

Q & A: IV 期

*Make an Opinion!
Should've said that back then!!*

(まず、質問を繰り返して...)

- ① (I think that) _____ -Opinion-
- ② because _____ - Reason-
- ③ For example, _____ - Example or Explanation-
- ④ (So my opinion is that) _____ -Opinion-

- ← Thesis Statement (主張)
- ← Body 1 (理由)
- ← Body 2 (具体例 or 説明)
- ← Conclusion (結論/主張)

① : I think (that)...
I feel (that)...
In my opinion...
In my view...

④ : So, my opinion is that...
That's why I feel /think that...
Therefore, I would say...
In conclusion, I think...

②③ :

○○ **is** important/ necessary/ useful/ helpful/ interesting/ entertaining/ exciting/
effective/ efficient / convenient / inexpensive / economical / fantastic

○○ **is getting more (and more) important**

It is important for us to develop / use ○○

It is definitely good for the environment/ our health/ children/ people/
perfectly OK our lives / our daily life / a good society / good relationships

social mobility/ human right(s)/ communication/ information (society)

So we need ○○
should develop ○○

to have/make a better society
to make our society **much better**
to address disparity/ disparities
to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

Q 19:

Write an essay or story beginning with the following sentence.

"It was 6:00 in the morning on a day in November."

A1 —

It was 6:00 in the morning on a day in November. I was sitting up on the bed and thought that another ordinary day had begun.

After a while, when I was having breakfast, I heard the door slam shut. That was because my husband had gone outside the house. Then I realized that he was going to take his 14-year-old dog, Momo-chan, to the vet. She had not eaten anything for two days.

When I came back from work at noon, my husband said that she was getting an IV drip at the vet's. At that time, he seemed to believe that she would get better soon and come home.

But the moment arrived suddenly. I got a phone call from the doctor. "Momo-chan passed away a little while ago," he said. We were very shocked.

In the afternoon, we went to pick her up. My husband wasn't able to control his tears while the doctor explained the process.

Momo-chan was my husband's dog, not mine. He had been taking care of everything for her.

When I was in bed at night, my eyes were filled with tears. Momo-chan, I would like to say thank you for coming to our house and taking care of my husband. (208 words)

Concise Feedback

Your writing is emotionally powerful and sincere. You used clear sequencing ("after a while," "at noon," "in the afternoon"), which makes the story easy to follow. The final message to Momo-chan is touching and ends the essay beautifully.

The main areas to keep working on are:

- verb tenses (past perfect: *had begun, had gone*)
- spelling (vet, realized, explained)
- avoiding small mistakes with articles and prepositions

But overall, the heart of the story is very strong.

Encouragement for the Students

You expressed difficult emotions with honesty and warmth, which is not easy in a second language. Keep writing—each paragraph you write helps your grammar improve and your confidence grow. Your voice is clear, and your English will continue to become more natural with practice. Great work—please keep going!

電話する

I'll **call you** later.(電話するね)

“**call Tom**” NEVER means 呼びかける。
It always means 電話する .

He **called up his old friend.** = He **called his old friend up.**

声で呼ぶ

I **called out to Tom**, but he didn't hear me.(呼びかけたけど...)

名前を呼ぶ

I **called Tom's name**, and he turned around.(~の名前を呼ぶと...)

非難する

Tom lied, so I **called him out** in front of everyone.

1. Ken に電話をする → **call Ken / call Ken on the phone / call Ken up**

(old-fashioned / casual)

2. Ken に呼びかける → **call out to Ken / shout to Ken**

3. Ken の名前を呼ぶ → **call Ken's name / call his name, “Ken!”**

/ **call out his name, “Ken!” / shout Ken's name**

4. "Ken!" と呼ぶ → **call, “Ken!” / call out, “Ken!”**

A2 —

It was 6:00 in the morning on the 12th of November. I went to the hotel restaurant to have breakfast. I had stayed there the night before. The hotel was close to Nagoya Airport. Several men in dark suits were already eating.

I knew there were some big companies nearby because I had noticed them when I checked in last evening. Most of the guests seemed to be businessmen. I had a Japanese-style breakfast and coffee. It tasted good, I remember thinking.

I hadn't slept well the previous night. I went to bed at about 10:00, but I had trouble falling asleep. Even so, I eventually slept, but I woke up at 2:00 a.m. I tried to calm down and sleep again but soon gave up and got out of bed.

My own fun trip — two nights and three days on Tsushima Island — was beginning from Nagoya Airport that morning.

(150 words)

Feedback for A2

What you did well:

- You wrote clearly about your experience and kept good chronological order.
- The details about the businessmen, breakfast, and lack of sleep created a realistic scene.

How to improve:

- Be careful with past tense consistency (“I knew,” “I noticed,” etc.).
- Try to combine short sentences for smoother flow.
- Avoid unnecessary prepositions like “near to.”

Encouragement:

You have a strong foundation! Your storytelling is easy to follow, and with small adjustments to grammar, your writing will feel even more natural. Keep writing—you’re improving steadily!

A3 —

It was 6:00 in the morning on a day in November.

I woke up to the sound of my alarm. Normally, it would be an ordinary morning, but today was different.

I felt hot under the futon and kicked it off. Then I noticed my hands—they were covered in black hair and had long, sharp claws.

I stood up quickly and looked in the mirror. My whole body was covered in black hair.

I looked like a bear.

No—I was a bear.

As soon as I got up, I tried to call my husband, but I couldn’t speak human language. Then I heard my son coming.

“What should I do?” I thought.

I hid under the futon and pretended to be asleep.

I thought maybe I should hibernate, because if I went outside, someone might kill me. And I hadn’t eaten enough food to survive the winter yet.

When I woke up again, I saw my husband’s worried face, and I realized it was already noon. (168 words)

Feedback for A3

What you did well:

- Very creative and fun storyline!
- You used clear emotional reactions (“What should I do?”) that make the story engaging.
- Excellent imagination and suspense.

How to improve:

- Watch verb tenses (“I stand up” → “I stood up”).
- Articles like *a/the* need careful attention.
- “Mirrow” → “mirror” and similar spelling corrections.

Encouragement:

This was such an entertaining and imaginative story! You have a talent for creative writing. With more practice on grammar and spelling, your storytelling ability will shine even more. Keep going—you’re doing great!

Marley: Learning Japanese **is** easier than learning English.

Tada: That **may** be true **when** it comes to speaking and listening, **but** reading and writing **are** a different story, though, aren't they?

Marley: Writing? Ah, oh... For speaking, Japanese **feels easier to me** **because** Japanese **has** fewer vowel sounds than English.

-*Below are just fantasies about what I wish I could say.*-
- (以下、こんなこと言えればいいのにとって妄想っす) -

Tada: Ah, I see — you **mean** speaking-wise. That **makes sense**, especially **when** you **think about the vowel system**.

Pronouncing Japanese **can feel** less stressful than pronouncing English **because** **there are** fewer vowel sounds.

And **for you**, 'learning a language' usually **starts with the sound system** — listening and speaking, right?

*In Japan, though, we **tend** to approach language learning from the opposite direction, starting with reading and writing, so **that's** the angle **that** I **was coming from**.*

Q 20:

Write an essay or story titled “The Year 2026”

A1 —

I'm going to talk *about* what I want to do *in* 2026. I'd like to keep studying *with all of you* and improve my English. I wonder how many years have passed since we first met. Time goes by so fast. At that time, it was difficult *for me to understand* native English. However, little by little, I have started to get the hang of it.

Practice makes perfect.

I couldn't have continued *without everyone*. I'm looking forward to *studying* together again *this year*. (84 words)

A2 —

When the New Year countdown begins, I am finally alone, looking back on the past year.

However, I soon get sleepy and fall asleep.

A morning without an alarm comes on New Year's Day. In my bright room, I find myself in the year 2026. I am thinking about 2026 by myself.

My goal this year is to take the math test called “Suken.” I’m excited to take it.

Every year, I set a goal and keep trying.

So every year, there is always something to do.

Next year, it might be better to set a goal to take a day off.

(102 words)

A3 —

The year 2026 began.

First, I must take care of my health. In February, I will go to the hospital to have my stomach checked. I made a reservation. Last April, I found out that I had a polyp in my stomach. I hope it has not gotten worse.

In June, I have to renew my driver’s license. That makes me unhappy. I’m not very good at driving these days. Maybe it is because of aging. I feel a little afraid.

So I wanted something happy. I decided to take a trip to Portugal in October for one week. I called a travel agent and reserved a women-only tour with a private room and a tour guide. There is still plenty of time, but I hope this trip will bring me happiness.

Let’s enjoy life. (135 words)

{ Let us enjoy life. / Let us alone. / That makes me unhappy.
This trip will bring me happiness. / Give me chocolate.

"The storm soon spent its force." (Feels like classic English literature.)

→ In very modern casual English:

The storm soon died down.
The storm quickly lost its strength.

"The wild fire soon spent its force." Feels like 19th–early 20th c. writing.

→ In everyday modern conversation:

The wildfire soon burned out.
The wildfire was quickly brought under control.
The fire soon ran out of fuel.

Q 21:

Write an essay or story titled, "Kohaku Uta Gassen" or "The Showa era is long gone."

A1 —

Kōhaku Uta Gassen

Kōhaku Uta Gassen is a TV program that takes place once a year.

For me, it is like Christmas or visiting a shrine on New Year's Day.

I have two reasons for this feeling.

The first reason is that my growth and life have become fond memories connected with Kōhaku Uta Gassen. For example, when I was a child, my friends and I often talked about the program. We each had our favorite singers.

The second reason is that after the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, many people watched TV together and were very happy to enjoy programs like Kōhaku Uta Gassen.

Therefore, I still look forward to watching this TV program now. (112 words)

A2 —

Kōhaku Uta Gassen

I watched *Kōhaku Uta Gassen* for the first time in years. Near the end of the show, Kenshi Yonezu performed with my favorite girl group, **HANA**. I was very excited to see them, but even more impressed by Kenshi Yonezu's voice.

After that, I looked him up, and a song called “**JANE DOE**” came up. It is the ending theme song of an animated movie, and he sang it as a duet with the famous singer Hikaru Utada. After listening to the song, I was almost in tears, even though I had not watched the movie. It was sad, painful, emotional, and also powerful. I was completely overwhelmed.

He is a very gifted musician to be able to write a song like this. Recently, I have been really into this song. However, I feel that watching the movie itself might be too painful for me. (145 words)

The Shōwa Era Is Long Gone

I was born *in the Shōwa era* and belong to the baby boomer generation. When I entered high school, I had to take very difficult entrance exams.

There were many students at that time. After entering high school, I realized that there were 50 students in each class, and there were 11 classes in the first grade (and 12 classes in the second grade). The school buildings were built *in the Meiji era*, and two additional prefabricated school buildings had been added.

Because there were so many students, we even went on a school trip using a chartered ship for our school. We traveled by ship from Tanabe Port in Wakayama Prefecture to Ube Port in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Then we visited Nagasaki and Beppu by bus, and finally returned from Ōita Port to Tanabe through the Seto Inland Sea. We truly enjoyed the trip.

Many, many years have passed since then. The Shōwa era is indeed long gone. (159 words)

Little

↑
普通の L 日本語のル Dark L

lead / feell

舌先:上歯茎↑左右の隙間から L 舌先↑:上げた状態で L

a little / a little bitl

↑ 舌:basic position で曖昧 ア 舌先:上歯茎 ↑ トゥ

star / start / street / strange

↑舌先:上歯茎 (母音入れない!)

It's a little bit strange.

↑ 舌先: 上歯茎で ツ サイ↑レント

I need a little bit of help.

However, little by little,
I have started to get the hang of it.

Maybe it is because of aging.
I feel a little afraid.

Q 22:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“ Children and teenagers **should not be allowed to use** any social media **until they are 18 years old.**”

Provide details and examples to explain your opinion.

6. They **should not be allowed to use** the machine *until they are 18 years old.*

↑

5. They **should not be allowed to use** the machine *in this age.*

↑

4. They **should be allowed to use** the machine *in this age.*

↑

3. They **are allowed to use** the machine *in this age.*

↑

2. They **are allowed to use** the machine *in this age* by law.

↑

1. The law **allows** them to use **the machine** *in this age.*

A1 —

I agree with the opinion that smartphones are bad for children's lives.

For example, smartphones damage their eyes and cause a lack of sleep. Also, they play with smartphones all the time, so they don't listen to what others are saying.

Furthermore, there is a lot of false information on social media. Children and teenagers have poor judgment, so they easily believe the information.

Therefore, children and teenagers should not be allowed to use any social media until they are 18 years old. (83 words)

A2 —

I agree.

“Children and teenagers should not be allowed to use any social media until they are 18 years old.” I have two reasons.

The first reason is that they have little experience and knowledge and are likely to encounter dangerous problems. For example, they may be led to dangerous sites and become criminals.

The second reason is that they spend too much time on social networking sites, which can lead to a variety of problems. For example, if children primarily socialize

online, they will not develop important social skills that they will need later in life.

Therefore, children and teenagers should not be allowed to use any social media until they are 18 years old. (116 words)

A3 —

“Children and teenagers should not be allowed to use any social media until they are 18 years old.”

I completely agree.

They sometimes make irresponsible statements. They do not consider how other people feel. The content can lead to bullying in school or society. When a rumor comes from them, it may hurt someone.

Another problem is time differences. Social media connects people all over the world. For example, one boy in Japan plays online with another boy in the U.S.A. or Europe. Because of the time difference, he sleeps very little.

He wants to sleep at school when he has to study. His mother wants him to stop playing in the middle of the night or early morning (5:00 a.m.), but he does not listen to her advice. She is worried about him. This situation continues.

So, in this case, I think she has to take the device away from him. Her son is only 12 years old. (159 words)