

# Lesson 6

432 words 4分で読む

◆次は、高校生の咲子(Sakiko)が英語の授業で行ったスピーチの原稿です。これを読んで、あとの問いに答えなさい。

〈大阪〉

Hello, everyone. Last month, I visited my grandfather's house. He ( ① ) me an old piece of paper. On the paper, information about his mother's grades at school and health condition was written. According to it, she was 5 *shaku* tall. I couldn't understand what "*shaku*" meant, so I asked my grandfather about it. He told me that *shaku* was one of the units people in the past used, and 1 *shaku* was about 30.3 centimeters in length. I wanted to know more about the units people in the past used, so I went to a library. I learned 5 some interesting things on units. I am going to tell you about ②them.

In the old days, there was no common unit shared around the world to express length. Various units were used in the world. People in different areas used different units. For example, in Japan, people used *shaku*. In some areas of Europe, people used a unit called "cubit." From these examples, we can say that in the old days, ③          . If we compare the length of 1 *shaku* and the length of 1 cubit, they are not the same 10 length.

In the 15th century, many people started to go overseas. When they communicated with people in other areas, they were very confused. ④There were many kinds of ( couldn't / that / they / units ) understand. During the 18th century, international trade became more popular and people exchanged things all over the world. So, a common unit which could be used by people around the world was needed. 15

Some scientists started trying to make a new unit. To do it, they decided to use the size of the earth. They thought the earth was something common for everyone in the world and they believed the size of the earth would never change. ⑤           Then, by using it, a new unit called "meter" was finally made. Although the new unit was made, many people kept using their own units. However, on May 20 in 1875, at an international meeting held in France, 17 countries agreed to use the new unit. Japan accepted it in 1885. 20 Several years later, some people in Japan started to use the meter. People in many countries used it in their lives, and this new unit made people's lives convenient.

I think making common units is great work. It changed people's lives very much. ⑥If we didn't have common units, our lives (            ). I never knew that the meter was made by using the size of the earth. Through learning about units, I have found that everything in the world has an interesting history. Thank 25 you.

注 *shaku* 尺(長さの単位, 複数形も *shaku*)    unit 単位    length 長さ    common 共通の  
cubit キュービット(長さの単位)    trade 貿易

**入試問題を解こう**

11分で解く

問1 ①の( )に適する語をア～エから選び、記号で答えなさい。

ア looked イ saw ウ showed エ watched

( )

問2 下線部②が表している内容として最も適しているひとつづきの英語5語を、本文中から抜き出ささい。

問3 ③の[ ]に適するものをア～エから選び、記号で答えなさい。

ア people in each area in the world used their own unit to express length

イ people around the world were able to express length with the shared common unit

ウ *shaku* was used as a common unit to express length around the world

エ the cubit was the unit which was not used in any areas of Europe to express length

( )

問4 下線部④が「彼らが理解できなかったたくさんの種類の単位がありました」という意味になるように、( )内の語を並べかえて書きなさい。

There were many kinds of ..... understand.

問5 ⑤の[ ]に(a)～(c)の英文を並べかえて入れるとき、英文の順序として適するものをア～エから選び、記号で答えなさい。

(a) It took several years to complete that work, and they could know the size of the earth.

(b) But, at that time, no one knew its exact size.

(c) So, they tried to know the size of the earth by using a map and a machine.

ア (a) → (b) → (c) イ (a) → (c) → (b)

ウ (b) → (a) → (c) エ (b) → (c) → (a)

( )

問6 下線部⑥が「もし私たちが共通の単位を持っていなければ、私たちの生活はもっと困難でしょうに」という意味になるように、( )に適する英語4語を書きなさい。

If we didn't have common units, our lives .....

問7 次のア～エから、本文の内容と一致しているものを選び、記号で答えなさい。

ア Sakiko went to her school to learn about her grandfather's health condition.

イ The meter was made by using the size of something common for everyone in the world.

ウ International trade in the 18th century didn't have any influences on people's need for a common unit.

エ Before learning about units, Sakiko knew that the meter was made in Japan in 1885.

( )