

Why do Japanese doctors feel difficulty in listening to English?

"Thoughts from a Japanese Orthopaedic Trauma Fellow in Australia "

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Background

- ✓ Japanese Doctors learned English for **12** years when they were students.
- ✓ According to questionnaire, approximately **70%** of doctors say that they do not have confidence to talk with overseas patients speaking English.
- ✓ A presenter has learned firsthand why Japanese people find it difficult to understand English—through **studying with an English master** and **observing three children learning English at school.**

<https://www.m3.com/news/open/iryoishin/989433>

Learning Objective

- ✓ To understand there are **sounds**, which do not exist in Japanese, in English
- ✓ To know **how** native speaker speak English
- ✓ To be interested in **learning English**

Short summary 1

- ✓ Romanization is completely **different** from Japanese
- ✓ English has sounds which **do not exist** in Japanese - like Th, F, V, R, L, P
- ✓ English words can have sounds made **only of consonants.**

Short summary 2

- ✓ Native English speakers do not speak English **as we expect.**
- ✓ Although the tones of Japanese are **flat, accent and intonation** are very important in English.
- ✓ Native speakers stress main **verbs** strongly, but they tend to pronounce **'be' verbs and prepositions weakly,** which makes it difficult for many Japanese listeners to catch.

How to improve listening skills?

1. Practice **each sound**
2. Read **each word** correctly
3. Do **dictation exercise** as precise as possible
4. Read **the sentences you practiced.**
5. Do **shadowing** with the sentences

Take home message

- ✓ English is a language **different** from Japanese
- ✓ **Work hard**, understanding the difference
- ✓ **Do not hesitate** to speak English