories to increase sales. (ニューヨーク・ジャーナル紙とニューヨーク・ワールド紙は、売上を伸ばすためにセンセーショナルな記事や捏造記事を利用した)

B. Public outrage toward Spain intensified after the sinking of the USS Maine. (戦艦メイン号の沈没後、スペインに対する国民の怒りが高まった)

C. **The U.S. government enthusiastically declared war on Spain from the outset.** (アメリカ政府は当初から熱心にスペインに宣戦布告した)

D. Both newspapers benefited commercially from reporting on the war. (両紙とも、戦争報道によって商業的に利益を得た)

(13) 11段落によれば、メディアの問題の根本的な原因は何であると示唆されているか?

A. The media's lack of technological innovation prevents them from producing quality content. (メディアの技術革新の欠如が、質の高いコンテンツの制作を妨げている)

B. **The audience's demand for sensational content encourages the media to prioritize profit over ethics.** (視聴者がセンセーショナルなコンテンツを求めているため、メディアは倫理よりも利益を優先する傾向がある)

C. Profit is inherently incompatible with any form of socially beneficial business. (利益は、いかなる形態の社会的に有益な事業とも本質的に相容れない)

D. Ethical business practices can be maintained only when companies completely ignore profit. (企業が利益を完全に無視した場合にのみ、倫理的なビジネス慣行を維持できる)

(14) 12段落によると、インターネットとソーシャルメディアの台頭は、民主主義社会において市民にどのような課題をもたらしたか?

A. They force people to watch only political content chosen by major news companies. (大手報道機関が選んだ政治コンテンツだけを見ることを人々に強制している)

B. **They make it harder for citizens to encounter diverse viewpoints naturally.** (市民が自然に多様な視点に触れることを難しくしている)

C. They require every user to post their political opinions publicly. (すべてのユーザーが政治的意見を公に投稿することを要求している)

D. They limit people's access to information about public issues. (公共の問題に関する情報への人々のアクセスを制限している)

(15) 13段落の内容と合致するのは?

A. **Engagement-based advertising encourages platforms to keep users online longer.** (エンゲージメントに基づく広告は、プラットフォームがユーザーをより長くオンライン状態に留めることを促す)

B. Social media algorithms intentionally expose users to a wide range of opposing views. (ソーシャルメディアのアルゴリズムは、意図的にユーザーを幅広い反対意見にさらす)

C. People with moderate opinions are the most active posters on social media. (穏健な意見を持つ人々が、ソーシャルメディアで最も積極的に投稿する)

D. Exposure to extreme yet agreeable content helps users communicate respectfully with those who disagree. (極端でありながら同意できるコンテンツに触れることで、ユーザーは意見の異なる人々と敬意を持って意思疎通できる)

(16) 14段落によれば、民主主義に伴う「不快感」について何が示唆されているか?

A. It is a sign that democracy is fundamentally failing. (それは民主主義が根本的に失敗している兆候である)

B. **It is an unavoidable and purposeful part of how democracy works.** (それは民主主義が機能する上で避けられない、意図的な部分である)

C. It can be eliminated if citizens choose to avoid opposing views. (国民が反対意見を避けることを選択した場合、それは排除できる)

D. It proves that dictatorship is a more efficient system of government. (それは独裁制の方がより効率的な政治体制であることを証明している)

(17) 全本文中で言及されていないのは？

A. Ancient Greek philosophers argued that democracy is only feasible in small-scale city-states because of technological limitations. (古代ギリシャの哲学者たちは、技術的な限界のために、民主主義は小規模都市国家でのみ実現可能であると主張した)

B. Commercial competition among newspapers contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. (新聞間の商業競争は、米西戦争の勃発の一因となった)

C. Modern mass media help sustain democracy by setting agendas, representing public opinion, and enabling incidental political learning. (現代のマスメディアは、議題を設定し、世論を代表し、偶発的な政治学習を可能にすることで、民主主義の維持に貢献している)

**D. Government-owned media organizations play a central role in ensuring democratic stability in modern nations.** (政府所有のメディア組織は、現代国家における民主主義の安定を確保する上で中心的な役割を果たしている)