

EARTHRISE English Logic and Expression I **(Advanced / Standard)**

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As all high school English teachers will be well aware, the Education Ministry's guidelines for 2022 call for greater emphasis in the classroom on improving students' linguistic output skills or, in other words, their speaking and writing skills. The trend in English education in Japan has been in this direction for many years, but the current situation certainly presents a stark contrast to the one I encountered when I first came to the country in the 1980s. At that time, English teaching focused to a very large extent on input in the form of reading comprehension, with output limited mainly to translating from one language to the other, and just occasional practice in free composition.

While it is true that this educational approach did not generally equip Japanese learners with good English communication skills, the importance of linguistic input in language education should not be underestimated. What we really need to see in English education in Japan is a proper balance between input (reading and listening) and output (writing and speaking), because students certainly cannot achieve competence in the latter without plenty of practice in the former. In fact, since linguistic competence depends to a large extent on imitation, trying to get students to produce meaningful output without first providing them with ample exposure to examples of good written and spoken English is akin to forcing them to run before they can walk!

EARTHRISE English Logic and Expression I recognizes these points and, within the limits of the textbook format, provides the input necessary to make meaningful output possible. It does this by systematically introducing students to the vocabulary and structures they will need through interesting and, above all, natural examples of the spoken and written patterns they will be expected to use in the output exercises. In preparing the course, we have been particularly careful to avoid the stilted language and out-of-context, out-of-date examples that find their way into some language textbooks. In addition, we have taken care to base class activities on natural situations that students are actually likely to encounter in their lives so that the content will seem relevant to them.

Two versions of *EARTHRISE English Logic and Expression I* are available—Advanced and Standard—which teachers can select from to cater to their students' proficiency level. Both versions cover the same topics and focus on the same grammatical points, the difference being simply that the Advanced course challenges students with a higher level of complexity both in the texts presented and in the exercises students are expected to complete.

Each unit consists of two sections, the first (*Let's speak about ...*) focusing on speaking skills, and the second (*Let's write about ...*)

giving students opportunities to hone their writing skills. As noted above, however, input is not neglected, and class activities include not only speaking and writing practice but also listening and reading exercises. Needless to say, interaction is a key element of linguistic output, so most of the activities are designed to be done in pairs or small groups before examples are demonstrated to the whole class. And to help students familiarize themselves with the use of different registers in spoken English, the *Let's speak about* sections provide exercises in both interaction and presentation. All of this preparation leads up to the *Goal* section of each unit, in which students practice expressing their own opinions and ideas logically on each lesson's topic.

Together with my co-writers and the Suken editors who have put so much time and effort into producing the two versions of this course, I wish you well in your endeavors to raise students who will be linguistically equipped to play whatever role they are destined to face on the world stage. We are confident that if you select *EARTHRISE English Logic and Expression I*, you and your students alike will find the course user-friendly, pleasurable, challenging, and highly rewarding.

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