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I 次の英文を読んで、後の設問に答えなさい。なお、* の付いている語(句)には本文の最後に注があります。

【 A 】 When foreign tourists return home, they tell their friends and family: “Japanese people are so kind and polite.” If you ask for directions, someone won’t just tell you; they’ll walk you to your destination*. If they cannot help you with directions, they will feel very sorry, and sometimes even show this with a bow.

Also, Japanese people are always giving compliments*. For example:

“You speak Japanese so well!”

“You look like David Beckham!”

【 B 】 Most believe that Japanese people are more polite than people in their own country! You won’t get compliments on your language ability in a Western country. Somebody might give you directions. Or they might say “sorridunno” (that’s “I’m sorry I don’t know” said very fast!) and turn away.

Most foreign people are happy to live in such a polite country — a country more polite than they can possibly imagine. Japan even encourages them to try harder to be more polite. What a good thing!

Foreign visitors to Japan may hope that every place in the world will be this polite.

Then a door hits them in the face.

【 C 】 It is a great shock. Getting hit in the face by a door is not such a shock. It’s a surprise, but one that is quickly over. But getting hit in the face by a door in “the most polite country in the world” is a shock. It is a very big shock that causes Western people deep confusion*.

【 D 】 “It’s a habit. You do it without even thinking about it,” explains Dave, an American in Tokyo. “I don’t really think of myself as a polite person. But I always hold the door open.

It's just natural."

Dave explains this natural process: "When you pass through the door, look quickly behind you to see if anyone is following. If there is someone following, (1) [] it. Then the person behind you puts out his or her hand to catch the door. This continues from person to person."

"It's like a relay race," says Dave. "The door gets handed to each person coming."

The only (2) is a woman with a baby stroller*. If the person behind you is a woman (or man!) with a baby stroller, it is the custom to hold the door open wide and let that person pass through. This is so that the person pushing the stroller doesn't have to bother with the door.

"I guess we do this because we feel sorry for the woman. It must be very hard to hold the door and push a baby stroller at the same time! And what happens if the door hits the stroller? [a]," says Dave.

Dave wonders: "Why don't Japanese people hold the door open for each other? They do so many other things that are more polite than this! Why not do this one simple little thing? Like I said, I don't think I am a very polite person. But at least I do this. It's easy."

"I guess politeness means different things in different countries," continues Dave. "For instance, in Japan, it's okay to pick your nose in public, but not blow your nose. In America it is the opposite; you can blow your nose in public, but you can't pick it. But when you think about it, they're both equally rude."

(3) Or maybe it isn't a question of politeness at all, Dave wonders.

"Maybe people in Tokyo are too used to automatic doors? Or because traditional sliding doors don't hit people in the face like Western doors? So they never made a habit of holding the door open for people? [b]!"

Dave was in Japan for about a week, and then the first door hit in his

face. He expected the person in front of him to hold the door, but that person didn't. Dave was right behind the person. So he walked right into the door!

"I felt really stupid," says Dave. "Probably I looked like a fool. But still, I thought this was an exception. It took a few more doors for me to learn (4)my lesson."

Still, it is hard for Dave to break his habit. He still holds the door open for people.

"Really, I'm not trying to be nice. It's just a habit. But some people seem really surprised by it. Then they bow and say thank you! (5)I feel sorry, because I don't think I should be thanked!"

Sometimes, however, this habit causes confusion. As Dave explains: the point isn't to hold the door all the way — just to hold the door until the next person can put their hand out to catch it. But since people in Japan don't have this custom, sometimes they don't reach for the door!

"I've found myself holding the door open for several people in a row. [c]. I don't want the door to hit anyone. So I just keep standing there holding the door. Once, I had to hold the door open for about twenty women. Maybe they thought it was my job!"

Dave wonders if he should give up holding the door, or if he should continue.

"I'd like to take the best from both cultures. Take the things that are good about American culture and the things that are good about Japanese culture and put them together: that would be best. I think it is nice to hold the door open for people. [d]. But on the other hand, doing so makes me stand out. It makes me feel more like a foreigner."

"Anyway," Dave says, "I'm happy there are so many automatic doors in Japan, so I don't have to worry about it too much."

(Adapted from *John's Chopsticks*)

注 : destination 目的地 compliments お世辞 confusion 混乱
a baby stroller (折りたたみ式の) ベビーカー

問 1 空所【 A 】～【 D 】に入れるのに最も適当なものを次の①～⑤の中から一つずつ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。ただし、いずれも一度しか用いることはできません。

- ① This happens to every single Western person at least once.
- ② Japanese people find it difficult to hold the door open for other people.
- ③ In Western countries, it is the custom to hold the door open for someone coming behind.
- ④ People around the world are impressed with Japanese people's politeness.
- ⑤ Westerners really and truly do believe that Japanese people are polite.

問 2 空所 [a] ～ [d] に入れるのに最も適当なものを次の①～⑤の中から一つずつ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。ただし、いずれも一度だけしか用いることはできません。

- ① They just keep coming ② That will be terrible
- ③ I don't know ④ It's friendly
- ⑤ Well done

問 3 空所 (1) の [] に入る英文を完成させるとき 4 番目と 6 番目に来るものを次の①～⑦の中から一つずつ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

If there is someone following, [() () ()
(4 番目) () (6 番目) ()] it.

- ① until ② the door ③ reaches ④ your hand
- ⑤ the other person ⑥ keep ⑦ on

問 4 空所 (2) に入れるのに最も適当なものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① exercise ② example ③ examination ④ exception

問 5 下線部 (3) のように Dave が思う理由として適当でないものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① He thinks there are many doors in Tokyo which open and close automatically.
- ② He thinks traditional Japanese sliding doors don't hit people in the face like Western ones.
- ③ He thinks the Japanese don't have the habit of caring about whether there is someone behind them or not.
- ④ He thinks many Japanese people are usually in a hurry and they have no time to care about whether there is someone behind them or not.

問 6 下線部 (4) が表す内容として最も適当なものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① People hold the door open for him in Japan.
- ② People want him to hold the door open in Japan.
- ③ People don't hold the door open for him in Japan.
- ④ People want to hold the door open for him in Japan.

問 7 下線部 (5) のように考える理由として最も適当なものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① He thinks he is polite enough to hold the door open.
- ② He thinks there is a law that says people must hold the door open.
- ③ He thinks it's his habit to hold the door open.
- ④ He thinks he wants everyone to thank him.

Ⅱ 次の英文を読んで、後の設問に答えなさい。なお、*の付いている語(句)には本文の最後に注があります。

I called my ninety-year-old mother early one Friday morning in October to invite her to lunch. Before accepting the invitation, she had to check her calendar to see what activities there were at the retirement home* that day. She didn't like to miss anything.

My husband and I were leaving the next morning for a week of vacation in San Diego*, and I needed to buy a few more goods for the trip. So, before picking up my mother, I hurried to the department store.

(1)I was a little angry with myself. Though I knew I was already feeling overwhelmed* with so much to do for the trip, I asked my mother out to lunch and made the day busier. I was taking a day off from work that day, because I needed more time to get ready. Maybe it was wrong to make the lunch plan. There wasn't much time left for my shopping. But I knew that if I didn't call her, I would feel sorry about leaving for a week in California without seeing her.

As I was walking through a department store I noticed they were having a sale on black shoes. Those shoes were just the ones I wanted. I took the first chair in a row* of about eight, quickly tried them on and decided to buy them.

“Those looked nice on you. Are they comfortable?”

I looked down the row of chairs. A lady about seventy years old was sitting on the last one of the row. She was just sitting there, and she looked pretty in her pink blouse, white skirt, pearl necklace and very sweet smile. She wasn't trying on shoes and it was clear she didn't work there.

I answered, “Yes, and they are very comfortable.”

“Do you think they will be too winter-looking for California?”

“It's funny you should say that,” I answered in a surprised tone of voice, “(2).”

“You are?” she said. “Well, I’m leaving for California on Monday morning to live in San Diego, though I’ve never been to California before.”

In a sad voice she continued. “My husband died earlier this year. We lived in Cincinnati* and now I still remain in the same house. We have one son, and he and his family live in San Diego. With his encouragement and help, I sold my house, and my favorite things are going to arrive at the retirement home in San Diego that my son has chosen.” “Oh, that’s nice,” I said. “You’ll live closer to your son and you can see more of him.”

Her voice broke when she said, “But I’m afraid. I’ve lived in Cincinnati since I was born. (3)I am (a) giving up my home and so many of my things, (b) I’m leaving my friends, too.” As she continued her story, she rose from her chair and moved closer to me. We sat down side by side, and I put my shoe box and purse down on the floor.

After listening for a few moments I said, “You know, my ninety-year-old mother lives in a retirement home and she, too, was very afraid about making such a big move four years ago.” I then told her that my mother and father were married fifty-five years before he died. My mother was a housewife and mother of nine children, so she was always thinking about her family. There was not much time for social activities other than the times she volunteered to help at church events. Her life was her family, so when the time came for her to make the decision to sell her home, she was afraid, too.

When she decided on a retirement home, my sisters and I looked for the one closest to us and helped her with the move. Of course, we were worried about whether she would like that lifestyle. Well, she has enjoyed it from the day she moved in! She is friendlier than she ever has, and there are so many activities at the retirement home. She likes to join all of them.

This stranger and I talked like we were old friends from long ago. After a few minutes we stood up to say good-bye. She thanked me and said she

felt much better. I felt a special friendship with her and said, “You see, I was feeling overwhelmed with so much to do today, and a little angry about getting myself in a situation that left me with little time to myself. It was nice to talk with you. Now I am sure that my mother likes her new lifestyle. How happy I am to still have her with me!”

“Oh,” she said, “your mother is so lucky to have you for a daughter. I can see that you love her.”

“Yes, and your son loves you so much that he wants you to be closer to him. I’m sure he has chosen a very nice retirement home, and you are such a pleasant person that you won’t have any trouble fitting in and making new friends. Besides, San Diego is a beautiful city and you will love the weather.”

We stood up, held each other’s hands, and said good-bye.

While I was driving toward my mother’s home, I felt suddenly relaxed.
(4) I just knew that my mother and I were going to have a most enjoyable afternoon.

(Adapted from *Chicken Soup for the Soul*)

注： retirement home 老人ホーム San Diego サンディエゴ（都市名）
overwhelmed まいっている row 列
Cincinnati シンシナティ（都市名）

問 1 下線部(1)の理由として最も適当なものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① 旅行の準備が終わっていないために、仕事を休まなければならなかったから。
- ② 一緒に食事をするにも、母のスケジュールに合わせなければならぬから。
- ③ 母と昼食を共にする約束をしたことで、さらに時間に余裕がなくなってしまったから。
- ④ せっかく仕事を休んだのに、旅行の準備で休みがつぶれてしまいそうだから。

問 2 空所(2)に入る英文として最も適当なものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① because I've never been to California before.
- ② because I'm now here in Cincinnati, not in California.
- ③ because I'm leaving for California tomorrow morning.
- ④ because I saw you for the first time today.

問 3 下線部(3)の (a) (b) に入る語の組み合わせとして最も適当なものを次の①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- ① (a) either (b) or
- ② (a) neither (b) nor
- ③ (a) not (b) but
- ④ (a) not only (b) but

問 4 下線部(4)のような心境になった理由を最もよく表しているものを次の

①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

① Because I could get to know a beautiful old lady while shopping.

② Because I could find good shoes and buy them at a low price.

③ Because I was happy to finish my shopping for the trip.

④ Because I realized how happy I was to have lunch with her.

問 5 本文の内容に合うように、次の各英文を完成させる場合、空所に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ①～④の中から一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

(イ) I asked my mother out to lunch because ().

① I knew she would feel sad if I didn't tell her anything about my vacation trip

② I knew she would miss me while I was away on vacation in California for a week

③ I knew I would not feel good if I didn't see her before going on vacation

④ I knew I had to tell her I couldn't have lunch with her for a week

(ロ) After I listened to the old lady's story, I began to tell her about my mother because ().

① I wanted to make myself feel better by talking to someone

② I felt like we were old friends and wanted her to know about my mother

③ I wanted her to know that my mother was happy at the retirement home

④ she was such a nice lady that I wanted to be friends with her

(ハ) While my mother was married to my father, ().

- ① she was so tired every day that she couldn't do many things for her family
- ② she wasn't happy because she was too busy to join social activities
- ③ she didn't usually join social activities because she didn't like to go out
- ④ she usually stayed at home and took care of her family

問6 以下の英文が、本文の内容と一致する場合には①を、一致しない場合には②をマークしなさい。

- (1) I already had so much to do, but I thought I had to meet my mother that day.
- (2) Before I had lunch with my mother, I had to go to the department store to buy new shoes.
- (3) The lady about seventy years old was going to leave for California the next morning.
- (4) When I was spoken to by an old lady, I thought she was a clerk at the department store.
- (5) The lady was afraid to move to California and I could understand her feelings.
- (6) As soon as my mother moved to the retirement home, she began to enjoy her new life.
- (7) While talking with the lady, I remembered that my mother was very important to me and that it was wonderful to still be with her.

(お わ り)