Reading Journals

The goal of doing ***Reading Journals*** is to encourage *extensive reading*. This means reading LOTS of English that is written at a level easy enough for you to **read** (and **not translate**). If you need a dictionary to understand what you are reading, try some easier reading. Your reading can be anything at all in English: news or magazine articles found on the web or in print, easy books written in English, or graded readers (多読本). Even "graphic novels" (*manga*) are OK if you read enough words. Remember, many free books can be found online at Project Gutenberg (http://www.gutenberg.org) and Google Books (http://books.google.com). Of course, you can use the articles on my Student Download page (http://tony-silva.com/download), but you are free to select your readings from anywhere. Choose something **interesting to you**.

Your journal entries should include the following:

- Name of the book, magazine, or website where you found the reading

- The name of the article or story

- The name of the author

- The URL (web page address) of the site where you found the reading (if online)

- The number of words/pages you read

- How difficult you found the reading

- A short summary of the reading

- A brief account of your ideas, thoughts, feelings, or opinions about the reading

- New words you learned and want to remember

Examples:

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The Japan Times - 1/6/13

"Happiest People in the World" (Editorial)

http://tony-silva.com/eslefl/miscstudent/downloadpagearticles/happinessindex-jt.pdf

Three pages: about 875 words (a little difficult)

This article talks about how happy people are in different countries. It also talks about the connection between wealth and happiness. For example, Japanese people are among the wealthiest in the world but they rank only near the middle for happiness among developed countries.

It seems that for the last fifty years, Japan has focused on economic development and power, but the true happiness of the people has been ignored. The author suggests a "happiness index" instead of an "economic index" to measure our progress. I don't know if this idea is practical or not, but I wonder what good all this wealth is of the people are not happy.

paradox 逆説

stimuli 激

subjective 主観的

intangible 形

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Tales of the Supernatural - Cambridge Graded Reader Level 3/B1 Lower-Intermediate

Frank Brennan

"Irish Rose" Eight pages, about 2400 words (easy)

This was a short story of the supernatural. In it, a beautiful actress meets a mysterious man at an elegant party. She leaves the party to walk with him in the garden. There, they talk and dance together through the evening. The man offers here some delicious fruit, which must have some kind of spell on it. The actress returns to the hotel, but the party is over. She returns to her room, but she is shocked when she looks in the mirror. One hundred years have passed and she is now over 100 years old.

This story had some good suspense, but I don't understand why the actress became old. Other were jealous of her and she was very vain, but what did the mysterious man make her age so quickly? Did she do something wrong to be punished for? The story was easy to read, but I don't think it made much sense. Maybe I need a higher level book to read.

(No new words)

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Wired Magazine

"This Is the Modern Manhunt: The FBI, the Hive Mind and the Boston Bombers"

Spencer Ackerman 4/19/13

http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2013/04/boston-data-manhunt/

About 1500 words - very difficult

This was an article about how technology and social media affected the way the Boston Marathon terrorists were captured. Because of social media like Twitter, the police and the FBI could use information shared by many ordinary people to catch the criminals. It's like they had eyes everywhere. Everywhere, people had cameras and video cameras on their cell phones that could post images to the internet where everyone, including the police, could see them. From the many photos take at the finish line of the marathon, police and the FBI were able to get useful clues.

There were many difficult words in this story and the grammar was a little confusing. However, it was exciting to read about these dramatic events in English. It's especially interesting to see how people using Twitter made such a big difference. It's interesting to see how technology is changing our world.

surveillance – 監視

imagery – 直観像

chaotic – 混沌とした

transparency – with no secrets

hive mind – 集団意識

leeway – 余地