

INTERVIEW

EIKEN PRE-1 LESSON 1

REHEARSAL

Pronunciation Warm Up

Read the text below once very slowly, being careful to clearly articulate the first and final sound of each word. Then read the text a second time, this time smoothly and at closer to natural speed.

Betty bought butter but the butter was bitter, so Betty bought better butter to make the bitter butter better.

Reading Aloud

Read the passage below. As you read, discuss and take note of any interesting ideas or potentially useful phrases that you may use later in your STEP speech.

I do think the government should support businesses so that every shop in Japan can become barrier free. First, financial support will send a signal to all that making every business accessible is a priority. A simple suggestion from the government, or even a requirement that isn't enforced, will surely result in many shops holding off on making changes for as long as possible. Secondly, without some financial assistance, many small, privately-owned businesses will struggle to pay for the remodeling required to make their shops wheelchair accessible. Where I live, some of the shops are struggling to remain in business. Tax incentives for such shops would encourage their owners to invest in making the changes required. As Japan's population continues to grow older, we can expect the number of wheelchair users to increase. If the government and the business community work together, I think we can meet whatever challenges lie ahead as a result of Japan's changing demographics.

INTERVIEW

EIKEN 1 - LESSON 1

This Lesson's Focus Question

Now that the age of adulthood in Japan is eighteen rather than twenty, do you feel that eighteen-year-olds who commit crimes should be punished as adults?

Pronunciation and Enunciation

Read each sentence below once very slowly, being careful to clearly articulate the first and final sound of each word. Then read each quote a second time, this time smoothly and at closer to natural speed.

- The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle once said, "Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime."
- The great physicist Albert Einstein stated, "Whoever undertakes to set himself up as judge in the field of truth and knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the Gods."
- The great civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. once observed that: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."