

◆文法問題 ～文法の穴、ありませんか？～

(1) Never before in the history of humankind () the average life expectancy increased so dramatically.

- ①did ②does ③has ④that

(2) Under () circumstances must doctors allow their patients to be put at risk.

- ①any ②no ③other ④some

(3) Hardly () started when it began to rain.

- ①have the picnic ②had the picnic ③the picnic have ④the picnic had

(4) Between the churchyard and the marble fountains () the shadow of the bell tower.

- ①fall ②falls ③falling ④to fall

(5) It is generally accepted by researchers () exists an age factor in language acquisition.

- ①that there ②that it ③how it ④which there

◆長文問題～全訳したり、文構造、見たりしていませんか？～

長文のテーマ

1 ①The ability to speak two languages can make bilingual people better able to pay attention than those who can only speak one language, a new study suggests.

2 ①Scientists have long [ア] that learning more than one language might cause structural differences in brain networks that enhance mental abilities, just as a musician's brain can be altered by the long hours of practice needed to master an instrument.

3 ①Now, in a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers at Northwestern University for the first time have documented differences in how the bilingual brain processes speech sounds, compares with those [イ]. ②Bilingual people do this in ways that make them better at picking out a spoken syllable, even when it is buried in a babble of voices.

4 ①That biological difference in the auditory nervous system [ウ] among those who speak more than one language, they say.

5 ①“Because you have two languages going on in your head, you become very good at determining what is and in not relevant,” says Nina Kraus, a professor of neurobiology and physiology at Northwestern, who was part of the study team. ②“You are a mental juggler.”

6 ①In the study, Dr. Kraus and her colleagues tested the involuntary neural responses to speech sounds by comparing brain

signals of 23 high-school students who were fluent in English and Spanish to those of 25 teenagers who only spoke English. ②When it was quiet, both groups could hear the test syllable — “da” — with no trouble, but when there was background noise, the brain of the bilingual students were significantly better at detecting the fundamental frequency* of speech sounds.

7 ① “We have determined that the nervous system of a bilingual person responds to sound in a way that is distinctive from a person [エ],” Dr. Kraus says.

8 ① Through this fine-tuning of the nervous system, people who can master more than one language are building a more resilient brain, (1)one more proficient at multitasking, setting priorities, and, perhaps, better able to withstand (2)the ravages of age, a range of recent studies suggest.

9 ① [オ], some preliminary research suggests that people [カ] may have enhanced defenses against the onset of dementia* and delay Alzheimer’s disease by an average of four years.

10 ① The ability to speak more than one language also may help protect memory, researchers from the Center for Health Studies in Luxembourg reported last year.

11 ① After studying older people who spoke multiple languages, they concluded that the more languages someone could speak, the better. ② People [キ] were three times less likely to have cognitive problems compared with bilingual people, for example.

*fundamental frequency 基本振動周波数

*dementia 認知症

1. 空所[ア]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選
べ。

- a. questioned b. suspected c. doubted d. mistrusted

2. 空所[イ]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選
べ。

- a. who speak more than one language
b. who speak a second language
c. who speak a single language
d. who speak a foreign language

3. 空所[ウ]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選
べ。

- a. makes it difficult to notice things
b. helps researchers come to a clear-cut conclusion
c. means that there is likely to be less resemblance
d. appears also to enhance attention and working memory

4. 空所[エ]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選
べ。

- a. who speaks more than one language
b. who speaks a second language
c. who speaks a single foreign language
d. who speaks only one language

5. 下線部(1)の内容として最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選
べ。

- a. a brain b. a language c. a person d. a system

6. 下線部(2)の内容として最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選べ。

- a. diseases typical of the modern world
- b. deficiencies peculiar to older people
- c. disasters in aging societies
- d. aggressive behavior of elderly people

7. 空所[オ]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選べ。

- a. Instead
- b. Hopefully
- c. Probably
- d. Indeed

8. 空所[カ]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選べ。

- a. who can only speak one language
- b. who speak a second language
- c. who are losing their own language
- d. who cannot master more than one language

9. 空所[キ]に入れるのに最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選べ。

- a. who spoke two languages
- b. who spoke only one foreign language
- c. who spoke three languages
- d. who spoke a single language

10. 本文の内容に照らして、多言語者であることの効用の一つとして最もふさわしいものを a~d から一つ選べ。

- a. You are better able to master a musical instrument.
- b. You are better able to keep off the symptoms of aging.
- c. You are better able to perform juggling.
- d. You are better able to test brain responses.