

- 1 右手の先に見えるのはガソリンスタンドです。数字が三つ見えるでしょう。一番上がレギュラーガソリン、真ん中がハイオク、一番下が軽油の値段です。1リットル当たりの値段ですね。値段は時々変わりますし、店によって違いがあります。なので皆よく見えていますね。最近セルフ方式の店が増えてきましたね。

Ahead of you on your right there is a gas station. And you can see three figures on the board. These show us gas prices. The top (uppermost) figure is for regular gasolin. The middle one is for high-octane gasolin. The bottom(lowermost) figure is for light oil. Prices per litter are shown and they change sometimes and vary from shop to shop. So people are paying attention to them. In the past, most gas stations offered their services by workers, but recently self-service style has increased.

（米国人のお客が多いと見たら）

- 1(2) 日本は原油がとれませんからすべて外国から輸入します。中近東の国からですね。イランからも輸入しています。アメリカはイランと対立していますが、日本はイランとうまく付き合わないといけないんですよ。だから、日本はアメリカとイランの間で板挟みになりますね。日本の安部総理大臣も大変だと思いますよ。

There is no crude oil produced in Japan. So all the crude oil necessary is imported from overseas, from the countries in the Middle and Near East, including Iran. The United States is at odds with Iran, but Japan has to have a good relationship with Iran. Then Japan is sometimes squeezed between USA and Iran. Japan's prime minister Shinzo Abe has to walk a difficult path between the two countries.

- 2 右手の大きなビルは家電店です。日本には優れた家電メーカーが多いですからね、お陰で私たちの生活の質が向上しました。最近私が買ったのは空気清浄器です。私、気管支が弱いんです。その後、調子いいですね。

On your right is a home appliances retailer shop(a consumer electronics retailer shop/household electronics shop). In Japan there are lots of good **consumer electronics makers**, and we Japanese have been able to enhance our daily lives' quality thanks to variety of high-quality products. What I have bought recently is an air cleaner. My **bronchi** are so weak that I have to take care of them. After the air cleaner was set in my room, my physical condition has been good.

- 3 右に見えるのは薬屋さんです。薬以外にも、衛生用品、健康関連商品、更には化粧品などを売っています。どうも日本人は薬を買うのが好きみたいで、薬屋さんが多いと思いますね。

On your right is a drug store. They sell hygiene goods, healthcare-related goods as well as pharmaceuticals. Some shops are selling cosmetic products. Generally speaking, Japanese people has a tendency to buy medicine easily, or like to buy medicine. So, there are lots of drug stores.

- 4 右手の道に若い人たちがいるのが見えますよね。あれは中学生の生徒で帰宅中だと思います。日本の中学、高校では大体の学校で制服があります。小学校ではほとんど制服はないですね。

Look, everyone. On your right there are young boys and girls walking (riding a bicycle) on the road. They are probably junior high school students. They are likely going home from school. In Japan there are decided school uniforms in most junior and senior high schools. But at the elementary school level, there is almost no school uniform.

- 5 左の道路に、犬を散歩させている女の人がありますよ。最近家でペット動物を飼う人が増えてきていますね。一番多いのが犬でしょうかね。（一番人気があるのは犬だと思います。）実は、私の家でも犬を飼っています。犬を散歩させるのは私の役割になっています。毎日合計で2時間散歩します。朝1時間、夕方1時間ですね。

【カッコ内は訳さなくても構いません】

【犬種はビーグルです。イギリス産だということで、私が若い時よく読んだ英国の作家、哲学者であるバートランド・ラッセルの名をとって、ラッセルと名付けました。けどこの犬、哲学的要素は全く見られず、やんちゃな男の子です。今4歳です。】
On the left side on the road there is a woman walking with a dog. Recently there are many who keep pet animals in their home. Among those pets, the dog is the most popular one. As a matter of fact, a dog is kept in my family. And walking dog is my job. Usually every day I walk with the dog for about 2 hours in total, one hour in the morning, and another hour in the evening.

【The dog's breed is beagle, and its origin is in England. So I named the dog Russell after a famous English philosopher and writer Burtland Russell, whose writings I would read in my younger days. But my dog has no sign of being philosophical. He is only a mischievous boy.】

6 右手に、DAISOの文字が見えますね。あれは100円ショップの店です。すべての商品が100円で売られています。結構人気で日本全国に展開されています。

On your right you can see a word of DAISO on a building's wall. It's a **one-hundred-yen** shop, or one-dallar shop. All the items are sold for one hundred yen. It is very popular among people. And it extends its shops across the country.

7 右手に青色のビルが見えますか？あの漢字は青山と読みます。紳士服の店です。約50年前に設立され会社で、全国展開しています。紳士服スーツの売り上げでは世界一とギネスで認定されているはずです。価格が比較的安いです。この会社が市場参入して紳士服の世界で革命が起こったと言っていいでしょう。安くスーツが買えるようになって、多くの人が助かっています。私もその一人です。

Can you see a **blue-colored building** on your right ? That kanji reads Aoyama. It's a shop selling men's clothing, especially specializing in men's suits. The company was established in 1964, about 50 years ago. And now it has shops across the country. It is accredited by Guinness Book to be NO.1 in the world in terms of the number of men's suits sold by a company. The prices are relatively low, and the company's entrance to the men's clothing market **has brought about a kind of revolution**. It has benefited a lot of people. I am one of them.

8 右手に見えますのはメガネ屋さんです。日本人はメガネをかけた人が多いので、眼鏡屋も多いですね。よく見かけます。私もメガネかけていますが、これは度数は入っていません。薄い色がついています。紫外線をカットするためにメガネをかけています。白内障が進展しないようにしているんです。

What is seen on your right is an eye glasses shop. In Japan there are a lot of eyeglasses shops for there are many who wear glasses. I also wear eyeglasses. But these glasses have no power. No strength. I mean these glasses are **not prescription lenses**. I only wear these in order to cut **ultraviolet rays**. I wear them for preventing **cataract** from developing.

9 皆さん車窓から家が見えると思いますが、ご覧の通り、日本の家の屋根っていうのは、黒っぽい又は鼠色の色が多いでしょう。なぜだかわかりませんが、日本人はこのような瓦が好きみたいです。外国では赤系、茶系の色が多いと思います。人々の趣味が反映されているのでしょうかね。

I think you can see from the vehicle's window roof tiles of the people's houses, and most of them are blackish and grayish, which is different from the condition in foreign countries, especially in the West where there are lots of redish or brownish tiles. I am not sure why, but for some reason Japanese people like black and gray for their roof tiles. It may be **what their taste is reflected in**.

- 10 あれはコンビニですね。コンビニの原型はアメリカにありました。日本の会社がそれに着目してライセンス契約を結び、日本に導入されたものです。1970年代から急速に拡がり、POSの導入など日本独自の発展を遂げました。セブン&イレブンと言うコンビニは、当初は、朝の7時から夜の11時まで営業する、ということでした。現在は殆どのコンビニが24時間営業です。けれども最近是人で不足で、営業時間を見直す動きが出てきています。

Over there is a convenience store. The prototype of the convenience store was in the USA. A Japanese firm paid attention to it and got a business licence agreement with the US company about 50 years ago. Since then this kind of retail shop has been in operation in Japan. With the introduction of **POS, or Point of Sales system**, it has developed into a Japanese-style, new existence. Seven Eleven was the first convenience store in Japan, and it was named so because its business hours were at first from 7 in the morning to 11 in the evening. At present almost all the convenience stores are open around the clock. But recently it has become difficult to maintain this business style because of shortage of employees. So some are changing their business policy. Japan's population is more than **120 million** at present, but **with its peak in 2008 at 128 million**, it is declining. So problem of shortage of workers has been conspicuous in many business fields.

- 11 あれはコンビニですね。コンビニは本当に便利 (convenient) ですね。今は殆どのコンビニにATMが設置されているので、わざわざ銀行に行かなくてもそこでお金を引き出せます。

That is a convenience store. A convenience store is really convenient. At present in almost all convenience stores **ATM, or Automatic Telling Machine**, is installed. So we can make a money withdrawal there without going to a bank, which **is sparcely located** in the community.

- 12 あれはコンビニです。日本では1970年代から登場した小売りの形態で、今や私たちの生活に欠かせない存在となりました。殆どが24時間営業ですが、人不足のために、それを見直す動きが最近出てきました。

That is a convenience store. It has come to be in operation in Japan as a retail shop since the 1970s. It is now an indispensable existence for our daily life. Almost all shops are open 24 hours a day, or around the clock. But recently there has been a movement that their business operation should be changed **due to the shortage of workers**.

- 13 あれはコンビニです。日本では1970年代から登場した新たな小売り店舗で、食料品や日用品が売られています。しかし最近ではほとんどの店にATMが置かれています。又各種のチケットの購入も行うことができます。今や私たちの生活に欠かせない存在となっています。

That is a convenience store. It is a new type of retail shop which has appeared in Japan since the 1970s. They sell food stuffs and commodities (daily necessities). And in almost all shops, these days ATM is installed. And what's more, people can buy **various kinds of tickets , like concert tickerts and bus or air flight tickets**. So it has become an indispensable existence for our daily life.