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# 私の 本棚

My favorite books



## ● Native Speakers' English Grammar

A book my father gave me and the first installation of the Native Speakers Series. When writing papers about research findings in English, I still find myself constantly worried about definite/indefinite articles, singular/plural usage, tense, prepositions, and which word to select from a list of synonyms. The book is divided into several parts such as "grammar" and "prepositions," with each section introduced depicting a native speaker's impression and sense of the subject with illustrations. I'm bad at English, but even I am able to absorb and learn the material.

## ● Doraemon

I think that some of Doraemon's gadgets have already come into existence, with mobile phones as the *ito-nashi ito-denwa* (string phone without a string) and automatic translators as the *honyaku-konnyaku* (translation gummy). I believe that other gadgets may also be invented in the future. When I think about how the authors planned these gadgets, I am both amazed by their ingenuity and feel as though they have presented scientists with a vision for what the end product of our research could be. While I have stressed the more serious side of Doraemon, I do simply enjoy getting lost in its story and the adventures that the characters go through. One of my personal favorites is the *baibain* (multiplication liquid) from volume 17. Here Doraemon teaches us how incredible " $2^n$ " is in an episode in which a *kuri-manju* (a Japanese confectionery containing chestnut paste) infused with *baibain* doubles every five minutes ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ).

## ● Polymer Electronics

A comprehensive breakdown of the synthesis, structure, and characteristics of conductive polymers. I find it particularly helpful as it also describes various methods for synthesizing conjugated polymers including specific reagent amounts and reaction temperatures, a rarity among reference books. When I started researching conjugated polymers, this kind of information was very helpful. Because the information on properties etc., is written in such a detailed and accessible way, I think it is a perfect primer for learning about conjugated polymers. This is one of the books I purchased at the recommendation of my supervisor in the laboratory when I was a postdoctoral researcher.

## ● A House Of 100 Stories

This is one book from the "A House Of 100 Stories" series. The books are organized around themes such as *sora* (sky) and *chika* (underground), with residents differing every 10 floors. In this picture book, people and animals invited to the house make their way to the one-hundredth floor. The residents vary depending on the theme, but examples include squirrels, ladybugs, wind, rainbows, and thunder, all living within a 10-stories in their own original and imaginatively designed rooms. I happened across this book while traveling a couple of years ago and was riveted by the novelty of the content and illustrations, the exuberance, and the format which keeps you wanting to find out what is on the next page. I honestly wish that I could delivery my research as well as this book tells stories.

## ● Quarterly Review of Chemistry No. 42: Inorganic-Organic Nanocomposites

When I was an undergraduate, I couldn't even imagine the combination of inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry. Then, as a graduate student I picked this book up at the library and was impressed with idea that the organic and inorganic could be combined, fusing together the positive aspects of both. In particular, I found it impressive that functional molecules were introduced (intercalated) between the layers of the layered inorganic compound, and the molecules were aligned in the nanoscale space. At that time, I was lucky enough to get an autograph from the professor who edited this book, who in turn encouraged me to work hard so that I could make a similar book in the future.