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JAPAN STILL BEHIND IN ACCEPTING PHYSICALLY DISABLED PEOPLE

日本人の福祉への理解は深まっているでしょうか？

障害を持つ人々に対する考え方はさまざまに変わってきています。私たちは、障害者に対してどの程度理解を深めているのでしょうか。障害者とともに住みよい社会を築くために、私たちは何をすべきでしょうか？

WARM-UP DIALOG

CD TRACKS 1-2

▶ 日本語を参考に、CD を聴いて () に適切な語を入れましょう。

Mariko: Excuse me, can I (1) you?

Satoru: Yes, please. I want to cross the street but there is much traffic.

Mariko: O.K. Please take my hand and I will help you to go across.

Satoru: Thank you. I sometimes get (2) crossing busy streets.

Mariko: Just hold my hand. There is no reason to be nervous. I'll walk (3) your side.

Satoru: I worry that a car might hit me by (4).

Mariko: Don't worry. People are here to help you.

* * * * *

Satoru: You are very kind to see me across the street.

Mariko: It's my (5).

Satoru: Thank you for your help.



真理子：お手伝いしましょうか？

悟：はい、お願いします。通りを渡りたいのですが、交通量が多いものですから。

真理子：わかりました。私の手につかまってください。ごいっしょしましょう。

悟：ありがとうございます。通りを渡る時には不安になるものですから。

真理子：私の手を握っていてくれれば、ご心配には及びません。あなたのそばを歩きますから。

悟：あやまって車に轢かれるのではないかと考えて。

真理子：大丈夫。みんながお手伝いしますよ。

* * * * *

悟：助けていただいて本当にすみません。

真理子：どういたしまして。

悟：ありがとうございました。

FOCUS ON KEY WORDS

次の1から5の単語の意味を、a～eより選んで、線で結びましょう。

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. street crossing | a. 手話 |
| 2. wheelchair | b. 横断歩道 |
| 3. blind people | c. 視覚障害者 |
| 4. sign language | d. 点字 |
| 5. Braille | e. 車椅子 |

GETTING READY TO READ

次の()に、下の語群から適語を選んで入れてみましょう。

1. In the past life for the disabled was very () but today social awareness of the needs of the handicapped has made it easier.
昔は、障害を持つ人たちの生活は厳しかったが、今日では障害者が必要としていることへの社会の理解が進み、より楽になりました。
2. If we help the handicapped the world will become a () place for everyone.
私たちが障害者を支援するならば、すべての人にとってより住みよい社会になります。
3. Yellow tiles () raised surfaces are used on train platforms to guide the blind.
駅のホームで用いられている表面がでこぼこの黄色いタイルの道を歩くと、目の不自由な人も安心して歩けます。
4. It has become more () to find Braille both in restaurants and stores.
最近では、レストランでも商店でも点字が使われているのが見かけられるようになりました。

common / difficult / better / worse / with / have / best / in

READING PASSAGE

英文を読んで、設問 A , B に答えましょう。



There are about three million disabled people in Japan. The life of handicapped people in Japan is better today than before. For example, for blind people there is music at street crossings to help them. Also, special buses have lifts and ramps for wheelchairs. In addition there are public toilets for handicapped people in most places.

However, both the government and most people do not fully understand the special needs of the handicapped. Countries in northern Europe, for example, have advanced facilities for the disabled. In Japan people still do not realize that helping the handicapped will make the world a better place for everyone to live.

During World War II people made fun of handicapped persons in Japan. They were called “worthless” because their disability prevented them from fighting for their country. When the war ended in 1945 a large number of disabled soldiers came back from the front line and the government found it necessary to help them. Also at that time many disabled people demanded their rights. Since then laws helping the handicapped have been passed.

In addition, their living conditions have become easier. Yellow tiles, for example, with raised surfaces can often be found on sidewalks and train stations throughout the country to help the blind. Such tiles were introduced in the sixties. They are used a lot on train platforms so that people who step on them know that they should not walk any further.

Although still not very common, some restaurants have introduced Braille menus and some department store clerks can use sign language. But, these measures are far from enough. What we need now is to make the public aware of the problems faced by the handicapped everyday.

Notes : not fully ... 「十分に～ではない」 make fun of ... 「～をからかう」 prevent A from B 「A が B できない」 front line 「戦線」 living conditions 「生活状態」 throughout the country 「国中で」 not ... any further 「これ以上～しない」 clerk 「店員」 far from ... 「～からほど遠い」

A 本文に合うように，文中の（ ）の中から適語を選びましょう。

1. The music at street crossings helps (the aged persons / blind people / children) to cross the streets.
2. One of the countries which has advanced facilities for the handicapped is (India / Denmark / Brazil).
3. (All people / Not all people / No people) fully understand the special needs of the handicapped.
4. Disabled people began to demand their rights (during / after / before) World War II.
5. Yellow tiles can often be found (in the middle of the streets / on the sidewalks / on the railroads).

B 本文の内容を踏まえて，下の質問に答えましょう。

1. In what way is the life of handicapped people in Japan better today than it was before?

Because there is () at the street crossings for () () and special buses for wheelchairs.

2. How many disabled people are there in Japan?

There are about () () disabled people in Japan.

3. In what year did World War II end?

It ended in ().

WRITING PRACTICE

READINGの英文を参考にして，次の日本語を英語に直しましょう。

1. 北欧の国々では障害者に対する施設は進んでいます。
2. 最近では，デパートの店員さんの中にも手話ができる人が増えてきました。
3. 今日の日本で大切なことは，障害者が何を必要としているかを誰もが知ることです。