

ESL Speech Contest2016

<RECITATION PART> Please choose one from (A) or (B) to recite.

TEXT (A) From President Obama's speech at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, May 27, 2016

Science allows us to communicate across the seas and fly above the clouds, to cure disease and understand the cosmos. But those same discoveries can be turned into ever more efficient killing machines.

The wars of the modern age teach us this truth. Hiroshima teaches this truth. Technological progress without an equivalent progress in human institutions can doom us. The scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well.

That is why we come to this place.

We stand here, in the middle of this city, and force ourselves to imagine the moment the bomb fell. We force ourselves to feel the dread of children confused by what they see. We listen to a silent cry. We remember all the innocents killed across the arc of that terrible war, and the wars that came before, and the wars that would follow. Mere words cannot give voice to such suffering. But we have a shared responsibility to look directly into the eye of history and ask what we must do differently to curb such suffering again.

Someday the voices of the hibakusha will no longer be with us to bear witness. But the memory of the morning of Aug. 6, 1945 must never fade. That memory allows us to fight complacency. It fuels our moral imagination. It allows us to change.

(227 words)

The site below may be helpful for your practice.

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSskp2PhQZE>>

You can glance at the text during your recitation, but "just reading" is inadvisable.

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<RECITATION PART> Please choose one from (A) or (B) to recite.

TEXT (B) Christel Takigawa's Olympic bid presentation speech, Sep 10, 2013
(English version)

We will offer you a unique welcome.

In Japanese, I can describe it in one unique word: omotenashi.

It means a spirit of selfless hospitality...One that dates back to our ancestors...Yet is ingrained in Japan's ultra-modern culture. 'Omotenashi' explains why Japanese people take care of each other... and our guests... so well.

Let me give you just one example.

If you lose something, you will almost certainly get it back. Even cash. In fact, last year, more than 30 million US dollars in lost cash was handed in to Tokyo police.

Tokyo is the safest city in the world, according to a recent survey of 75,000 global travellers.

They also voted Tokyo number one for:

- best public transport
- cleanest streets

....and even the friendliest taxi drivers.

In every district, you will see these assets. Traditional eastern culture and the best in western shopping and restaurants, in the city with the biggest number of Michelin Stars in the world ...

All combined in a futuristic cityscape.

(167 words)

The site below may be helpful for your practice. It is in French, but the face and body language are very clear.

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hggygKWwhg>>

You can glance at the text during your recitation, but "just reading" is inadvisable.