

Listening Script

Part A

- Son: Mom, can I go to the computer club's camp? It's in Chiba this year.
- Mom: When is it?
- Son: It's the last week of March. We'll leave on Monday and get back on Wednesday.
- Mom: What about your reading project? That's going to be a lot of work.
- Son: I'll have time for that, too.
- Mom: You'll have time to read 10 books during spring break? Are you sure?
- Son: Yeah, I mean, I already read two.
- Mom: And you'll read the others during the camp?
- Son: Well, that's too many, but I can bring half of those with me, and I promise I'll read those while I'm there.
- Mom: You promise? Just like last week when you promised to help me wash the dishes after dinner?
- Son: But this is different! The reading is something I have to do.
- Mom: Have to do? What about your promise to feed the dog and take it for walks? That was also something you had to do, wasn't it? And now your father does that.
- Son: But I promise, Mom. I'll read at the camp. My friends have to do the same project.
- Mom: Really? Didn't you and your friends promise that you wouldn't go to the theater to watch that movie after school? But you did, didn't you?
- Son: But, Mom, that wasn't my idea! My friends made me go.
- Mom: It doesn't matter. You still went! So, why should I trust you and your friends this time?
- Son: Well, what about keeping my room clean? I kept that promise, right?
- Mom: Okay, so you kept ONE of your many promises. So, you're saying I can trust you this time?
- Son: But, Mom... Okay, listen, if I don't read the books there, I'll..., I'll...
- Mom: You'll what?
- Son: I'll do the dinner dishes every night for a month!
- Mom: Well, okay, then. If you want to go, go. But I'll be looking forward to the help with the dishes.

Part B

Alright, boys, welcome back for another school year. It's the same as last year, but there are some changes that I will explain now.

First, although the library will now be closed during classes, it will still be open during both the morning and lunch breaks. However, it will close five minutes before 3rd and 5th period start. Last year, some of you were still checking out books, playing games, or even sleeping at the tables as the bell was ringing. Not the best behavior if you ask me. So, this change should help you all be a little more responsible.

Of course, you'll still be able to use the library from after 6th period until 3:40, which is 10 minutes before you have to leave campus.

Next, and this may not be popular, but the cafeteria will stop selling lunch at 12:45. So, if you are going to use the cafeteria, keep that in mind.

Actually, the cafeteria staff asked for this change because for the past few years, too many students were coming in with just a few minutes left to get something. They were eating too quickly and running off to class without cleaning up or returning their lunch trays. Of course, they probably got to class on time, but again, responsibility is also important.

Finally, gentlemen, take a good look at the goals, especially that second one. Many of you had trouble with this last year. If you can do a better job this year, I'm sure we'll all enjoy our lessons and school events more.

Part C

Okay, class, I have a question. What percentage of people around the world speak two languages or more? Any idea? Well, you may be surprised to learn that well over half do. This means that if you only speak one language, you are in the minority.

Basically, there are three groups: monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual. People who only speak one language are monolingual. Those who speak two languages are bilingual. And those who speak three or more are multilingual. Research shows that 40% of the world's population falls into the first group, another 43% falls into the second group, and the others fall into the third.

So, the majority of people speak more than one language. If you don't, do you need to? Well, there are reasons why you may want to. For example, one common reason is communication. With another language or two, you can communicate with and understand people around the world better.

Jobs are another reason. Research shows you can make more money if you know another language. And although there is the fear that AI will take over the translation industry, researchers say that humans are still needed to translate many things. In fact, between 2020 and 2023, there was an 11% increase in such jobs, and it is believed that this trend will continue for the next 10 years.

But for me, the biggest advantage of being bilingual, or even multilingual, is the brain. It seems that using two languages or more improves our brains in two ways. First, it can strengthen thinking skills. For example, bilingual children may have an easier time concentrating on tasks and even solving problems. And second, it physically improves brain health. Researchers found that the brains of older bilingual people stay healthier longer and even recover from damage faster. It looks like using two or more languages is great exercise for our brains.