



Do tests help you learn?

# TESTS

July 7, 2016

Yamashita Haruka: So that's fine.

José Cruz: **So** I wanted to talk about that article today. (Yeah) About tests (Mm-hmm) uh and I wanted to get your opinion about it as a, as a Japanese student because you take so many tests.

Haruka: Yes. I get used to having uh English tests.

José: Do you like them? Do you think they're a good idea?

Haruka: Mm, Yeah I think at one side it's a good idea to have a test, to study English. **Like I mean**, if we have a test we have to study to get a good points on the test. So we study, (Mm-hmm) but if you don't have the- don't have the tests, maybe student- uh students won't study. So... Mm. (I) Yeah...

José: I just get the impression there are just too many tests in the country (Yeah exactly) There (Exactly) There are tests for everything. There are tests for uh, for...

Haruka: For everything, almost everything.

José: ...for **kanji**. There are tests for... There's a history test. **There's** tests for (Math) Ghibli anime. (Yeah) Uh there are tests for this, and tests for that. Uh, I- I get to thinking that Japanese people kind of like them.

Haruka: Yeah I think so. We love- we love **kentei** (Mm tests) Yeah kinds of- kinds of tests but, we call it **kentei**. (Mm mm) Maybe we just like it. Maybe like **study, studied- studied** about the contents and, have the tests, take the tests, and get a good- good score, and like, yeah to have the certific- certification. Right?

José: Mm, did you- when you were doing all of these tests for high school. and you were getting ready for tests for university entrance, (Mm-hm) did you think that all of the things that you learn- learned by studying the test (Mm) were actually useful to the actual skill?

Haruka: Well, when I was in the high school, I didn't think it uh, I- I didn't think it's useful. But after I came here, and like when I talk with professor or someone who is adult, then at least my uh uh at least the thing I study, about like, like like history (Mm) or like English or maybe

hmm yeah that's it, history (Mm-hmm)  
yeah, it was really useful.

José: Oh It was useful you think.

Haruka: it was useful yeah I don't really use  
math or science or or that kind of sci-  
How should I say? The... (sciences)  
sciences yeah. Mm. (Um )I really believe  
so.

José: Well on the other hand maybe if  
somebody who does study science has  
the same experience **about** you, they  
could say the same thing, you know. "I

want to be an engineer, so uh the things  
that I studied in- for tests in physics and  
biology were useful, but I didn't get much  
from history or I didn't get much from  
from from economics." But you felt that it  
was actually a useful thing.

Haruka: Yeah it was useful.

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
487	3:37	134.65

Pointers:

**So:** is often used to introduce a new topic in a conversation (0:01)

**Like I mean:** phrases like this are used at the beginnings of phrases to help speakers gather their idea (0:30)

**kanji:** Japanese name for **Chinese characters** in written Japanese (:04)

**There's:** José should have said "**there are**" (1:08)

**kentei:** A Japanese word meaning "**an official certification exam**" (1:22)

**study:** Haruka has a good learning habit of not stopping to pause even when she has trouble with a word (1:35)

**about:** José should have said "**as**" (3:17)

Discussion:

Do you think education needs tests?

Which subjects' tests do you dislike most?

If schools didn't have tests, how would teachers grade students?

VOA ARTICLE: "NEW ENGLISH TESTS ARE BETTER, BUT HARDER "  
<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/changes-english-testing/2547818.html>

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