

## Lesson 14: Irony and Humor (Implied Meaning) 皮肉とユーモア

- ▶ Implied meaning (such as: irony, implicature, and euphemism): part of everyday conversations 皮肉・含意・婉曲表現など暗示的にほのめかす表現は日常会話の一部
- ▶ Implied meaning also used in humor ユーモアも暗示的意味
- ▶ The spice of communication コミュニケーションにおけるスパイス
- ▶ Further joining the English-speaking culture by understanding and using implied meaning 暗示的意味（皮肉やユーモア）を理解し使うことで英語文化によりいっそう参加する

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## Case 1: Irony 皮肉

(adapted from Warner 2013)

### Observing the use of irony in English

#### 英語での皮肉を観察してみよう

1. Great weather we're having.
2. Awesome job.
3. You're a tremendous athlete.

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### Expressions

- ▶ **weather** (n.) atmospheric condition, climate 天気、天候
- ▶ **horrible** (adj.) terrible, horrifying 実にひどい、恐ろしい
- ▶ **accomplish one's dream** achieve one's goal 夢を実現する
- ▶ **rear-end** (v.) collide with the back part of 後方に衝突する
- ▶ **attitude** (n.) manners 姿勢、態度
- ▶ **tone of voice** quality of voice 声のトーン

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### 1. The great weather we're having.



**Conditions for straight meaning** 通常の意味となる場合

the sun is shining  
the birds are singing

良い

**Conditions for irony** 皮肉となる場合

the weather is horrible  
the clouds are looming

悪い

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2. Awesome job.



Conditions for straight meaning 通常の意味となる場合	Conditions for irony 皮肉となる場合

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3. You're a tremendous athlete.



Conditions for straight meaning 通常の意味となる場合	Conditions for irony 皮肉となる場合
the top runner アスリート	状況に逆 皮肉

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## Implied meaning: More examples

### 暗示的な意味の例

1. A: Did you invite Sasha and Jodi?  
B: *I invited Sasha.*
2. A: Where are you going with your dog?  
B: *To the V-E-T.*
3. A: Whoa! Has your boss gone crazy?  
B: *Let's go get some coffee. (話しを聞けよ)*
4. A: Do you like ice cream?  
B: *Are there flies in the summertime? (もちろん)*



(adapted from Bouton 1994a, b, 1999; Roever 2013)

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## Case 2: Implicatures 含意

### Discovering implicatures (implied meaning)

#### 含意（暗示的にほのめかされた意味）を見つけてみよう

Asking for rice:

- a. in a supermarket: *Do you have rice?* *お米はありますか?*
- b. in a restaurant: *Do you have rice?* *ライスはありますか?*

(adapted from Bouton 1990a; Ishihara 2022)

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## Guessing the functions of the utterances 発話の機能を推測してみよう

1. It's noon, and a friend comes by your desk, putting on his coat and says: "Hungry?"
2. It is the middle of the afternoon, when a colleague walks into your office holding out a box of chocolate and asks: "Hungry?"
3. You and a friend have just started a new diet this morning. It is late afternoon when the phone rings. When you pick it up, you hear your friend's voice on the other end of the line. She asks: "Hungry?"



(Bouton 1999: 48)

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## Compare:

1. John compliments on Sara's watch. ジョンがサラの腕時計をほめる :

John: Can I see your watch for a minute, Sara? Wow! That's nice! Did you get it here?

Sara: No, I got it in Switzerland when I was there last year.

John: Well, I really like it! I don't think I've seen anything like it before.

Sara: Thanks, I like it a lot, too.



2. Laura has spent a lot of money on a new suit, and she asks her roommate Brenda about it. ローラは大枚をはたいて新しいスーツを買い、ルームメイトのメーガンに感想を聞く :

Laura: You haven't said a word about my new suit, Brenda. Don't you like it?

Megan: I'm sorry I didn't say anything about it sooner. It certainly is unique. I don't think I've seen anything like it before.



(adapted from Wall 1987:205 cited in Bouton 1999:68)

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## Observing conversational implicatures in English 英語での会話の含意を観察してみよう

(adapted from Bouton 1994a,b, 1999; Roever 2013 cited in Ishihara 2022: 87-89)

### 1. Irony 皮肉

Bill is referring to his best friend Peter, who danced with Bill's wife while Bill was away: **ビルは親友のピーターの話をしている。実はピーターはビルの留守中にビルの奥さんとダンスをしたのだった :**

Bill: Peter knows how to be a really good friend.

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### 2. Relevance 関連性

Frank talks to his wife, Helen: **フランクは 妻のヘレンに話しかけている :**

Frank: What time is it, Helen?

Helen: The mail has been here.

Frank: Okay. Thanks.

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### 3. Indirect criticism 間接的な批判

Rebecca is talking to her friend, Naomi: レベッカは友人のナオミに話しかけている :

Rebecca: Have you seen *Robin Hood*?

Naomi: Yeah. I went last night.

Rebecca: What did you think of it?

Naomi: The cinematography\* was great.

Rebecca: Oh, that bad, huh?

\* cinematography 映画撮影 (技術)

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### 4. Minimum requirement 必要最低条件

Mr. Brown is applying for a loan at the bank to build a new barn: ブラウンさんは、新しい牛舎を建てるために銀行にローンを申し込んでいます。

Banker: Do you have 50 cows, Mr. Brown?

Mr. Brown: Yes, I do.

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## 5.The Pope\* Q type 「ローマ教皇」疑問文型

Two friends are talking: 友人同士二人が話している :

Kevin: Do you expect Paul to be late for the party tonight?

John: Is the Pope Catholic?

\* the Pope ローマ教皇

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Let's take a look at more examples of implicatures.

1. Anne and Lynn are sisters: アンとリンは姉妹 :

Anne: How about going for a walk?

Lynn:

2. Paul and Katie live in Australia: ポールとケイティーは豪州在住:

Paul: Has there been mail yet?

Katie:

3. Bob has just come home and asks Tim, who is watching a World Cup soccer game on TV. Japan is losing badly. ボブは今帰宅し、テレビでワールドカップを見ているティムに尋ねる。日本はひどく負けている。

Bob: How's Japan doing?

Tim:

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## Enjoying the humor

ユーモアを味わってみよう



A: Does your dog bite?

B: No.

A: I thought you said **your dog did not bite.**

B: I did, but this is not my dog.

(adapted from Edwards 1976)

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## Case 3: Practice, Practice, Practice!

練習！練習！練習！

### Guessing the hidden meaning of the euphemism

婉曲表現の隠れた意味を推測してみよう

(adapted from Herbert 2012: 167)

1. He is a senior citizen.
2. That's not exactly true.
3. I'm between jobs.
4. She has gone to a better place. (kick the bucket)
5. My boss told me she is letting me go.

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### Matching the irony with the right context 皮肉のコンテキストを推測してみよう



(adapted from Maschio 2017)

- a. You are at a restaurant with a close friend. You receive the bill and realize that you forgot your wallet. 親しい友人とレストランにいます。勘定書きが来て、財布を忘れたことに気がつきました。あなたはこう言います：
- b. You and your partner are walking to the train station. It starts raining and you didn't bring your umbrella. You say: パートナーと駅に向かって歩いています。雨が降り始め、あなたは傘を持ってきませんでした。あなたはこう言います：

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- c. You are traveling abroad. You are charged 10 dollars for a bottle of water. You think to yourself: 海外旅行中です。水のボトル1本に10ドル請求されました。あなたは自分自身に言い聞かせます：
- d. Your manager makes another big mistake, costing your company a lot of time and money. You say to your colleague: あなたの上司はまた大きな間違いを犯し、会社の多くの時間とお金を無駄にしています。同僚にこう言います：

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1. “Ohh, that's cheap for the country I'm in.”
2. “He's kicking goals again.”
3. “Just what I need, a good drenching.”
4. “Ohh, great, I can't pay for the meal.”

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### Practicing making irony 皮肉を言う練習をしてみよう

**Scenario 1:** It is the middle of summer. You are shopping with a friend. You walk into a department store and it feels hotter in the store than outside.

You say:

**Scenario 2:** You and a colleague you have worked with for three years are riding a very crowded train.

You say:

**Scenario 3:** You meet an old friend from elementary school at the train station. She is going to a job interview at a local bank wearing a shirt and torn jeans. She asks you if what she is wearing is appropriate.

You say:

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**Scenario 1:** A really hot department store

You say:



**Scenario 2:** A very crowded train

You say:



**Scenario 3:** Torn jeans for a job interview

You say:



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**Your Reflection 振り返り・考察**

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