

Chapter Eighteen



1.) PRE-READING

Look at the picture above.

1. What do you think kamikaze means?
2. What was their job?
3. During which period in history were kamikazes used?
4. Which country do you think created kamikazes?

Kamikaze Soldier

My name is Abe. I was born on May 11, 1926 in Shinagawa Tokyo, Japan. Our family was lower-middle class. Our house was small but everything was comfortable. I entered elementary school when I was six years old. All the teachers said I was a bad student, but I really wasn't bad. Instead I was just mischievous and rambunctious. My childhood was normal, but my young, adult life certainly wasn't.

When I graduated from junior high school in 1942, I went to work for the Harley Davison Company Ltd. They opened a branch in Tokyo and I got an entry-level job doing basic labor. I started to study English very hard. I really liked English. During this time the social-political climate in Japan began to change a lot. Just one year earlier, Japan fully entered World War II. I continued to study English and work. But eventually I had to quit my Harley Davison job. I can't remember exactly, but I think the American company had to pull out of Japan. In 1944, studying English became illegal! People caught studying English were put in jail, sent to labor camps, or drafted into the military. However, I continued to study in secret by myself. I didn't tell anyone because I was scared.

My life changed even more drastically in June 1945. I was drafted into the Japanese Navy. I had no choice but to join. For many young men the Japanese Military meant a death sentence. Some of my friends tried to run away, but were shot by the military police (MP). In the Japanese military there were three branches of kamikaze: the navy, army, and air force. I was forced to train with the navy kamikazes. In this camp, we learned how to use a one-man submarine loaded with a lot of explosives. These submarines only carried enough fuel to reach its target. The kamikazes never had enough fuel for a return trip. We knew we had to die either from an explosion or by drowning. This time in my life was difficult. I was planning my own death. While training in the camp, I saw many of my friends go to war, and never come back. But fortunately for me, something great happened.

On September 2, 1945 American General MacArthur and Japanese General Umezu signed a treaty to end World War II. Although I trained to be a kamikaze, I never went to war. I was one of the lucky ones. I was released back to the civilian population. Soon I started to work for the American Eighth Army. Japan was so weak at this time that the USA had to rebuild our country. Because I was one of the few who could speak English, the US Army depended on me to translate their commands. The Japanese yakuza (mafia) recruited Japanese laborers to do work and I interpreted for everyone. I received the most money among the Japanese people I was working with. I started to earn a lot of respect from both the army sergeants and the yakuza. One army sergeant, John Casey, really liked me. In 1947, I started to work for him as a number-one resident houseboy. I was the only one who passed the English test. At that time, this was a good job with good pay.

However, in 1949 Casey retired and went back to the USA and I lost my job. I soon had to start regular work among the Japanese population, so I became a taxi driver in Kichijoji, Tokyo. Later I started my own cleaning business. But I always studied English as a hobby. I'll never forget my days as a young man. Now I'm an old man, but I still enjoy practicing English with my teacher.

2.) VOCABULARY

Choose the vocabulary word which best completes the sentence.

exact draft submarine civilian release depend
recruit translate climate mischievous target join

1. Mathematics require exact answers.
2. "Aim your gun in the center of your _____," yells the drill sergeant.
3. The military always tries to _____ new, young people.
4. During a _____, people don't choose the military. Instead they are forced.
5. As children, we _____ on our parents.
6. The interpreter needed to _____ the manuscript.
7. The U-boat is a kind of _____.

8. The children played tricks on each other. They were _____.
9. The _____ population is not in the military.
10. Catch and _____ is a type of fishing practice.
11. At the beginning of the season, many kids want to _____ the soccer team.
12. A Mediterranean _____ is usually dry, mild, and sunny.

CONVEYING CONTRAST or ASSOCIATION

Match the vocabulary word with its corresponding antonym.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <u> D </u> Begin | A. Lay off |
| 2. <u> </u> Fully | B. Civilian |
| 3. <u> </u> Rambunctious | C. Partially |
| 4. <u> </u> Recruit | D. Finish |
| 5. <u> </u> Exact | E. Enemy |
| 6. <u> </u> Friend | F. Quiet, timid |
| 7. <u> </u> Military | G. Approximate |

3.) COMPREHENSION

Find the incorrect word(s), cross it out, and write the correct one(s).

1. I was born on January 11, ¹⁹²⁶1962 in Shinagawa Tokyo, Japan.
2. Our family was upper-middle class.
3. Some of the teachers said I was a bad student.
4. Instead I was just mischievous and sweet.
5. My young, adult life was normal, but my childhood certainly wasn't.
6. I got a top-level job doing basic labor.
7. During this time the weather climate in Japan began to change a lot.
8. I was drafted into the Japanese National Soccer Team.
9. The kamikazes always had enough fuel for a return trip.
10. I was planning my own wedding.
11. The USA was so weak at this time that Japan had to rebuild our country.
12. The Japanese yakuza taught Japanese laborers to do work.
13. Now I'm a young man, but I still enjoy practicing English with my teacher.

UNDERSTANDING PRONOUNS

What do these pronouns mean? Match the pronoun with its correct reference.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. <u> D </u> I was born on January 11th. | A. the teachers |
| 2. <u> </u> It was small, but comfortable. | B. Harley Davison |
| 3. <u> </u> They said I was a bad student. | C. US Army sergeants |
| 4. <u> </u> I think <i>they</i> had to pull out of Japan. | D. Abe |
| 5. <u> </u> For <i>them</i> , it meant a death sentence. | E. the military police |
| 6. <u> </u> They were shot by <i>them</i> . | F. young men |
| 7. <u> </u> They depended on me to translate <i>their</i> commands. | G. our house |

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. D I entered elementary school A. because Casey retired.
2. They said I was a bad student B. because they opened a branch in Tokyo.
3. I worked for Harley Davison C. because I was drafted into the Navy.
4. I studied English hard D. ~~because I was six years old.~~
5. People studying English went to jail E. because it was a secret.
6. I didn't tell anyone F. because I passed the English test.
7. My life changed drastically G. because studying English was illegal.
8. I was the No.1 resident houseboy H. because I was mischievous and rambunctious.
9. I became a taxi driver I. because I really liked it.

English Lesson ~ Pronunciation

Pronunciation is often difficult for some students. Often it just takes a lot of practice. Listen to your teacher pronounce each word. Then listen again as your teacher pronounces one word from each number. Circle the word you hear. Check your answers when finished. Finally, practice saying these words with your classmates.

1) pat	Pete	pit	2) hell	hill	heel	3) heat	hut	hate
4) hit	hot	height	5) Kate	cot	kite	6) cap	cop	cope
7) bill	bull	bowl	8) bell	bawl	bale	9) cape	keep	cup
10) bead	bid	bed	11) niece	nice	knees	12) bud	bad	bawd
13) neat	net	knit	14) knot	note	nut	15) sack	seek	soak
16) coat	cut	caught	17) sock	sake	sick	18) sad	sighed	seed
19) side	said	sawed	20) hail	howl	heal	21) pot	peat	pet
22) bit	bait	beat	23) ship	sheep	cheap	24) bite	but	bat

4. DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions.

1. What kinds of comments did your schoolteachers make about you?
2. Give examples of when you were mischievous and rambunctious?
3. What was one of your first jobs? Why did you quit?
4. When is it important to be patriotic? When is it important to protest one's own government?
5. What are some of your experiences that you'll never forget?
6. *Ask your own question.*



5. WRITING

Write about one of the topics below.

1. Describe a significant historical event in your country?
or
2. Write about a hobby you hope to continue long into your future?