

## 【問題文】

How *irregular* is English spelling? The answer to this question depends on what is *counted* as irregular. The main conclusion from the studies which have been carried out is that we must not *exaggerate* the problem. English is much more regular in spelling than the traditional *criticisms* would have us believe. A *major* American study, published in the early 1970s, carried out a computer *analysis* of 17,000 words and showed that no less than 84 per cent of the words were spelled according to a regular pattern, and that only 3 per cent were so *unpredictable* that they would have to be learned by heart. Several other projects have reported *comparable* results of 75 per cent regularity or more. *Accordingly*, the suggestion that English spelling is *fundamentally* chaotic seems to be nonsense.

## 【今週の語句】

<b>irregular</b>	not obeying the usually accepted rules
<b>count</b>	to consider or regard someone or something in a particular way
<b>exaggerate</b>	to make something seem better, more important etc than it really is
<b>criticism</b>	written or spoken remarks that express your disapproval or bad opinion of someone or something
<b>major</b>	very large or important, when compared to other things or people of a similar kind
<b>analysis</b>	a careful examination of something in order to understand it better
<b>unpredictable</b>	changing a lot so it is impossible to know what will happen
<b>comparable</b>	similar to something else in size, number, quality etc, so that you can make a comparison
<b>accordingly</b>	as a result of something; therefore
<b>fundamentally</b>	in every way that is important or basic

### 【前回の Quiz】

- (1) The **secret** of success is honesty.
- (2) For the sake of **economy**, I hadn't yet turned on the heating.
- (3) Tiredness can be a **sign** of illness.
- (4) The main **aim** of the course is to improve your spoken English.
- (5) She is very **exact** in her job.
- (6) Everything has been really well **thought out**.
- (7) Did you read that **article** on the space shuttle?
- (8) I was too **lazy** to learn to read music.
- (9) By the time we really **got down to work** it was already 10:00.
- (10) The witness **stated** that he had not seen the woman before.

### 【前回の Quiz 解答】

- (1) ~を決める, ~を左右する
- (2) ある程度は
- (3) 調べること
- (4) 詳細な
- (5) 続いている
- (6) 前ぶれ
- (7) 情勢
- (8) 話題

### 【前回の和訳】

いちばん大切なことかどうかはわからないが、うまく書く秘訣のひとつは、1語で足りるのに2語を決して使わないことである。書く時に言葉を節約して使っているのは書くのがうまいしるしだ、というのは今でも変わらない。書くのが下手な人はいいたいことをいい加減に何の考えもなく言い、次々と言葉をぶちまけて、正確でないがゆえに、つまり言いたいことをあまり真剣に考え尽くしていないがゆえに、本当に言いたいことを見失ってしまう。エッセイや新聞記事を書いた人が労力を惜しんでいたり論じている内容に自信がなければ、読んでいる人には必ずわかる。いい加減に書き始めて不要な言葉をたくさん使い、同じことを違う言い方で何度も何度も言うからだ。書く前に考え、言いたいことの核心に迫り、それを明快で簡潔に述べるという労力を惜しんでいるのだ。

## 【ワンポイント和訳レッスン】

English is much more regular in spelling than the traditional criticisms would have us believe.

構文自体はさほど理解しにくくはないですが、いざ訳そうとすると than 以下の部分が結構手強い文です。比較構文では、必ず「対比」があるので、そこにきちんと注目すればそこから解決の糸口が見つかります。この文について具体的に言うと、English is ...の部分は直説法なので「現実」であるのに対して、the traditional criticisms *would have* us believe の部分は仮定法ですから「非現実」となります。「～と考えるかもしれないが実は...」としてみると、わかりやすい訳文が仕上がるはずですよ。

また、English is *much more regular* の much は比較級の表す「差」を強調する副詞です。