

From Guesswork to F.o.R. in Mastering English

In English learning in Japan, careful analysis of sentence structure is often neglected, while a reading style that relies on intuitive guesses of meaning has gained support. Many learners ignore the structure of a sentence and simply imagine its meaning that fits the context based solely on the meanings of the individual words.

While it is true that learners might, by chance, arrive at the



correct meaning when dealing with simple sentences, as soon as the text becomes even slightly more complex, they quickly find themselves unable to cope. What is even more concerning is that many learners are not even aware that they are misreading the sentences.

However, it is not the learners themselves who are to blame; rather, it is their lack of knowledge of accurate reading methods that lies at the root of this problem.



In other words, because even the instructors have acquired English in "the intuitive way," they can only teach based on personal experience and guesswork. As a result, the learning methods and textbooks that continue to appear ultimately remain trapped in such approaches as depend on "the learner's imagination."

As a breakthrough solution to these problems, drawing increasing attention is the "F.o.R. method," devised by Yoshiro Minai. F.o.R. focuses not on the meaning of each individual word but on the



overall structure of the sentence—a structure that serves as the foundation for deriving the correct meaning through structural analysis. In this way, learners become capable of arriving at accurate answers based on logical reasoning rather than relying on intuitive guesswork.

F.o.R. has been criticized by those who favor traditional, that is, intuition-based learning methods; yet, it has received high praise from renowned English instructors and researchers in second



language acquisition. Those who have not succeeded with conventional English learning methods, or who aim for precise reading comprehension, should seriously consider adopting the F.o.R. approach.

