

Views & Visions

Essay ★★☆☆ / Word of the Month ★★☆☆

「Word of the Month」は、毎月1週目号に掲載します。

会員制サイト「Club Alpha」では、「Essay」のコンテンツを使ったエクササイズを提供しています。



Essay

エッセー

Skip the straw?

Tan Ying Zhen

環境に配慮し、プラスチック製ストローの使用を控えようという動きが世界中で広がりを見せている。筆者も、ごみの削減に貢献すべく、繰り返し使える「マイストロー」を購入した。



タン・イン・ツェン
シンガポール出身。ALTとして京都で働いた経験がある。シンガポールの新聞でライフスタイルに関する記事を執筆中。
*次週はPatrick St. Michelさんが執筆します。

1 Back in June, KFC Singapore announced that it would no longer provide plastic caps and straws with drinks. According to KFC, this would enable a **reduction** of 17.8 **metric tonnes** of **single-use** plastics in a year.

2 Single-use plastics, such as disposable **utensils**, straws, and take-away containers, are a major target in the battle to **go green** and reduce waste, both locally and worldwide.

3 The seemingly **innocuous** plastic straw is perhaps the easiest target. After all, apart from people with certain medical needs, most of us can **sip** our drinks directly from the glass or cup.

4 Indeed, anti-plastic straw **sentiment** has been growing internationally. Scotland plans to ban them by the end of 2019, and Taiwan will be banning not just straws but also single-use plastics by 2030.

5 In the U.S. alone, an estimated 500 million single-use plastic straws are thrown away every day. Many **wind up in** the oceans,



naohiga ILLUSTRATION

where they may **be ingested** by **marine creatures**, causing **starvation** and death.

6 In addition, straws may gradually break down into **microplastics**. These are eaten by fish and shellfish, which are in turn eaten by humans. Microplastics may also wind up in our water supply.

7 Unfortunately, straw recycling isn't a **viable** solution. Most plastic straws are too light to be recycled. They just drop out of the **sorting machines**.

8 But not everyone is ready to give up plastic straws. Many value the convenience of sipping through a straw, especially if they are drinking **on the go**. And of course, the straw **doubles as a stirrer**. Straws also keep your lipstick **intact** or help you avoid getting a “milk **moustache**.”

9 What can we do if we don't want to give up straws? One solution is to **replace** plastic straws **with reusable** ones made of bamboo or stainless steel. Special brushes can

be used to clean the inside of a straw after each use. Some cafes in Singapore have started offering reusable straws for diners, while others offer discounts for customers who bring their own straws.

10 In response to growing **awareness** and demand, several shops have started selling reusable straws. It is fairly easy to buy one online now. They aren't expensive either: A set consisting of a straw and a brush can **go for** around 6 Singaporean dollars, or less than ¥500.

11 In an effort to reduce waste, I bought a stainless steel straw and brush. But to be honest, I often forget to bring it out. So I usually just **forego** the straw if I order drinks.

12 In Japan, consumers are probably used to getting disposable plastic straws, typically packaged in even more plastic or paper. Would it be too difficult for you to replace it with your own reusable straw? Or would you like to simply skip the straw?

ストローをやめる？

1 reduction 削減。metric tonnes メートルトン。single-use 使い捨ての。

2 utensils 食器、箸、カトラリー。go green 環境に配慮した生活をする。

3 innocuous 害のない。sip ～を飲む。

4 sentiment 意見、感情。

5 wind up in ～最終的に～に行き着く。be ingested 飲み込まれる。marine creatures 海洋生物。starvation 飢え。

6 microplastics 微細なプラスチック粒子。

7 viable 実行可能な。sorting machines 分別する機械。

8 on the go 持ち運びで。doubles as ～～としても使える。stirrer かき混ぜ棒、マドラー。intact 落ちないで。moustache 「口ひげ」の意 (milk moustache は牛乳を飲んだ後にくちびるの上に付く跡のこと)。

9 replace ～with …～の代わりに…を使う。reusable 繰り返し使用できる。

10 awareness 認知、意識。go for ～～(の値段)で売られている。

11 forego ～を控える。[本文 — 460 words]

Word of the Month

今ニュースで
話題の言葉

Pedo

An adult, usually a man, who has a sexual desire for children

Example

“Sorry, pedo guy.” — SpaceX CEO Elon Musk

The successful rescue of 12 boys and their coach from a flooded cave in northern Thailand led to celebrations worldwide. But it also **sparked** a very **odd Twitter meltdown**.

Vern Unsworth, a British cave diver who helped rescuers **locate** the boys, **was critical of** Elon Musk. The tech billionaire wanted to rescue the boys using a “mini-submarine” specially built by his company, SpaceX. Unsworth

laughed at the idea. He said the mini-sub was “just a **PR stunt**.”

Musk **fired back** on Twitter, saying officials asked him to help and calling Unsworth a “pedo guy.” What is a “pedo” and where does the word come from?

“Pedo” is short for pedophile. Thailand has long had a problem with its child sex industry, and Musk was referring to that when he called Unsworth “pedo guy.”

“Pedo” is probably the worst



Elon Musk

AP

thing you can call a middle-aged British man living in Thailand, and no one except for Musk is saying Unsworth is a “pedo.” Musk **eventually** apologized — but not before his reputation **took a hit**. (T)

sparked ～を引き起こした。odd 奇妙な。Twitter meltdown ツイッター上での発言で自爆すること。locate ～を発見する。was critical of ～～に批判的だった。PR stunt 宣伝行為。fired back 反撃した。eventually 最終的に。took a hit 打撃を受けた。