

Otsuma Junior High School

**Entrance Exam for Returnees 2026**

Date: December 9, 2025

ENGLISH

(50 minutes)

1. DO NOT OPEN the test paper until instructed to do so by the teacher.
2. Write all answers on the answer sheet.

Application Number (受験番号)	
Name (English)	

Choose the best item to fill in each blank space.

- 1 After dinner, the restaurant ( ) us \$50 for the meal, and my father paid by credit card.  
A. achieved B. invested  
C. charged D. voted
- 2 “Could you please ( ) a meeting with our club members for next week?”  
“Sure, Coach. No problem. What time works best for you?”  
A. calculate B. claim  
C. arrange D. explain
- 3 “Do you think the government should ( ) the use of plastic bags in order to protect the environment?”  
“I think so. I’m already bringing my own bags with me.”  
A. predict B. ban  
C. inspire D. guarantee
- 4 Not getting enough sleep every night can be a serious ( ) to your health. It may cause stress and sickness.  
A. threat B. conservation  
C. fame D. capacity
- 5 Emily did a great job. Her ( ) to the project was very important and helped a lot.  
A. priority B. guilt  
C. theory D. contribution
- 6 The school has built a strong ( ) for science education and student support. Parents trust it, too.  
A. emergency B. luggage  
C. reputation D. complaint
- 7 Robert loves his grandparents. He ( ) visits them on weekends.  
A. rarely B. frequently  
C. briefly D. exceptionally



The following is a summary of your classmate's project on online dictionaries.

Online dictionaries have become important tools for English learning, especially with the growth of mobile devices and internet access. As more students use them both at school and in their own studies at home, it's useful to look at how they help language learning.



### Reasons to use online dictionaries

#### **Online dictionaries give quick access to information.**

Students can find a definition in seconds by typing the word into the search bar. This helps them save time and stay focused while reading or writing.

#### **Online dictionaries provide many extra learning tools.**

They offer help that paper ones cannot. This includes audio pronunciations of words and example sentences, quick grammar notes, and images or short clips. These features make new words easier to understand and remember.

#### **Online dictionaries are easy to carry and convenient to use.**

Students don't need a separate dictionary. Because they can use the phone, tablet, or computer they already own, it's easy to study anywhere. Having a smartphone means you always have access to an online dictionary.

#### **Online dictionaries encourage collaborative learning.**

Students can share word lists or quiz results with their friends. By working together or competing against each other, students can make studying more enjoyable and increase their motivation with these tools.

#### **Disadvantages of using online dictionaries**

Most online dictionaries need an internet connection, so students cannot use them without good network access. Another problem is that, because they are so easy to use, students may rely on them too much. As a result, they do not learn to guess meanings by themselves. Mobile devices can also easily distract students from studying, as they might start using unrelated apps or sites.

- 1 Based on the summary, which statement is TRUE about learning a foreign language?
  - A. We should not use online applications on smartphones or PCs.
  - B. It becomes easier to remember new words by using various features of online dictionaries.
  - C. It's important to separate meaning and sound when learning new words.
  - D. We will feel more motivated to study by studying alone rather than in a group.
  
- 2 Which statement is a good supporting argument for the author's proposal?
  - A. There's no difference in lookup time between online and paper dictionaries.
  - B. Online dictionaries can update word lists quickly, so words that are not used often may disappear.
  - C. According to some studies, listening to the correct pronunciations helps learners remember new words more effectively.
  - D. Some learners believe online dictionaries provide more example sentences than paper ones.
  
- 3 Which comment does NOT match the information in the Disadvantages section?
  - A. "I had trouble using my online dictionary in the basement because of weak internet connection."
  - B. "While dictionaries are useful, we should also learn how to guess unfamiliar words without them."
  - C. "When I use an online dictionary, I often end up getting distracted by other websites, which interrupts my studies."
  - D. "We need to be careful about unreliable explanations in online dictionaries."

Read the following passage and discussion, then answer the questions.

**<Discussion Question>**

Large international events like the Olympics bring many benefits, such as economic growth and global attention. However, they also cause problems, including high costs, environmental damage, and social issues. How can we make the Games more sustainable for everyone?

**<Group Discussion>**

Jane: The next Olympics will be held in Los Angeles for the third time. Paris hosted them for the third time in 2024, and Tokyo had its second Games in 2020. This trend shows that fewer new cities try to host the Olympics.

Ryo: In the past, hosting the Olympics was a huge honor, and cities tried very hard to host them.

Kana: But today, it's a different story. Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 were chosen at the same time because they were the only two cities left that wanted to host the Olympics. Many cities now think hosting the Olympics brings more problems than benefits.

Tom: One major issue is the cost. Hosting the Games means building stadiums, improving transportation, and doing a lot of organizational work, which can cost billions. After the event, many venues end up not being used anymore. The stadiums left behind after Athens 2004 and Rio 2016 are often called "white elephants."

Ryo: That's an interesting name! Preparing to host a global event requires a lot of money and time. It seems unreasonable to construct "white elephants" for such a short-lived event.

Tom: Exactly. That's why many cities hesitate. Besides cost, environmental concerns are another issue. That kind of environmental harm makes people question whether the Olympics are really worth it.

Ryo: So how can we solve these problems and make the Olympics more sustainable?

Tom: First, we need to lower the cost. London 2012 was a good example. Many of its venues were temporary and used only for the event, such as the Basketball Arena, and they were later taken apart and reused elsewhere.

Kana: Paris 2024 was following that model. 95% of its venues were either existing or

temporary. And Los Angeles 2028 plans to use only existing stadiums.

Jane: One thing I find interesting about the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics is that they're not building a new Olympic Village. ( 1 ), they're planning to use the existing university dormitories to house the athletes.

Ryo: When new buildings are necessary, it's important to have a strong legacy plan. We should think about not only the excitement during the Games, but also what remains after they end. Tokyo's Ariake Arena, for instance, is now used for concerts and community events.

Kana: Environmental efforts are also key. A greener Olympics is essential for the future.

Jane: Tokyo 2020 made creative efforts to reduce waste. The cardboard beds were recyclable, and strong enough for the athletes. And the wood used for the Village was donated by communities across Japan and later returned for reuse in schools and libraries.

Tom: London 2012 focused on sustainability and being eco-friendly. Its Olympic Park was built in an old factory area, which was cleaned up and turned into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park — a large green space now enjoyed by local residents.

Kana: Paris 2024 went even further. The Olympic Village ran entirely on renewable energy. They used electric buses and promoted cycling to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Ryo: Even so, hosting the Olympics in a single city is still risky and costly. We should consider hosting them together with other countries or cities. In fact, some events are already planned to be co-hosted by multiple cities.

Jane: But I think co-hosting has a negative side, too. If athletes and people travel longer distances across countries, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will rise.

Tom: That's a fair point. Still, if the Olympics follow that model, more countries, including smaller ones, could host them at a lower cost.

Ryo: That's true. It's important to support and encourage smaller countries to host the Games.

Kana: More importantly, involving local people is essential for success that lasts well into the future. It helps build stronger relationships and create ( 2 ) even after the Games end.

Jane: That's the only way the Games can remain a symbol of global unity — not just for two weeks, but for generations to come.

4 Choose an appropriate combination of words/phrases to fill in blanks ( 1 ) and ( 2 ).

- A. (1) At the same time : (2) specific benefits
- B. (1) Instead : (2) long-term value
- C. (1) Likewise : (2) personal custom
- D. (1) Still : (2) instant results

5 Complete the table below for each keyword mentioned in the text. Fill in (1)–(3) by selecting the best description from options A–D.

Keyword	Description
White elephants	( 1 )
Temporary / Renewable venues	( 2 )
Existing facilities	( 3 )

- A. Making use of stadiums, arenas, or other infrastructures that already exist in the host city, instead of building new ones.
- B. Planning for how Olympic buildings and resources will benefit the local community after the Games.
- C. Designing venues that can be broken up or recycled after the event to reduce waste.
- D. Leaving expensive facilities unused after big events, which wastes public money.

6 According to the passage, which facility (A–D) follows the same strategy described for Expo 2025 in the box below?

- A. The Basketball Arena (London, 2012)
- B. The Ariake Arena (Tokyo, 2020)
- C. The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (London, 2012)
- D. The Olympic Village (Paris, 2024)

“About 80% of the buildings in Expo 2025 Osaka–Kansai are not permanent. They will be taken down after the event and the materials, such as wood and steel, can be used again in other projects.”

- 7 The following is part of a news article that one of the students has read for their research. Who mentions this article in the discussion?
- A. Jane
  - B. Ryo
  - C. Kana
  - D. Tom

**A New Model: Milano-Cortina Olympics to Be Held Across Multiple Locations**

The next Winter Olympics will spread events across different places rather than holding everything in one city. This may become a common approach for future Winter Games. Hosting in one city is often too expensive, so organizers think about sustainability from the beginning. By using multiple venues, they aim to reduce costs and make better use of existing facilities.

(translated and adapted from *Jiji Press*)

- 8 Which of the following ideas was NOT mentioned in the discussion?
- A. Some people are not sure if the Olympics are meaningful because of environmental damage.
  - B. It is important to give local residents a sense of participating in the Olympics through community activities.
  - C. Sharing responsibilities may also increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to additional travel to places that are farther away.
  - D. All of the students agree that the opportunity to host the Olympics should be limited to large cities.

Read the following news article, then answer the questions.

### The Ugandan arts centre bringing harmony to Africa's biggest refugee camp

Patience Akumu  
February 19, 2025

The sound of a flute echoes across the 1,000-seat Bidi Bidi Performing Arts Centre in northern Uganda. The country now hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa — people who escaped from war or violence in other countries. The soft music can be heard outside, and flows into the daily lives of the more than 250,000 refugees who live in the Bidi Bidi settlement — the largest refugee camp in Africa.

実際の問題では  
ここに写真が掲載されています

Five young men, eager for the chance to play instruments or record music, welcome visitors with shy smiles. They sit beneath the settlement's oldest tree, a place that holds special meaning. This place became a space for young people to gather, share, and grow their creative talents.

“People always gathered under this tree to sing and dance,” explains Edward Byemba, a refugee from the neighboring country who arrived in Uganda seven years ago. Today he teaches music at the centre, but he still remembers those early days of making music outdoors. “This tree sheltered us until we grew and built the centre.”

One of his students, 21-year-old Ceaser Godfrey, steps forward to share his story.

“I used to be a headache to my community,” he admits. “I fought, drank alcohol, smoked cigarettes, did many things. People laughed at me, and I was unhappy.”

Godfrey's story is not unique. Uganda hosts 1.7 million refugees, mainly from neighboring countries, and about 75% of them are women and children. Roughly half are under 18, and a quarter are aged 15 to 24. Uganda's open-door refugee policy allows them to move freely, work, and access services like education and healthcare. Refugees often live side by side with Ugandan families, sometimes even staying with them before being resettled.

But in spite of these opportunities, many young people still carry painful memories from the past. Some turn to violence, alcohol or drugs. Godfrey admits he was one of

実際の問題では  
ここに画像が掲載されています

them. “When I was under the influence, I would forget about the blood flow I had seen,” he says softly. His parents were killed, and alcohol seemed like the only escape. Now, music has replaced alcohol as his way of healing. With his friends, he sings joyfully: “I am no longer a slave to sin. The old has gone, the new has come. I am free.”

The arts centre, run by the Ugandan NGO Sina Loketa, with support from international partners, was built to make this kind of transformation possible. Its founders believe that creative expression is a human right, and that music and dance are powerful tools for both healing past suffering and supporting community.

“People escape conflict and find that even within the settlement there is conflict,” says music teacher Victor Aluonzi, who comes from a Ugandan community nearby. “They experience conflict within themselves, with other refugees, and with host communities. Music helps us spread messages of peace and create a positive impact.”

One musician who lives out this mission is 29-year-old South Sudanese refugee Moses Modi. A traditional folk singer, he uses music to address the absence of peace. “If there is no peace, I will sing about peace. If there is hate, I will ask why,” he says. His songs are filled with longing for home, but also optimism for the future. “We, the youth, will return to our homes not with guns but with the lessons we’ve learned in Uganda.” When not performing, Modi works as a chef. But he believes music is his true calling. “Instead of fighting, we have dance competitions. People show off their culture and they are happy. We can cause change and still be happy.”

The centre itself is designed to serve both refugees and locals. Children play under its open spaces, while young artists fill the rooms with song and rhythm.

“It is not just about music,” Aluonzi says. “We are playing for change. Change in the economy, change in unity, less violence, and more healing.”

(adapted from an article from *The Guardian*)

- 9 What is the main purpose of the Bidi Bidi Performing Arts Centre?
- A. To solve the shortage of places selling musical instruments.
  - B. To provide refugees with jobs in the entertainment industry.
  - C. To host professional musicians who visit the refugee settlement.
  - D. To give refugees a place to express themselves and heal through art.
- 10 What is NOT TRUE about people in Bidi Bidi?
- A. They came to the arts centre to receive training to become famous musicians.
  - B. Some people still turn to alcohol or drugs because they are still struggling with emotional pain.
  - C. Some local people in Uganda, like music teacher Victor Aluonzi, also work in the camp to support refugees.
  - D. They use music and dance as a way to promote understanding and peace among people.
- 11 What does musician Moses Modi express through his songs?
- A. He criticizes the people who caused war and calls for revenge against them.
  - B. He wishes to leave Uganda soon and start a new life in another country.
  - C. He sings about the pain of losing his home and his dream of returning peacefully one day.
  - D. He focuses only on memories of his childhood before becoming a refugee.
- 12 Answer the following question in English. Write at least one complete sentence.

Why is the settlement's oldest tree special to people in Bidi Bidi?

Choose one of the questions below, and write a 120-150 word essay in English to answer it. Identify the question number of your choice on the answer sheet.

- 1 Do you agree or disagree that it's better to set one big goal rather than several smaller goals?
  
- 2 What is one thing that schools should teach more in the future?