

1 次の文章を読んで、1～7の問いに英語で答えなさい。

It's Christmas Eve, December 24, 1914. The night is clear and cold. Moonlight illuminates the snow covered land separating the British and German trenches outside a small town in northern France. British military command, feeling nervous, sends a message to the front lines: it is thought possible the enemy may attack during Christmas or New Year. Extra caution will be maintained during this period. The military command has no idea what's really about to happen.

Around seven or eight in the evening, British soldier Albert Moren blinks in disbelief. What's that on the other side? Lights flicker on, one by one. Lanterns, he sees, and torches, and... Christmas trees? That's when he hears it — soldiers singing in German, “*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht.*” Never before had the Christmas music sounded so beautiful. “I shall never forget it,” Moren says later. “It was one of the highlights of my life.”

Then, in response, the British soldiers start singing “The First Noel.” The Germans applaud, and counter by singing “*O Tannenbaum.*” They go back-and-forth for a while, until finally the two enemy camps sing “O Come, All Ye Faithful” in Latin, together. “This was really a most extraordinary thing,” soldier Graham Williams later recalled, “two nations both singing the same Christmas music in the middle of a war.”

Events just north of a small town in western Belgium go further still. From the enemy trenches, Corporal John Ferguson hears someone call out, asking if they want some tobacco. “Come towards the light,” shouts the German. So Ferguson walks out into no-man's land — into the field between both armies.

“We were soon speaking as if we had known each other for years,” he later wrote. “What a sight — little groups of Germans and British talking together almost as far as the eye can see! Out of the darkness we could hear laughter and see lighted matches. ... Here we were laughing and chatting to men who only a few hours before we were trying to kill!”

The next morning, Christmas Day, the bravest of the soldiers again climb out of the trenches. Walking past the barbed wire, they go over to shake hands with the enemy. Then they wave “come on!” to those who'd stayed behind. “We all cheered,” remembered soldier Leslie Washington of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, “and then we all came out together like a football crowd.”

Gifts are exchanged. The British offer chocolate, tea and cakes; and the Germans share cigars, sauerkraut and schnapps. They make jokes and take group photographs as though it's a big, happy reunion. More than one game of football is played, using helmets for goal posts. One match goes 3-2 to the Germans, another goes to the British, 4-1.

In northern France, the opposing sides hold a joint burial service. “The Germans formed up on one side,” Lieutenant Arthur Pelham-Burn later wrote, “the English on the other, the military officers standing in front, helmets off, heads bowed in respect.” As their friends are laid to rest — friends killed by enemy bullets — they sing in English “The Lord is My Shepherd” and the same song in German “*Der Herr ist mein Hirt*” — their voices in unison.

That evening, there are Christmas dinner parties up and down the lines. One English soldier finds himself invited into the German held zone to a wine cellar, where he and a soldier from southern Germany pop open a bottle of 1909 French champagne. The men exchange addresses and promise to meet up in London or Munich after the war. (B)You’d have a hard time believing it happened, if it weren’t for all the evidence.

For a long time, the Christmas truce of 1914 was treated as a myth — as nothing more than a sentimental fairy tale. After the holidays the war resumed. Millions more soldiers were killed, and what had actually happened that Christmas became increasingly hard to believe. However, thanks to many, many interviews with the soldiers who were there, we now know that more than 100,000 soldiers really did lay down their guns that day.

Hatred can be transformed into friendship and bitter enemies can shake hands. That’s something we can believe in — not because we are entitled to be naïve, but because it actually happened. The peace of Christmas 1914 was not an isolated case — similar things have happened during many wars, but nowhere was it as widespread and sudden as that Christmas.

〈出典〉 Rutger Bregman, *Human Kind, A Hopeful History* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020) (一部改変)

trenches	塹壕(ざんごう)
applaud	拍手喝采する
barbed wire	有刺鉄線
Corporal	(陸軍)伍長
sauerkraut	a kind of German pickles
schnapps	an alcoholic drink
burial service	葬儀
champagne	シャンパン
truce	休戦
sentimental	感傷的な

Please write in full sentences to answer the following questions in English.

1. Who lit up lanterns, torches, and Christmas trees on that night in 1914?
2. What happened after the lanterns and torches were lit?
3. What did Corporal John Ferguson do when he heard the voice from the Germans?
4. Who are “they” in the underlined part (A) “Then they wave ‘come on!’ to those who’d stayed behind”?
5. Paraphrase underlined part (B) by completing the following sentence:
You can believe that it happened because _____.
6. Did the war end as a result of the Christmas truce?
7. What central message does the writer want us to understand from this story?

2 次の文章を読んで、1～6の問いに英語で答えなさい。

I talk to strangers. Even on the subway. I have had loads of pleasant chats and, of course, a few awkward ones. I've benefitted from some of these conversations, learning new things and getting helpful advice and recommendations. Even when the conversations are just average, they add up, and make me feel more trust and less fear towards others. Research shows that talking to strangers can improve our mood and make us feel more connected. So why don't we talk to each other more often? Maybe we're not convinced that we know how to do it. The good news is that it's not as hard as you think, and you're probably already better at it than you know!

First things first: starting a conversation. There are lots of ways to do this, and I urge you to experiment. First, you can comment on (A) your shared situation, including the old classics: the weather, the traffic. This may seem too ordinary, but you just need a way to connect, before you can move on, to other more interesting topics.

Another option is to start with a compliment. It's fun to deliver compliments, and (B) fun to receive compliments, especially from a stranger. Compliments seem easier to believe when they come from someone who doesn't know you. Use your skills of observation and tap into your curiosity to ask questions, or ask for advice.

Now that the conversation is rolling, some of the same strategies will help you keep it flowing smoothly: comment on things you have in common, and exercise your observational skills and curiosity. People like it when you ask follow-up questions, because it demonstrates that you are listening deeply, rather than just thinking of what to say next.

You might consider disclosing something about yourself, which demonstrates trust and encourages sharing. I once started a conversation with a lady on the subway by asking her how her day had been going so far. She gave a reserved response, and I thought the conversation might be over (not all conversations are successful). Then she asked me the same question, and I told her that I had had an adventure (being interviewed on BBC Radio!). In return, she shared with me that she had just found out she was pregnant! She felt safe telling a stranger on the subway, who she would never see again. (C) I felt so honored! Hugs were exchanged.

Unfortunately, ideas about "stranger danger" are widespread, so sometimes people won't want to talk to you. (D) This happens a lot less often than you would think. In our week-long study, participants said: "I was worried people would prefer to be left alone,

but that was never the case,” and “I was never turned down by anyone.” If someone doesn’t want to talk, remember that they may be nervous too, or reading a really good book, or caught up in their own personal drama. Their reaction is not necessarily a judgment of you and your approach. Respect their decision, and when you try again, you’ll find plenty of people who would appreciate that.

Why not be brave, and start a conversation with someone? You’re more capable than you think, and (E)both of you are likely to enjoy it more than you expect.

〈出典〉 Gillian M. Sandstrom, “Nervous about talking to strangers? It’s not as hard as you think, and you’re probably already better at it than you know!” (2019), Web. (一部改変)

Please answer the following questions in English. Full sentences are not always required in this section.

1. What good effects on her feelings has the writer had thanks to speaking to strangers repeatedly?
2. Regarding underlined part (A), write an example of something you could say to a stranger talking about a “shared situation.”
3. Regarding underlined part (B), why is it fun to receive a compliment from a stranger?
4. Regarding underlined part (C), answer the two questions.
 - (1) What in the conversation made the writer feel honored?
 - (2) Why does it “honor” the conversation partner?
5. Regarding underlined part (D), what does “This” refer to?
6. Who does “both of you” in underlined part (E) refer to?

3 以下の英文の問いについて,80~100ワード程度の長さで1パラグラフの文章を

英語で書きなさい。ただし文章には次の要素を含めること。

- (1) この案に賛成か反対かを表明する文
- (2) 自分の意見をサポートする理由2つ以上

In Iceland, the government created a system to support gender equality. Under this system, mothers and fathers are strongly encouraged to take 6 months of childcare leave each when a new baby is born. That means each parent takes 6 months off from work by turns so that the baby can be taken care of for a total of 1 year. During childcare leave, the parent receives 80% of their normal income while they look after the baby. Are you for or against the idea of creating a similar system in Japan?