

## パラグラフに分類しよう

次の英文は Short Essay です。エッセイですから、*Introductory paragraph* (全体の概要と *thesis statement* < 論題について述べた部分 >), *Body* (本体), *Conclusion* (結論を述べた部分) があり、それぞれの段落には *Topic Sentence* or *Topic* (話題文または話題) があります。パラグラフの展開を見分けるには、*Topic* の変化や *Transition Signals* (トピックや考えが変わるときの変わり目の合図となる語句 = *first, next, in conclusion* etc) が分類の手掛りとなります。

**Task 1** この英文エッセイにタイトル (title) をつけなさい。

**Task 2** この英文エッセイを 8 つの段落 (paragraph) に分類しなさい。

(段落の分かれ目に // 、 // … を入れなさい)

Some experts on language feel that English has the most difficult spelling system of all the common written languages in the world. Dictionaries are still used today to let people know how to spell words – even simple words. Is there an ‘e’ at the end of POTATO(e) or not? How is pear, pare, or pair spelled? They all sound the same so it all depends on the meaning. This spelling problem began long ago. Part of the spelling problem began in 600 A.D. when people first began to write. No one agreed on how to spell any words so any printer or writer could make up his/her own spelling of words. It wasn’t until 1755 that Samuel Johnson completed the first dictionary. After the dictionary was finished, people could check their spelling with Johnson’s spelling. People do the same thing today – look up words in a dictionary to check spelling. Around 450 A.D. Christianity was introduced into England by the Anglo-Saxon-Jute invaders. Because the church used the Bible as its text and this book was written in Latin, a large Latin vocabulary related to church was introduced to the people. These Latin words were soon used in everyday speech and became part of the common language in England. Around the same time as Christianity was spreading in English with its new Latin words, the words from the language of the Anglo-Saxon-Jute people who had invaded England were also spreading. The invaders did not learn the language of England which at that time was Celtic but continued to speak their own language which was similar to Dutch. If the Norman-French invasion had not happened, what we know as English would have sounded very much like Dutch. However in 1066, a new group of people, the Normans, came to rule England. They put French speaking kings in power in England. The rulers did not speak the local language. English people learned French so as to be accepted in high society and to have chance of getting a better job.

( 5 paragraphs )

( *continued* )

Even though many educated English spoke French, most English people did not. After living together with the different languages for a 100 years, they became so mixed that no one knew whether a word was originally from France, from the Anglo-Saxon-Jute time or from the pre-invasion-Celtic-time. To further complicate the matter, most people could not read or write until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although a written language began in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Starting around the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the general public was commonly using professionals called scribes to read and write letters for them. These scribes were educated in Latin and French so they used Latin and French spelling when writing English, for example: spelling debt from the Latin word *debtum* even though the 'b' is not pronounced in English because in Latin the 'b' is pronounced. The scribes didn't write the word as they heard it; they spelt it from their educational background of Latin. In conclusion, English spelling problems date back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century when people started writing. All the different invasions by different speaking people changed the language dramatically. In addition, the writing of English was done by non-English people who wrote English words with French or Latin spellings. All these factors have created a very confusing English spelling of words.

( 3 paragraphs )

**Notes:**

Samuel Johnson = サミュエル・ジョンソン( 1709-84 ) 英国の文学者・辞書編纂者、  
Christianity = キリスト教( 精神 )、Anglo-Saxon-Jute = アングロ・サクソン・ジュート族  
の( 系の )、Celtic = ケルトの、scribe = 写本筆写士