

[ I ] Read the following passage and grasp the main ideas. Then, summarize each paragraph within 60 characters (including punctuation marks) in Japanese.

Only days after a British publisher came under fire for edits made to Roald Dahl's children's books, the *Telegraph*<sup>(注 1)</sup> revealed that James Bond was getting the same treatment. Just as Dahl's books would be adjusted to remove language that today's readers find offensive, the estate<sup>(注 2)</sup> of Bond author Ian Fleming has conducted a sensitivity review before an upcoming reissue of the spy novels.

It's hard for anyone to argue in favor of the language in question. In Dahl's case, offensive terms relating to race, gender, weight, and mental health have been rewritten. In Fleming's, language describing Black people has particularly come under the microscope, though Bond's notorious attitude toward women will reportedly remain. The reaction to the news is a case study in both why such a decision would draw scrutiny<sup>(注 3)</sup>, and why publishers and authors' estates may see it as in their best interest regardless.

Dahl, whose works have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide, is an illustrative example. In the years since his death in 1990, some have turned their focus to a number of racist and sexist tropes<sup>(注 4)</sup> in his works. Puffin Books, a children's imprint<sup>(注 5)</sup> of Penguin Books, worked with the Roald Dahl Story Company (RDSC) to review the texts before issuing new editions. RDSC says it hopes the resulting rewrites ensure that "Dahl's wonderful stories and characters continue to be enjoyed by all children today." Hundreds of changes have reportedly been made to Dahl's body of work. In *Matilda*, for example, a mention of going to India with English novelist Rudyard Kipling—who has been variously labeled a colonialist, a racist, and a misogynist<sup>(注 6)</sup> in recent years—has been cut and a reference to Jane Austen has been added.

Some critics, like Suzanne Nossel, CEO of PEN<sup>(注 7)</sup> America, have argued that Dahl's work should stand as it is, with new introductions to prepare readers with context. In a Twitter thread, she wrote that the "problem" with rewrites "is that there is

no limiting principle.” And Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie tweeted: “Roald Dahl was no angel but this is absurd censorship.” Amid the backlash<sup>(注8)</sup>, Penguin Random House announced that it would continue to publish “classic” versions of Dahl’s books alongside the revised versions.

Yet Karen Sands-O’Connor, a professor of children’s literature at Newcastle University, says there is a precedent<sup>(注9)</sup> for rewriting texts and a reason publishers do it. She says they have three choices: stop publishing the work and lose money, continue publishing the original texts amid controversy, or change the texts for today’s audience. Sands-O’Connor says the third is the “least problematic option”—but an even better approach is discovering new and exciting authors. “The books are out there,” she says, “people just need to look for them.”

(Adapted from an article by Armani Syed in *Time Magazine*, March 13/March 20, 2023)

(注1) *Telegraph* イギリスの新聞

(注2) estate 遺産管理団体

(注3) scrutiny 注視

(注4) trope 言葉のあや

(注5) imprint 出版社名

(注6) misogynist 女性蔑視者

(注7) PEN 国際ペンクラブ

(注8) backlash 反発

(注9) precedent 前例

〔 II 〕 Read the following two passages about attention span and answer the questions.

資料 1

Microsoft has conducted a study aimed at learning how modern technology is impacting the attention span of people who use it. They have published the results on their own website. The study consisted of surveying 200 people and administering EEG scans<sup>(注 1)</sup> to 112 volunteers.

The study was conducted in Canada and its main goal was to determine the impact of modern digital technology devices on attention spans as it relates to advertised material presented on various media. The surveys consisted of asking questions and asking people to play games that have been designed to measure attention span while allowing for metrics<sup>(注 2)</sup> to be taken. The EEG scans were administered while volunteers watched different types of media and engaged in various activities to note when attention wandered from one subject to another.

In analyzing the data obtained, the researchers found that the average attention span for the respondents and volunteers was just eight seconds, down from twelve back in 2000, and one second shorter than the average goldfish. They also found that using digital devices has caused an improvement in multi-tasking skills.

The researchers also found that those volunteers who used their digital devices more than others tended to have more trouble focusing in situations where attention was required. They also noted that early adopters who have used digital devices quite heavily have learned over time to front-load their attention<sup>(注 3)</sup>, allowing large amounts of information to flow in and to be processed before switching their focus to something else, resulting in an increase in bursts of high attention. The researchers suggest that this means they are better at determining what information they want to focus on and what to ignore.

On the other hand, the researchers also found that multiple-screen users (such as those who use their phones while watching TV on another screen) tend to have difficulty with filtering information that is coming at them on any of their devices. They

suggest that our brains are adapting to the new technology as it develops and a shorter attention span may simply be a normal side effect.

(Adapted from an article by Bob Yirka in *Medical Xpress*, May 15, 2015)

(注 1) EEG scan 脳波スキャン

(注 2) metrics 測定値

(注 3) front-load one's attention 何かに取り組む際, 始めの方により注意を払う

## 資料 2

Goldfish have a bad reputation. The notoriously ill-focused fish have long been believed to have terrible memories with an attention span of nine seconds. There is even a term “memory of a goldfish” that translates to “very poor memory.” Then, thanks to technology, we humans are said to have an even shorter attention span than those little orange aquarium pets: just eight seconds. This well-known “fact” has been repeated for many years now. Unless... it is actually a complete myth that is far, far <sup>(1)</sup> away from fact.

In the early 2000s, many people believed in the “three-second” version of the goldfish’s attention span. I guess part of the reason is that it is easy for us to visualize the silly little goldfish circling the same ring of water—so we believe the statement to be true. However, in 2013, scientists proved that it is a false belief. Further research even shows that goldfish can actually remember things for at least five months. They are far more intelligent than the popular conception would have us believe. So, you might want to think again before you say, “Man, my goldfish brain forgets things so easily!”

In 2015, Microsoft’s research team reported that the average human attention span lags one second behind goldfish. Within hours, they hit the headlines worldwide. Countless top newspapers and magazines shared the shocking news that Microsoft brought to the digital world. The Microsoft research included impressive-sounding quantitative surveys and neurological<sup>(註 1)</sup> studies and presented an infographic<sup>(註 2)</sup> that shows how human attention span is “dwindling” compared with that of a goldfish. <sup>(2)</sup> But, they were all wrong.

It is not totally their—or our—fault that we believe this “fact.” Who wouldn’t trust the largest software company in the world? While the research conducted by Microsoft is indeed “true”—meaning that it certainly exists—they don’t have a shred of empirical evidence about the goldfish myth. That goldfish infographic we saw all over the internet wasn’t actually based on findings from Microsoft’s own research. Rather, they got it from a research institute called Statistic Brain. Now, when you go to the Statistic Brain website, it offers a range of different sources for many other statistics. Yet, there

is apparently no single piece of evidence that goldfish have such a short attention span or memories as we believe they do.

In a world that is filled with distraction, it's easy to believe that we are more distracted than ever. It makes perfect sense to think of distraction as simply an inability to focus. Research shows that distractions cause a massive loss in our productivity. Employees generally spend 28% of their time dealing with distractions and unnecessary interruptions. But the thing is, distraction is much more complicated than just "regaining our focus." Shaun Buck says, "The problem isn't attention span; the problem is we have an infinite number of options to choose from."

Is the issue of our lack of focus merely because of our short attention span? Of course not. There are many other factors such as brain fog<sup>(注 3)</sup>, lack of sleep, or a poor routine. But we humans like to blame it on something other than ourselves, don't we? Thus, we believe that the internet is the cause of all our distractions. Yes, to some degree, it's true. But it's getting ridiculous how easily we can blame the internet every time we get distracted when we choose to waste our time scrolling through Instagram for four hours nonstop. A new study suggests that long before the internet, humans were a "cognitively impaired<sup>(注 4)</sup> species" who could only focus on one thing in a quarter of a second. This inability to focus is not a flaw<sup>(注 5)</sup>, but an evolutionary adaptation<sup>(3)</sup>: being able to switch between highly focused and diffused<sup>(注 6)</sup> attention gives us the ability to concentrate on complex tasks while also being aware of our surroundings. In other words, our attention isn't diminishing; we are becoming more ( ). We process information more intensively and we're almost always hungry for more. This process results in a hit of dopamine—the hormone that makes us "feel good"—which is released every time we do something rewarding, like when we choose to do something interesting instead of allowing ourselves to get easily sidetracked. It never hurts to learn about when to quit. As Seth Godin said: "We fail when we get<sup>(4)</sup> distracted by tasks we don't have the guts to quit."

The "fact" that human beings have a shorter attention span than goldfish isn't a fact at all. We let ourselves get sucked into an endless cycle of distraction and compare

ourselves to the goldfish—which is totally wrong. Then, we blame the internet, which actually doesn't produce any concrete solutions but just makes us dizzy, unhappy, and even damages our well-being. So please, enough with the goldfish myth already. If you want to keep talking about the problem of human attention span, at least leave the goldfish alone.

(Adapted from an article by Annisa RT in *Better Marketing*, June 2, 2021)

(注 1) neurological 神経学の

(注 2) infographic あるものを解説するために作ったコンピュータ画像

(注 3) brain fog 頭の中がモヤがかかったようにぼんやりとしてしまう状態

(注 4) impaired 障がいのある

(注 5) flaw 欠陥

(注 6) diffused 散漫な

問 1 資料 1 の研究が明らかにした内容として正しいものを下の①～⑤から三つ選び、番号で答えなさい。

- ① 複数の情報を同時に処理する能力が高まったこと。
- ② デジタル機器は人々の注意を引くように設計されていること。
- ③ 人間の集中力の持続時間が短くなっていること。
- ④ デジタル機器の使用頻度が高い人は、必要な場面でより集中力を欠く傾向があること。
- ⑤ 人間の脳は新しいデジタル技術に対応できていないこと。

問 2 資料 2 の下線部 (1) ともっとも近い意味で用いられている語句 2 語を資料 2 から抜き出しなさい。

問 3 資料 1 の研究報告が大きな話題になった理由として、資料 2 に書かれていないことを下の①～④から一つ選び、番号で答えなさい。

- ① 研究報告が視覚的でわかりやすかったから。
- ② 誰もが信頼する世界的企業による研究だったから。
- ③ 多くの有名な新聞や雑誌がこの報告を取り上げたから。
- ④ マイクロソフト社は客観的なデータを利用したから。

問 4 資料 2 の下線部 (2) ともっとも近い意味で用いられている 1 語を資料 2 から抜き出しなさい。

問 5 資料 2 の第 6 段落に書かれている、インターネットに対する筆者の見解を 60 字以内の日本語で書きなさい。句読点も字数に含めます。

問 6 資料 2 の下線部 (3) の意味する内容を 70 字以内の日本語で書きなさい。句読点も字数に含めます。



問 7 資料 2 の第 6 段落にある空欄を補うのもっともふさわしい語を下の①～④から選び、番号で答えなさい。

- ① demanding
- ② indifferent
- ③ careless
- ④ relaxed

問 8 資料 2 の下線部 (4) はどのような状況を指しているか。具体例としてもっともふさわしいものを下の①～④から選び、番号で答えなさい。

- ① 試験中、隣の席の貧乏ゆすりが気になって試験に集中できなかった。
- ② 大好きな英語ばかりを勉強したため、苦手な数学の学習が手薄になった。
- ③ 宿題に時間がかかりすぎて試験勉強ができなかった。
- ④ 試験中、眠くて試験に集中できなかった。

〔Ⅲ〕 Write your opinion about the underlined part of the following conversation in about 100 English words. Give one or more examples to support your view. Write the number of words that you used in the bracket at the top. (Do not include punctuation marks in your word count.)

**Yuki and Daisuke are discussing posting videos online.**

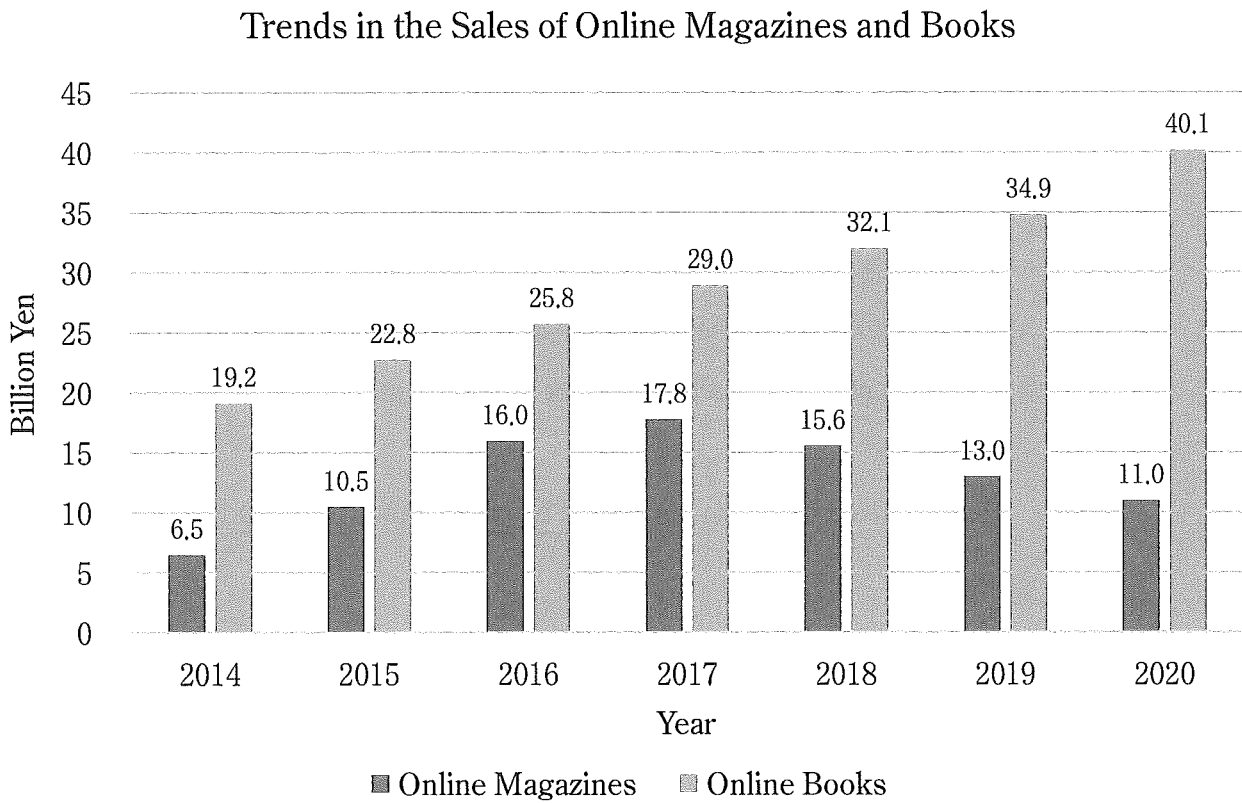
Yuki: Did you hear about Kentaro from the basketball club? Someone took a video of him playing basketball at the park and now it is all over the internet!

Daisuke: Wow, that's really cool. Did he make a three-point shot from very far away?

Yuki: Actually, it was because he was really bad at basketball. I am very worried that many strangers on the internet will laugh at him and post terrible things about him.

Daisuke: That does seem unfair. We should be careful about posting videos online.

[IV] The following graph shows trends in the sales of online magazines and online books. Describe the trends for the two categories and give possible reasons for those trends in about 100 English words. Write the number of words that you used in the bracket at the top. (Do not include punctuation marks in your word count.)



(This graph is based on *Statistical Handbook of Japan 2022*.)