使える英語コレクション（その 1）

別れの挨拶
"I'm glad we had this time together. Take care, OK ?"
"You too."

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申し出を喜ぶ。
"Would you mind if I came along ?"
"No. I'd really like that."

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難題を抱えて。
"How are we supposed to take care of the matter ?"
数日後、誰かが答える。
"We're making real headway, there is no question about that."

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笑える話
"You know why it's tough to find anything made in America ?"
"Because the only thing made in America these days is the decision to make it overseas."
これが庶民感覚？　軍需産業も航空機産業もある。　それに大農業国である。

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最近物忘れ置き忘れがひどい。
"Honey ! Have you seen my glasses ? I can't find them !"
"Not again ! How do you keep loosing them ?"
"Because I can't see to find them. That's how."
それに勘違いも。（二つの "how" に注目。）
だから愚痴もこぼれる。
"The older I get, the less sharp my mind becomes."

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時にはフランス語も使ってみたい。
"You bought a car. This is awsome ! Can we go for a drive ?"
"Mais, oui !"
"mais" は不承不承ではなく、"oui"の強調。

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対話も制裁も成果無し。
"We've exhausted diplomacy and sanctions have had no effect.
"You have no choice but to ....."
物騒なことは考えない方が良い。

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連日の猛暑に辟易。
"Why do you have your arm out the window ?"
"I'm heating up coffee."
"I'm glad this weather is good for something."
"Dang. It evaporated."
情景は？
そう。手にはコーヒー・カップが。
それにしてもカップが空になる暑さとは？

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熱波は笑っていられない。
"It's going to be very difficult to breathe.
"The air is going to be very thick.
"The young and the old should be very careful to stay in cool places,
because it's very dangerous."
気象学者の言葉です。

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NASA の大気物理学者はこう警告する。
"This is no like 'Centuries from now the ice sheets will melt.'
"This is 'In a few decades it will be dramatically different.'
"To me that's alarming."
地球温暖化により、熱波の頻度はますます激しくなる。

格言は古今東西変わらない。
"If thou art rich, thou'rt poor;
For, like an ass whose back with ingots bows,
Thou bear'st thy heavy riches but a journey,
And death unloads thee. "
Shakespeare, *Mesure for Measure*
舞台で朗々と吟じたくなる音韻が良い。
蛇足ながら、"bow" は鞍、"journey" は人生行路。
"Measure for Measure" は尺を以て尺に報いる、
即ち「しっぺ返し」。

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お祝いにはシャンペンを。
"Let's open the champagn."
"Don't try to move the cork.
"Tilt the bottle to forty-five degrees, then hold the cork and twist the bottles.
"It works easily."
しかし普通のワインは違う。ボトルを回してはいけない。

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独裁者は大変だナーと思う。
"Days and nights of continuous work, barely able to sleep,
my health, which has withstood all trials, was subjected to extreme stress and broke down."
腸内出血手術のため入院するキューバ国家評議会議長フィデル・カストロ(Fidel　Castro)が、弟のラウル・カストロ(Raúl Catro)第一副議長兼国防相に暫定的権限を委譲して。

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ニコール・キッドマンがブロードウェイで上演中の「ブルー・ルーム」で裸身を披露したらしい。これを見たヒュー・ヘフナーが言った。
"The vision of her with a cigarette in one hand and her knickers in the other .... will haunt my fantasies for months. I better add, she's a terrific actress."
蛇足だが注釈する。
ニコール・キッドマン(Nicole　Kidman)は、アカデミー主演女優賞を取った超人気俳優。ヒュー・ヘフナー(Hugh　Hefner)は、"Playboy"誌の発行人で、何としてもキッドマンの裸体で同誌を飾りたいらしい。即ち、"will haunt my fantasies for months"が本音。最後の"I better add, she's a terrific actress."は、本音を隠そうとする言訳か？

人は見かけによらぬもの。思わぬ人から思わぬ言葉が飛び出すこともある。
"The time of the bomb is in the past, it's behind us.
"Today is the era of thoughts, dialogue and cultural exchanges."
イラン大統領マームード・アーマディネジャド(Mahmoud Ahmadinejad)の言葉です。

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アスベスト訴訟に係る審理・和解手続の併合を禁じたミシガン州最高裁の決定を受けて、保険業協会の幹部は言う。
"From now on, each case will be tried or settled on its own merits, rather than bundling a large number of people who are not sick with one or two truly sick people.
"This also means that people sick from asbestos will get the individual attention they deserve. We may see faster resolution of those cases where the facts and injuries are clear."
ミシガン州議会が審議中の医療認定基準法(Medical Criteria Bill) -- 真性石綿症患者に対する補償を確実化する一方、将来的発症患者の権利保護を明確にする -- を意識した均整の取れた司法判断であると言われる。
さて日本では？
最近、国の原爆症認定基準には重大な欠陥があるとして、提訴者全員を原爆症として認定した広島地裁判決が出た。（提訴者全員？）

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この夏は、ニュー・オーリンズ(New Orleans)で地域的ベビー・ブーム(local baby boom)が起きている。35 才の母は言う。
"She is a Katrina evacuation baby.
"It was absolutely a blessing, but it was not planned, not expected."
昨夏ガルフ沿岸諸州を襲ったハリケーン・カトリーナ（8 月 29 日）とハリケーン・リタ（9 月 24 日）は歴史的大災害をもたらした。特に、ニュー・オーリンズ旧市街の浸水被害は大きく報道された。
「カトリーナ避難赤ちゃん」の両親は避難先のフロリダで、
'There was little else to do but sit around, watch the news and find comfort in each other's arms.'

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計画的出産（conscious decision to conceive)も多い。災害の後、経口避妊薬(pill)から排卵誘発剤(fertilization drug)に切り替えた夫婦が少なくない。22 才の母は言う。
"It's a blessing after everything we've been through.
"It's the calm after the storm. It brings peace to our lives and to our family, and joy.
"It's brought my family and friends much closer together. "
カトリーナの余波は続く。

'A federal judge in Mississippi ruled that an insurance company's policies do not cover damage from flood waters or storm surge in a decision that could affect hundreds of upcoming cases related to property damage from Hurricane Katrina.'
"storm　surge"は高潮。保険証券の文言を解釈すると、強風による被害ならよいが、風と水の複合被害は填補されない。判決は言う。
"This reading of the policy would mean that an insured whose dwelling lost its roof in high winds and at the same time suffered an incursion of even an inch of water could recover nothing under his Nationwide policy."
本当に？　証券の文言が意義曖昧なら受益者有利に解釈すべきなのだが？

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人生は楽しく過ごすもの。
"I'm not a man who constantly thinks up jokes. But I think it's very important to be able to see the funny side of life and its joyful dimension and not to take everything too tragically."
教皇ベネディクト 16 世(Pope Benedict XVI)の言葉です。

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"If you are in doubt whether to kiss a pretty girl, give her the benefit of the doubt."
法律用語「疑わしきは被告の有利に解釈せよ」から転じて、「彼女のため好意的に考えれば」逡巡するひまなどないのです。

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アメリカ人はジョーク好き。
Seated around a table in a London grill-room were some Americans and one Englishman.
A breezy American remarked, "I stayed out so late last night at a drinking-club that when I started home I met myself going to the office."
There was a general laugh. The Englishman smiled doubtfully.
Another America ventured: "You see the point, don't you? Just good-natured exaggeration."
"Yes," said the Englishman, a trifle more doubtfully: "I see. He would never recognize himself in that condition."
ここでは、ジョークで応酬した（しかも表情を加えて）イギリス人が優勢。