

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- | ← Thesis Statement (主張) |
| ② because _____ | - Reason- | ← Body 1 (理由) |
| ③ For example, _____ | - Example or Explanation- | ← Body 2 (具体例 or 説明) |
| ④ (So my opinion is that) _____ | -Opinion- | ← 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

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

I'll **call** you later.(電話するね)

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つて妄想っす) -

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)

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 / feel

舌尖:上歯茎 ↑ 左右の隙間から L

舌尖 ↑:上げた状態で L

a little / a little bit

↑ 舌尖:basic position で曖昧 ア

舌尖:上歯茎 ↑ トゥ

star / start / street / strange

↑ 舌尖:上歯茎 (母音入れない!)

It's a little bit strange.

↑ 舌尖: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)