

Maya: Ms. Olsen, can I ask you something?

Ms. Olsen: Sure, what is it?

Maya: You always have that notebook with you. a

Ms. Olsen: I write down Japanese words that I don't know or I'm interested in, and *look them up each time. It's like my own dictionary.

Maya: I see. A the way, I learned the word "brunch." I'm interested in how the word was made. I heard it's a *mix of "breakfast" and "lunch."

Ms. Olsen: That's right. It was created because there are people who eat something later than breakfast but earlier than lunch.

Maya: I want to know other examples like that. (1)(tell / more)?

Ms. Olsen: Sure. There is "hangry," a mix of "hungry" and "angry." It means getting angry because you're hungry.

Maya: What a funny word! I understand that feeling. English is an interesting language.

Ms. Olsen: It is, and I think Japanese is too.

Maya: (2)(think)?

Ms. Olsen: Well, because Japanese people like to make new, shorter words like "*purezen*" from "presentation" and "*sumaho*" from "smartphone."

Maya: You're right. A shorter word is easier to use and sometimes just fun to say. It's the B with English, like "math" from "*mathematics," "anime" from "*animation," and "info" from "information," right?

Ms. Olsen: "Anime" is different. Actually, it was made by Japanese people. Japanese animation became popular around the world and "anime" became a new English word.

Maya: b It was *originally a Japanese word, wasn't it?

Ms. Olsen: That's right. "*Cosplay" is another example. It was also made in a similar way. Japanese people sometimes create new words from English words, and then they may return to English.

Maya: That's interesting. I heard there are more than 500 Japanese words in one of the most famous English dictionaries now.

Ms. Olsen: Yes. Also, 23 new Japanese words were added to that dictionary this year.

Maya: c I was happy to know people from other countries use Japanese words and learn about our culture. Words are like a bridge between cultures.

Ms. Olsen: Yeah, words travel across languages. I feel that words are *alive, always changing, and *connecting different cultures.

Maya: "Words are alive!" I've never thought like that.