

この紙のゴール：初めて読む英文から、大意と必要な情報を制限時間内につかむ / 本文はこの教材のための書き下ろし（初見用）です。

We use words every day that look perfectly simple, and "theory" is one of them. In ordinary conversation a theory is a guess: when someone says, "That's just a theory," the speaker means there is no proof for it yet.

In science the word carries almost the opposite sense. A scientific theory is an explanation that has been tested many times, by many different people, and has not yet failed. It is certainly not a first idea. A first idea is called a hypothesis, and most hypotheses are discarded after a handful of tests.

For that reason the phrase "just a theory" sounds odd inside a science classroom. The theory of gravity explains why a ball falls. The germ theory of disease explains why we wash our hands. Nobody in a laboratory would describe these as guesses.

The real trouble is not that the two meanings look different. It is that they look identical. A word may travel from one room into another, changing its sense along the way.

Before you argue about an idea, check which room its words are standing in. The words you believe you know are more dangerous than the words you do not.

〔語注〕 ordinary=ふつうの hypothesis=仮説 discarded=捨てられる identical=まったく同じ

設問 本文の内容に合うものを選ぼう。

(1) この文章がいちばん伝えたいことは？ **思考・判断・表現** 答え () 3点

- ア Scientists ought to avoid everyday words altogether and speak only in technical language.
- イ Every explanation that people call a theory has already been proved beyond any doubt.
- ウ One word can carry almost opposite senses in ordinary talk and in science.
- エ The explanations we have of gravity and of disease are still far from being tested.

(2) 科学でいう theory について、本文と合うものは？ **知識・技能** 答え () 3点

- ア It is the name given to a first idea, which scientists then spend years checking carefully.
- イ It is an explanation tested many times that has not yet failed.
- ウ It is an idea without proof, so the scientific sense matches the everyday one closely.
- エ It is an explanation that one scientist has confirmed in a single successful experiment.

(3) 「ただの理論だ」が science classroom で odd に聞こえるのはなぜ？ **知識・技能** 答え () 3点

- ア Because everyday words are not allowed inside a science classroom in the first place.
- イ Because nobody has ever run an experiment on gravity or on germs, and no proof exists.
- ウ Because scientists never use the word hypothesis and call every idea a theory instead.
- エ Because gravity and germs are explanations tested many times, not guesses.

(4) 最後の段落で筆者が言っているのは？ **思考・判断・表現** 答え () 3点

- ア When you meet an unfamiliar word, asking a person is faster and safer than opening a dictionary.
- イ Scientific words are difficult, so they are best kept out of ordinary conversation altogether.
- ウ Before an argument begins, find out how much the other person knows about the subject.
- エ Words shift their sense with the room they stand in, so check the ones you assume you know.

「ただの理論だ」と言うとき（標準） | 解答と出題のねらい

解答

(1)	ウ	第1段落と第2段落 In science the word carries almost the opposite sense.。ア・イ・エはいずれも本文にない、または本文と逆。
(2)	イ	第2段落 an explanation that has been tested many times, by many different people, and has not yet failed。イは hypothesis との取りちがえ。
(3)	エ	第3段落 The theory of gravity explains why a ball falls. と Nobody in a laboratory would describe these as guesses.。イは本文と逆、ウは第2段落と矛盾。
(4)	エ	最終段落 check which room its words are standing in と The words you believe you know are more dangerous than the words you do not。

出題のねらい 定期テストに移すときの観点マップ

同じI語が、日常の部屋と科学の部屋でほとんど反対の意味を持つという筋です。reading-15の〈数字の由来〉とも、14の〈仕組み→始まり→結び〉とも、12・13の〈感覚と逆〉とも違う〈語の意味は場所が変わる〉型で、theory と hypothesis の対がそのまま設問の骨になります。生徒が入試長文や理科の教科書でぶつかる語なので、読解の練習がそのまま他教科の足場になります。読んだあとに「日常と授業で意味がずれている語」を1つ挙げさせると、(4)の結びが自分の話になります。

設問	型	観点	テストでの使い方
(1)	大意（スキミング）	思考・判断・表現	概要把握。「科学は正しい」という一般論で止まらず、語の意味のずれが主題だと届くか
(2)	明示情報	知識・技能	科学での theory の定義（何度も試され、まだ破れていない説明）を、hypothesis と取りちがえずに拾う
(3)	明示情報	知識・技能	本文が挙げる2つの例（gravity・germ）から、「ただの理論」が science で通じない理由を選ぶ
(4)	筆者の結び	思考・判断・表現	結論の2文から、筆者が読者に勧めていることを選ぶ

3つの版の使い分け

同じトピック・同じ設問構造で、英文の語彙・構文と選択肢の言語だけを変えてあります（基礎=選択肢も日本語／標準=選択肢が英語／発展=設問も英語）。①クラスの帯に合わせて選ぶ ②同じクラス内で配り分ける ③基礎→標準→発展と日を空けて再挑戦—の3通りの使い方ができます。正解の記号は版ごとに違います（配り分けのときの写し合い対策にもなります）。

