次の英文を読み、和訳しなさい。

It is a well-known fact that same things are not funny to everybody. We have all at some time made what we consider to be a witty remark at the wrong time and in the wrong company, and have consequently suffered embarrassment to find the joke fall flat. Unspoken rules govern where, when, and with whom it is permissible to joke.

(東京大学)

Many young Japanese today don't even look for a full-time job these days but choose instead to work as permanent part-timers. The older generation finds this difficult to understand, because for them finding a job for life was a major goal. More and more young people, however, don't like the idea of working long hours and being unable to take plenty of vacation time, and would rather work only just enough to support themselves. Companies are happy with this situation because the salaries of part-time workers are lower than those of full-time workers.

(一橋大学)

次の英文を読み、和訳しなさい。

Imagine your brain as a house filled with lights. Now imagine someone turning off the lights one by one. That's what Alzheimer's disease does. It turns off the lights, so that the flow of ideas, emotions and memories from one room to the next slows and eventually ceases. And sadly — as anyone who has ever watched a parent, a sibling, or a spouse succumb to the spreading darkness knows — there is no way to stop the lights from turning off, no way to switch them back on once they've grown dim.

(徳島大学)

Since its launch in Britain in 1959, the Austin Mini has become an international icon. The popularity of the car has also spread all the way to Japan. It has become part of a new fashion wave among young people. Its good form, good colors, small size and small turning circle add to the appeal.

There are about 200 Mini clubs in Japan with a total of 130,000 Minis registered on the road. With this year being the 40th anniversary of the launch of the first Mini, a large number of events are being organized in Japan. A birthday event was held at the Tsukuba circuit in May. It included a six-hour endurance race of the Mini 1 model. Forty cars started the race with a remarkable 32 finishing. It was the first race of its kind anywhere in the world.

(東京都立大学)

次の英文を読み、和訳しなさい。

There must be something missing in human society if children grow up and become in their turn fathers and mothers, but do not know and acknowledge just what their mothers did for them at the beginning. I don't mean by this that children should thank their mothers for giving them life, or even for their home-making and management of family affairs. I am trying to draw attention to the immense contribution to the individual and to society which the ordinary good mother with her husband in support makes at the birth, and which she does simply through being devoted to her infant. We must not forget that we are in infinite debt to her.

(大阪女子大学)

Whether or not the Japanese may be an imitative people, the extent to which they are imitative, and the reason why they may be so, are questions that have been commented on both by many foreign observers of Japan and the Japanese themselves—in defensive as well as in criticism. But a question of equal interest is why we in the West are so sensitive to this issue, and why we feel that the act of copying constitutes such unforgivable behavior.

Perhaps this relates to our American drive to be different, to be individualistic, to lead others into unexplored fields rather than to follow the herd. As children we react to the charge of being a "copycat" with sharp anger; as adults, and especially if we are people working in the creative arts, being described as "a mere imitator" can be the harshest of criticisms.

(青山学院大学)