

# *Express-Yourself!*

English-Please.express Year 01

Semester 1

Conversations



*Express-Yourself!*

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# EP.express Year 01 Semester 1

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# EP.express Y01 L01 English-Please!

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## Questions

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1. How long have you been a student at English-Please!?
2. What course were you on last year? How was it? Why?
3. How did you find English-Please!?
4. Why did you decide to join this school?
5. Why are you learning English?
6. You are now an intermediate student. What advice would you give to an adults student who was just starting out with English classes?





## Questions

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1. What is the name of the oldest person you know? How old are they?
2. Tell me about them what they did in the past and what they do now.
3. What is the life expectancy of men and what is the life expectancy of women in your country?
4. Do you think you will live long? Why?
5. Most people in life have a 'bucket list', a list of things they would like to have seen, done or achieved before they leave this earth. Tell me one thing that would be high on your 'bucket list'?
6. Do you fear death? Why?







## Questions

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1. Tell me about an animal that is native to, beloved in or closely associated with your country.
2. Have you ever seen one in the wild? If yes, how? If no, why not?
3. Do you have a pet or have you ever had a pet? If yes, tell me about that animal. If no, why not?
4. Do you ever watch wildlife documentaries? If not, why not? If yes, tell us about an animal that you find impressive, shocking or fascinating.
5. Have you ever been hurt or narrowly escaped being hurt by an animal? Tell us about it. If not, which animal scares you the most? Why?
6. If you had unlimited time and money, of all the animals in the world, which would you most like to see in the wild? Why?





# EP.express Y01 L04 Restaurants

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## Questions

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1. When was the last time you ate a meal at a restaurant? What did you eat? How much did it cost? How was your experience? Why?
2. Do you eat out at restaurants often? Why?
3. Have you ever worked at a restaurant? If yes, how was it? If no, would you like to? Why?
4. Where do you live? There are many restaurants that are well-known and popular in the area where you live. Tell me about one; what food do they serve? How expensive is it? Have you eaten there? Why?
5. Tell me about a restaurant experience that you have had or heard about that was either outstanding or appalling. What happened?
6. If a bank agreed to loan you ¥10 million (\$100,000) to open a new restaurant, what kind of restaurant would you open? Why?





# EP.express Y01 L05 Scandal

## Questions

1. Tell me about a family member, colleague, friend, friend of a friend or neighbour who you think gossips too much. Please don't use their real name (e.g. "I have a colleague, let's call him "Dave"").
2. Have you ever bought or read a "shukanshi" (weekly gossip) magazine or tabloid newspaper? If yes, what did you think? If no, why not?
3. Do you ever watch gossip ("wide show") programs on TV? Why or Why not?
4. The media often exposes affairs involving pop stars, actors, actresses, politicians or sports personalities. Tell me about an affair that shocked Japan - who was it between? What happened? Were you shocked? Why?
5. Often politicians, leaders and personalities have to make public apologies for things they have done wrong. Please think of a public apology that you have seen on TV. Who was apologising? What had they done? Do you think they were forgiven? Why or Why not?
6. Tell me about a famous personality who you think has been treated unfairly by the media in your country.







## EP.express Y01 L06 Beauty

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### Questions

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1. What is the most beautiful place you have been to in Japan or abroad? When did you go there? Why did you go there?
2. Tell us about how or why you consider it a beautiful place.
3. Who for you is the most beautiful or handsome actress, actor or model in Japan? What features make him/her beautiful/handsome?
4. Tell me about a habit you have that either helps you look young and healthy or, inversely, makes you less attractive?
5. What is the attitude in your country to plastic or cosmetic surgery?
6. If you could change a physical feature of yourself, a member of your family, a friend, a colleague or a famous person, what would it be? Why?





## Questions

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1. There are many famous landmarks in America, name one. Tell me two things you know about the landmark.
2. There are many famous movie stars who live and work in America, name one. Tell me three things you know about the him/her.
3. There are many famous companies that started in America, name one. Have you ever bought a product that was produced by this company? If yes, how was it? Why? If no, why not?
4. Have you ever been to America? If yes, how was it? Why? If no, which state, city or region would you most like to visit? Why?
5. Lifestyles in America can be different to lifestyles in Japan. Tell me one aspect of American life that you envy?
6. Lifestyles in America can be different to lifestyles in Japan. Tell me one aspect of American life you are glad is common over there and not so common over here?





# EP.express Y01 L08 Reading

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## Questions

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1. What is the title of the last book you finished? What was the name of the author? When did you finish it? How long did it take to read?
2. Was it good? Why?
3. What was it about?
4. Why did you choose it?
5. Are you a voracious reader? If yes, how many books a year do you finish? What kind of books do you like to read? Why? Please recommend a book to the group. If no, how many books do you read a year? Why don't you enjoy books? Do you read newspapers or comics instead?
6. Reading Graded Readers (special fiction and non-fiction books specifically written or re-written for second language learners to enjoy) can improve your English faster than English lessons. Do you regularly borrow books from the Reading Tree? If yes, tell us about your success and failures using the Reading Tree. If no, you must be crazy, why not!!?







# EP.express Y01 L09 eCommerce

## Questions

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1. There are many advantages to buying goods and services online compared to conventional ("bricks and mortar") stores. Name one.
2. There are many products that people often prefer these days to buy online instead of in stores. Name one. Have you ever bought this item online? Why or why not?
3. There are many famous eCommerce websites. Name one. What do you know about this store? Do you use that store/site? Why?
4. When was the last time you bought something good online (goods or services - either is OK)? Why were you so pleased?
5. When was the last time you bought something online that you regret buying (goods or services - either is OK)? What happened?
6. Some people say that eCommerce is terrific, because it saves people time and money. Others say eCommerce is terrible because it stifles competition, underpays employees and destroys small businesses. What do you think - terrific or terrible?





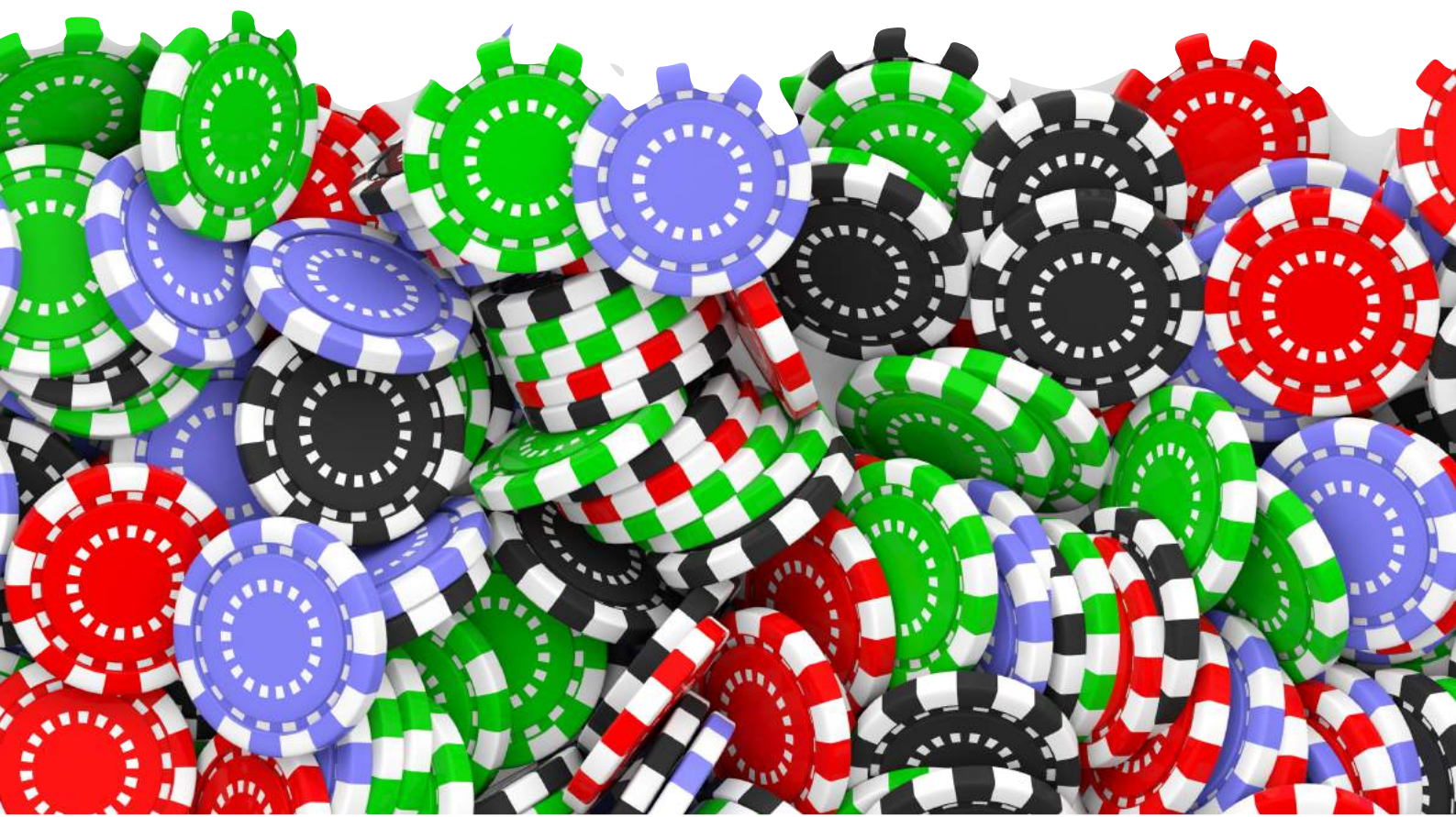
# EP.express Y01 L10 Happenstance

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## Questions

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1. When was the last time you bumped into someone from your past? Who were they and how and when did you first know them? Where were you when you bumped into them? What were you doing? Did you talk to that person? If yes, about what? If no, why not?
2. Are you married or in a relationship? If yes, how did you meet your partner? Who approached who? What did you say? If you are not married or not in a relationship, tell us about how you started a new friendship (either recently or as a child)?
3. Tell us about a time when you saw a famous person? What happened? If you have never seen a famous person, who would you most like to share an elevator with? Why? Would you have the courage to say anything? What would you say?
4. Are you a student or do you have a job? If you are a student, what do you study? If you have or have had a job, what do/did you do? If you are a student, how did you find your college/school/course? If you are/were in a job, how did you find it? Are you glad you took that job or chose that school? Why?
5. Tell us about a small coincidence, happening or happenstance that has changed your life in unexpected ways (other than meeting your partner, choosing your college or finding your old or current job).
6. Do you believe in fate? Why?







# EP.express Y01 L11 Extreme Weather

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## Questions

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1. What is your favourite season? Why?
2. Do you live in a country with a rainy season? When is it? What do you have to do to prepare for, or cope with, this season?
3. Which area in your country has the best climate in your opinion? Would you like to live there? Why?
4. Tell me about a country or region in the world that suffers from extreme weather (heat/drought, flooding, low temperatures, typhoons/twisters/hurricanes, heat waves, sandstorms, hail, tsunami etc.)? How does the extreme weather adversely affect the people there? What do people do there to try to protect themselves or minimise the damage?
5. What is the worst weather you have ever experienced in Japan (or anywhere)? What happened?
6. What do you think of people who say that the world is not warming and suffering from more extreme weather? Does the future of our climate worry you? Why?







# EP.express Y01 L12 Money

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## Questions

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1. There are many people on TV who flaunt their money. Name one. Why are they rich? How do they flaunt their wealth?
2. Who is the richest person you know? How did they get rich? Are they humble with their wealth?
3. Everyone has a difficult relationship with money. Tell me one way in which you are prudent or spendthrift (e.g. where do you try to save money)?
4. Tell me one way in which you are extravagant or wasteful (e.g. what are you prepared to spend more than the average person on)?
5. Tell us about 3 things you would do if you won \$1million (1億円) in the lottery tomorrow?
6. Would winning the lottery or getting rich through inheritance or investment have a positive or negative impact on your life? Why do you think so?





# EP.express Y01 L13 Privacy

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## Questions

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1. Are you a shy person? Why do you think so?
2. Everyone has a neighbour, associate or colleague that gossips a little too much or is careless about the privacy of others. Tell us about one time that they have said something to or about you that has made you feel uncomfortable.
3. Do you use social media like mixi, facebook, twitter, instagram or LINE? Who do you read about? What do you post? Is it interesting? Why? If you have never used social media, why do you think it is so prevalent and addictive?
4. Tell us about the last time a salesperson made you feel uncomfortable. What were they selling?
5. There have been many famous data leaks in Japan (and around the world). Tell us about one you remember. Did it change your impression of that company? Why?
6. Some academics and journalists believe that we are living in a world that is similar to the dystopia in George Orwell's 1949 classic "1984". Every large company in the world is in a race to glean, buy or steal your personal information. What can or do you do to protect your private or personal information?







## Questions

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1. There are many jobs that women do more often than men in Japan. Name one. Would you like to have that job? Why?
2. There are many jobs that men do more often than women in Japan. Name one. Could a woman perform that task as well as a man? Why?
3. There are many women both in Japan and around the world who have been trailblazers in vocations traditionally dominated by men. Name one. What did she do?
4. Tell me about one time that you have witnessed or been the victim of chauvinism?
5. Do you have a father/son/brother/husband who would (i) change a diaper? (ii) make the dinner? (iii) clean the toilet? (iv) do the ironing? (v) care for the elderly in the family? (vi) make the tea when a guest visits? (vii) clean the dishes? Do you think that gender inequality in Japan is getting better or getting worse? Why?
6. Are you glad you were born the gender you were born? Why?







# EP.express Y01 L15 Revenge

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## Questions

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1. As with all great storytelling, Japanese manga, movies and literature are infused with tales of revenge. Name one. Give us a brief outline of the story; who gets their revenge on who, and for what? If you are not Japanese, tell us about a book or movie from your country where a protagonist seeks or receives his or her revenge.
2. Did you like this story? Why?
3. In the news, retaliation is a common theme. This may be between politicians, companies, sports personalities (or clubs), nations or celebrity spouses. Tell me about a real world act of retaliation or revenge.
4. Did you feel in this case that the retaliation was reasonable? Why?
5. Tell us about a time when you or someone you know has felt the need to retaliate against a spouse, sibling, parent, friend, boss, colleague or stranger. What happened? Your story can be serious or funny.
6. Do you feel in this case that you, or the person you know, struck a balance, or simply made the situation worse?



# EP.express Y01 L16 Singing

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## Questions

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1. When was the last time you went to karaoke? Who did you go with? What did you sing? Did you have a good time? Why?
2. Do you like singing at karaoke? Why?
3. What is your favourite song? Who is it by?
4. What is the song about? Why do you like it so much?
5. Tell us about a time where you have been impressed or moved by someone singing live or live on TV?
6. Who is your favourite singer? What kind of songs do they sing? How and when did they become famous? Why do you like him/her so much?







# EP.express Y01 L17 Procrastination

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## Questions

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1. We have many chores and tasks that we don't like but need to do every week or every day. Name one. Have you finished that task today/this week? If yes, how was it? Why? If no, why did you delay?
2. What for you is the worst regular daily, weekly, monthly or yearly task you are forced by your family or work to do? Why do you hate it so much?
3. When you have something you need to do but can't muster the energy, how do you usually or often procrastinate?
4. What day of the week is it today? What is the date? When were you originally planning to do this homework? Are you finishing it later than you expected to be finishing it? Why?
5. Tell me about a time when being late for something or missing a deadline has caused you undue stress and regret.
6. The opposite of "procrastination" is "being proactive". This means to deal with things early, either before they become necessary or before they become a problem. Tell me about one thing you are always "proactive" about?







# EP.express Y01 L18 Celebrity Chef

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## Questions

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1. There are many celebrity chefs on TV. Name one. Where are they from? What kind of food do they make? Why have they been a success?
2. Do you like that celebrity chef? Why?
3. If you could eat a meal cooked by any person or served at any restaurant in the world, who/where would you choose? Why?
4. Where did you grow up? Is that a country or region where cuisine is revered? Why?
5. Are you skilled in the kitchen? If yes, who inspired you to be that way and where, when and how did you learn? Where do you get fresh ideas? If no, why did you never learn? Would you like to be better? Why?
6. If you were going to open a restaurant where people came to eat the food you created, what kind of restaurant would it be? What would it be like? Which of your signature dishes would it serve? Would it be a success? Why?





# EP.express Y01 L19 Social Media

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## Questions

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1. There are many famous social networks. Name one. What do you know about this network?
2. Why have social networks exploded in popularity over the last 15 years?
3. How do social networks make money?
4. Which social network(s) do you use personally or at work; Facebook, Mixi, LINE, Twitter, Wordpress\*, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, LinkedIn? What kind of things do you read? What kind of things do you post? How much time do you spend using social networks?
5. Do find this/these services valuable and/or entertaining? Why?
6. Why do you think there are so many people concerned with how much and how often young people use social media? Is there a member of your family, or is anyone you know, obsessed with, addicted to or far far too engaged in social media?







# EP.express Y01 L20 Buzzword

## Questions

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1. Modern Japanese has a lot of buzzwords, such as "KY" "OL" or "イケメン". Name one that did not exist when you were a child. What does it mean? When and how did you learn its meaning?
2. Modern Japanese has a lot of loan words and phrases, such as "ケース-バイ-ケース" or "スマホ". Name one that did not exist when you were a child. What does it mean? Which country or language is it from? Is there a Japanese word for this? If there is, which is used more; the loan word or the Japanese? Why do you think that is?
3. Abbreviations, acronyms and jargon play a part in all businesses. Tell us about a time when you have had to adjust to and use new terminology at work or when learning something new.
4. The public often pick up catchphrases, tag lines, slogans and catchlines from advertising, movies and pop culture. Some examples would be "ピアノうってちょうだい" (from the Takamoto Piano television commercials) or "Shaken not Stirred" (from the James Bond movies). Name one. Where is it from? Why did it become famous do you think?
5. Tell us about a buzzword, loan word, idiom, phrase, saying, portmanteau, proverb, slogan, catchphrase, acronym or abbreviation, either in Japanese or English, that you really like or that makes you laugh? What does it mean? Where is from? Why do you like it or find it funny?
6. Are you good at picking up new word and phrases (either in Japanese or in English)? If yes, how do you retain new words and phrases? If no, why not?







## Questions

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1. When is your birthday? What star sign are you? What characteristics does that star sign have?
  2. Do you have those characteristics? Why do you think that?
  3. How often do you read your horoscope? Why?
  4. What superstitions do you have? For example, what do you own, carry or do that brings you luck? Do you visit shrines or temples? How and when?
  5. Are birthdays a big thing in your country? How did you celebrate your birthday as a child? How do you celebrate your birthday now?
  6. In Japan, superstitions exist about blood type, star sign, Chinese zodiac birth year, palm or fingerprint patterns, marriage date, the kanji in your name and birth order. Have any of the predictions of your life or character been true? Which have been patently untrue?
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### **Aries March 21 - April 19**

Strengths: courageous, determined, confident, enthusiastic, optimistic, honest, passionate

Weaknesses: impatient, moody, short-tempered, impulsive, aggressive

### **Taurus April 20 - May 20**

Strengths: reliable, patient, practical, devoted, responsible, stable

Weaknesses: stubborn, possessive, uncompromising

### **Gemini May 21 - June 20**

Strengths: gentle, affectionate, curious, adaptable, ability to learn quickly and exchange ideas

Weaknesses: nervous, inconsistent, indecisive

### **Cancer June 21 - July 22**

Strengths: tenacious, highly imaginative, loyal, emotional, sympathetic, persuasive

Weaknesses: moody, pessimistic, suspicious, manipulative, insecure

### **Leo July 23 - August 22**

Strengths: creative, passionate, generous, warm-hearted, cheerful, humorous

Weaknesses: arrogant, stubborn, self-centered, lazy, inflexible

### **Virgo August 23 - September 22**

Strengths: loyal, analytical, kind, hardworking, practical

Weaknesses: shyness, worry, overly critical of self and others, all work and no play

### **Libra September 23 - October 22**

Strengths: cooperative, diplomatic, gracious, fair-minded, social

Weaknesses: indecisive, avoids confrontations, will carry a grudge, self-pity

### **Scorpio October 23 - November 21**

Strengths: resourceful, brave, passionate, stubborn, a true friend

Weaknesses: distrusting, jealous, secretive, violent

### **Sagittarius November 22 - December 21**

Strengths: generous, idealistic, great sense of humor

Weaknesses: promises more than can deliver, very impatient, will say anything no matter how undiplomatic

### **Capricorn December 22 - January 19**

Strengths: responsible, disciplined, self-control, good managers

Weaknesses: know-it-all, unforgiving, condescending, expecting the worst

### **Aquarius January 20 - February 18**

Strengths: Progressive, original, independent, humanitarian

Weaknesses: Runs from emotional expression, temperamental, uncompromising, aloof

### **Pisces February 19 - March 20**

Strengths: Compassionate, artistic, intuitive, gentle, wise, musical

Weaknesses: Fearful, overly trusting, sad, desire to escape reality, can be a victim or a martyr





# 英会話

奈良県下生徒数No.1の英会話スクール

## English-Please!

