

12月10日  
帰国生日本入試

2023年度  
入学試験問題

英語

【注意事項】

- 試験時間は50分です。
- 問題は1ページから9ページまであります。
- 解答はすべて解答用紙に記入してください。
- 問題用紙と解答用紙に受験番号、氏名を記入してください。

受験 番号						氏名	
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1

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

If you are reading this, there is one thing I can guess about your appearance. I can't know if you're male or female. Your hair color is a mystery to me and I have no idea how tall you are. There is only one thing I can say for sure, and it is about your teeth: you probably have an overbite.

What is an overbite? Think of how your upper and lower teeth meet when they bite. For almost all humans today, your upper front teeth will come out farther than your lower front teeth. This is an overbite.

When we look at our closest animal relatives – chimpanzees, gorillas and other similar apes – we notice that their upper and lower front teeth are perfectly aligned: top fits exactly on bottom. “Ah-ha!” you may think. “This is just a natural difference between us and other animals. When our ancestors evolved into humans, this is one more change that occurred – like less hair, bigger brains and... weaker bodies.” However, this idea is not true. For almost the entire time humans have been on the Earth, their teeth were also perfectly aligned. We know this from examining skeletons of people who lived a long time ago. Not only do they have the same number of teeth as chimpanzees, the general shape and alignment are also the same.

So why do most people now have an overbite? Any dentist can tell you that our front teeth will grow longer than our lower teeth – *if they can*. But until recent times, they were never able to do so. So how did this change? And why?

*How* did this happen? The answer to *how* is that a change in eating behavior had a huge effect on our teeth, more specifically our incisors. Incisors are our front teeth – there are two on the left and right side on both the top and bottom of our mouths. Although these teeth are , they were probably not used for actually cutting food but to grasp food in the mouth. In the past, people started using their top incisors to bite down on food at a very young age when their teeth started to first appear . By heavily using their top incisors to do this biting every day, the growth of those teeth stopped and thus matched the position of the lower teeth. In the case of most humans today, however, our upper incisors grow forward for a longer time and thus create an overbite. But *why*?

The *why* is simple – our eating utensils. If you're eating a Western style meal, knives and forks are part of the eating process. We use them without thinking about them. Yet this usage of knives and forks is recent. It began only about 200-250 years ago! Previous to this time, humans did not use knives as tableware. For most of human history when humans had knives, they were used for killing and cutting large pieces of meat. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, however, knives (and recently

invented forks) found a new use as tableware. At first, this was only a fashion among rich people. The poor continued to eat how they always had. Yet this new way of eating soon spread all over the Western world and beyond. When eating with a knife and fork, food is cut into smaller pieces that require less chewing and therefore less work for the incisors. As this practice became common, table knives (unlike kitchen knives) became duller and duller, thus requiring food to become softer and softer. Softer food is, of course, easier to chew. Since food was now easier to chew, even less work was required of the incisors .

We can see this change by studying the teeth of people who lived in the past. We find that the teeth of richer people from about 250 years ago changed first, followed by a change in the teeth of poorer people about 50 years later. Since the fashion of using knives and forks at the table began in Europe, it took a few decades for it to reach North America. The teeth changes there started about 30 years later than in Europe .

However, this change didn't first begin in Europe. When we look at the wider world, we see the same change occurred much earlier in China. What happened there? We don't usually <sup>(2)</sup>associate knives and forks with China! Just as the fashion of using knives and forks spread through Europe, the fashion of using chopsticks began around the year 1000 in China. Chopsticks require that food be cut up into small enough bites so it can be eaten easily. So in this case, kitchen workers had to cut up food small enough so people at the table could use their chopsticks .

As in Europe, people in China were now no longer biting down on food with their incisors. Skeletons from China and neighboring countries show that the development of an overbite there <sup>(3)</sup>coincided with the use of the new eating technology.

We generally think that our bodies are fundamental and unchanging, whereas things such as table manners are superficial: we might change our manners from time to time, but we can't be changed by them. But this turns out to be false. Our supposedly natural and normal overbite – this seemingly basic aspect of human bodies – is actually a product of how we behave at the table.

【Questions】

〔問 1〕 , , , or  : where does “so they continued to grow” fit best?

〔問 2〕 The main function of paragraph 3 is to

- ア reject a reasonable but incorrect guess about the cause of overbites.
- イ make clear why evolution has changed human bodies – including our teeth.
- ウ explain the size relationship between human skeletons and those of chimpanzees.
- エ stress the difference between humans and animals that are closely related to humans.

〔問 3〕 What word fits best in  ?

- ア dull
- イ sharp
- ウ strong
- エ weak

〔問 4〕 What word group does <sub>(2)</sub> associate belong to?

- ア issue, assign, give out
- イ lead, deliver, transfer
- ウ link, connect, identify
- エ reject, refuse, deny

〔問 5〕 What does <sub>(3)</sub> coincide mean?

- ア come about at a much later time
- イ happen infrequently
- ウ occur before
- エ take place at the same time

〔問 6〕 According to the passage, people

- ア often had an overbite in the past but rarely have one now.
- イ almost never had an overbite for most of history but usually have one now.
- ウ usually have had an overbite regardless of their time or place in the world.
- エ never have an overbite unless they eat unhealthy food that is easy to chew.

〔問 7〕 What statement best fits the author's opinion of human culture such as table manners?

- ア It affects our behavior but not our bodies.
- イ It always brings about changes in our bodies.
- ウ It is important because it can change our behavior.
- エ It can change both our behavior and even our bodies.

〔問 8〕 Of the following four utensils: knife, fork, spoon, or chopsticks, which do you find to be the least important? Why? (your answer should be about 20 words)

2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

One of my earliest memories starts with me sobbing, crying so hard that I refused to be <sup>(1)</sup>soothed, no matter what Mom and Dad tried.

Dad gave up and left the bedroom, but Mom took me into the kitchen and sat me down at the table.

“It’s okay. Relax. Look at this,” she said, as she pulled a sheet of wrapping paper from the top of the refrigerator.

She set the paper down, looked carefully at it for a few minutes, . I stopped crying. I watched her, curious.

She turned the paper over and folded it again and again. Then she lifted the folded-up paper package to her mouth and blew into it, like blowing up a balloon.

“Look at this,” she said. “It’s *Laohu*.” She used the Chinese word. She put her hands down on the table and let go of the paper package.

A little paper tiger stood on the table. The skin of the tiger was the pattern of the wrapping paper, a white background with red candy canes and green Christmas trees .

I reached out to Mom’s creation. Its tail twitched, and it pounced playfully at my finger. “*Rawrr-sa*,” it growled .

I laughed, startled, and stroked its back with a finger. The paper tiger vibrated under my finger, purring happily.

“This is called *origami*,” Mom said. “It’s a kind of art. And art is a kind of life.”

I didn’t know this at the time, but Mom’s kind of origami was special. She breathed into every animal shape she made, they shared her breath .

At my request, Mom also made other animals — a goat, a deer, and a water buffalo — out of wrapping paper. They would run around the living room while *Laohu* chased after them, growling.

Sometimes, the paper animals got into trouble .

Once, the water buffalo jumped into a dish of soy sauce on the table at dinner. He wanted to cool off, like a real water buffalo. I pulled him out quickly, but the soy sauce had already gone high up into his legs. . The sauce-softened legs could not hold him up. Mom eventually wrapped his legs in plastic wrap.

*Laohu* liked to pounce at birds when he and I played in the backyard. But one time, a <sup>(5)</sup>cornered bird fought back in desperation and tore *Laohu*’s ear. *Laohu* whimpered and winced as I held him, and Mom patched his ear together with tape. <sup>(6)</sup>He avoided birds after that.

And then one day, I saw a TV program about sharks and asked Mom for one of my own. She made the shark, but he flapped about on the table unhappily. I filled the sink with water, and put him in. He swam around and around happily. , after a while he became too wet and heavy, and slowly sank to the bottom, the folds of his body coming undone.

Mom made a new shark for me, this time out of tin foil. The shark lived happily in a large goldfish bowl, chasing the goldfish.

One day, one of the neighborhood boys came over with his Star Wars action figures. He was a big fan of Star Wars movies, and his Obi-Wan Kenobi figure had a sword called a lightsaber. The sword lit up and the figure could swing its arms and say “Use the Force!” I didn’t think the figure looked much like the real Obi-Wan at all.

Together, we watched the figure repeat this performance at least five times or more on the coffee table.

“Can it do anything else?” I asked. My neighbor was annoyed by my question.

“Look at all the details of the figure,” he said. I looked at the details. I wasn’t sure what I was supposed to say. He was clearly disappointed and even more annoyed by my <sup>(8)</sup>lack of response.

“Show me *your* toys,” the boy challenged.

I didn’t have any toys except for my collection of paper animals, my paper menagerie.

I brought *Laohu* out from my bedroom. By then he was very worn, patched all over with tape and glue. I sat him down on the coffee table. I could hear the skittering steps of the other paper animals behind us in the hallway, timidly peeking into the living room.

“*Xiao laohu*,” I said, and stopped. Remembering that he didn’t speak Chinese, I switched to English. “This is Tiger.” Cautiously, *Laohu* strode up and purred at my neighbor, sniffing his hands.

He examined the Christmas-wrap pattern of *Laohu*’s skin. “That doesn’t look like a tiger at all. Your Mom makes toys for you from trash?”

I had never thought of *Laohu* as trash. How was he *trash*?

My neighbor pushed Obi-Wan’s head again. The sword flashed; the figure moved its arms up and down. “Use the Force!”

*Laohu* turned and pounced, knocking the plastic figure off the table. It hit the floor and broke, and Obi-Wan’s broken head rolled under the couch. “*Rawwww*,” *Laohu* laughed. I joined him in the laughter.

My neighbor looked at me for a second, then he punched me, hard. “That was very expensive! You can’t even find those in any stores now!”

I stumbled and fell to the floor. *Laohu* growled and leapt at the boy’s face.

He screamed, more out of fear and surprise than pain. *Laohu* was only made of paper, after all.

He grabbed *Laohu*, whose snarl was choked off as the boy crumpled him in his hand and tore *Laohu* in half. He balled up the two pieces of paper and threw them at me. “Here’s your stupid cheap garbage toy.”

After he left, I spent a long time trying, without success, to tape together the pieces, smooth out the paper, and follow the creases to refold *Laohu*. Slowly, the other animals came into the living room and gathered around us, me and the torn wrapping paper that used to be *Laohu*.

【Questions】

〔問 1〕 What does <sup>(1)</sup>soothed mean?

- ア let off
- イ worn out
- ウ worked up
- エ calmed down

〔問 2〕 What fits best in ?

- ア and then began to fold it
- イ and gave me a new toy for my birthday
- ウ and then put the paper back on top of the fridge
- エ and told me the story of when she came to America

〔問 3〕 , ,  or  : where does “, and thus they moved with her life” fit best?

〔問 4〕 What sentence fits best in ?

- ア However, he didn't like soy sauce.
- イ He became angry at my foolishness.
- ウ After all, he was only made of paper.
- エ I wanted him to feel more comfortable.

〔問 5〕 What does <sup>(5)</sup>cornered mean?

- ア weak
- イ disappointed
- ウ lost in tall grass
- エ unable to easily escape

〔問 6〕 Why did *Laohu* <sup>(6)</sup>avoid birds after that?

- ア He got hurt by one.
- イ He was made of wrapping paper.
- ウ He wanted to be patched with tape.
- エ He didn't like playing in the backyard.

〔問 7〕 What word or phrase fits best in ?

- ア Also
- イ In fact
- ウ However
- エ In addition

〔問 8〕 In your own words, explain why the speaker had a <sup>(8)</sup>lack of response to his neighbor's Star Wars action figure (your answer should be about 20 words).

〔問 9〕 Why do you think *Laohu* knocked the figure off the table and then leapt at the boy's face? Explain in your own words (your answer should be about 20 words).

**3**

Answer the question below. Your answer should be around **50** words.

If you could meet any person from history, who would you meet? Why?

This is the end of the test.





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