

I. 次の英文を読み、設問に答えなさい。

In the early spring, you can find violets in shady spots. When these delicate purple flowers are (1) to light, they close up and shrink—that is, they become small. Sometimes English speakers use the phrase *shrinking violet* to refer to a very shy person. Like the violet, these individuals (ア). Since they cannot communicate with other people, they feel lonely, afraid and sad.

Shyness is a serious problem for many people, but it can be overcome. The challenge is how to stop being shy.

First, you must remember that (2) is born shy. Discover why you have become shy. Maybe you have negative feelings about yourself and think that you are not as attractive, popular or smart as your friends. Maybe you are afraid of making mistakes at school or at work. Maybe you worry that people won't like you. Whatever the reason or reasons, you have become a shrinking violet.

Second, learn to relax. You must (3) the tension from your body and the stress from your mind. Breathing is one of the best relaxation techniques. As you breathe deeply and slowly, your body begins to feel lighter and your mind clearer. Listening to soft, gentle music may help you forget your shyness.

Third, you must change your (4). Stop being negative. Fill your mind with thoughts about (イ). Create a positive self-image. Make new friends. Believe in yourself. If you want to overcome your shyness, you can do it!

Last but not least, develop your communication skills. Conversation is one of the best ways to connect with other people (5) it allows you to share your ideas, thoughts, and emotions. Conversation does not always have to be serious. At times, it's fun to engage in *small talk*—that is, friendly conversation about unimportant matters. Small talk may be superficial, but it encourages socialization.

Communication makes us part of the human community. (6) it, we are alone. That is why it is important to overcome your shyness. Don't be a shrinking violet!

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問1. 空所(1)～(6)に入れるのに最も適切な語句を1つずつ選びなさい。

- (1) a. attached b. driven c. exposed d. invited
- (2) a. everybody b. nobody c. somebody d. the person
- (3) a. release b. remember c. renew d. report
- (4) a. attitude b. hobby c. job d. major
- (5) a. although b. because c. if d. unless
- (6) a. Along b. Beyond c. Under d. Without

問2. 空所(ア)に入れるのに最も適切なものを1つ選びなさい。

- a. change their shape over time
- b. enjoy being in the center of people
- c. like to be in the dark
- d. withdraw when they are in public

問3. 空所(イ)に入れるのに最も適切なものを1つ選びなさい。

- a. being outside rather than being inside
- b. wearing brightly colored clothes rather than darker colored clothes
- c. what you can do rather than what you can't do
- d. what you didn't do rather than what you did

問4. 本文の内容のタイトルとして最も適切なものを1つ選びなさい。

- a. Developing Communication Skills Is Important
- b. Everybody Is Born Shy
- c. How to Avoid Being a Shrinking Violet
- d. You Can Become a Positive Shrinking Violet

問5. 本文の内容と一致するものをa～hより3つ選びなさい。

- a. Shrinking violet is a new species of flower.
- b. There is only one way to beat shyness.
- c. It's important to find out the cause of shyness.
- d. Breathing isn't associated with relaxation.
- e. Any kind of music may help people relax.
- f. Overcoming shyness requires positive thinking.
- g. If you want to make new friends, small talk is not appropriate.
- h. The more you communicate with others, the more you can overcome shyness.

II. 次の対話において、(1) ~ (8) の空所に入れるのに最も適切なものを1つずつ選びなさい。

1. A : I think I left my wallet at home.
B : [(1)]
A : No, I didn't see it there.

a. Do you have it now?	b. Why did you bring it?
c. Is it in your bag?	d. Is it your new wallet?

2. A : My phone isn't charging.
B : [(2)]
A : I think the cable is broken.

a. Did you lose it?	b. How did you do that?
c. What's wrong with it?	d. It's already charged.

3. A : I need to buy groceries after work.
B : [(3)]
A : No, just a few things.

a. Do you want me to go with you?
b. Are you going to the mall?
c. Do you have a long list?
d. Did you already go?

4. A : I missed the bus this morning.
B : [(4)]
A : Yeah, I had to wait for the next one.

a. What time did it come?	b. Were you early?
c. Is that the train?	d. Were you late?

5. A : The kitchen sink is leaking again.
B : [(5)]
A : I think we should call a plumber.

a. The plumber fixed it already.	b. It's not leaking.
c. Is it bad?	d. Why don't you check?

6. A : I'm really hungry.
B : [(6)]
A : Sure, let's get something quickly.

a. Do you want to cook?
b. Should we order something?
c. Are you going to eat at home?
d. Did you skip lunch?

7. A : I haven't seen John in a while.
B : [(7)]
A : Yeah, he's been really busy with work.

a. Do you know him?
b. He isn't at work.
c. Why do you want to talk to him?
d. Is he busy?

8. A : I'm going to bed early tonight.
B : [(8)]
A : Yeah, I need to catch up on sleep.

a. Did you sleep well last night?	b. Are you tired?
c. Is it early?	d. What time do you wake up?

Ⅲ. 次のさまざまな仮面についての説明を読み、その内容と合っているものをa～jより3つ選びなさい。

1. Venetian



Worn during the Carnival in Venice, these iconic masks have a history dating back to the 13th century. The Venetian mask, as shown in the image, is an example of traditional craftsmanship. It features a combination of dark blue and red shades with gold designs. Made from materials, such as ceramic or paper, the mask has a smooth surface. Today, they continue to be a staple of Venetian culture, worn throughout the 11 days of Carnival.

2. Mardi Gras



The tradition of Mardi Gras originated in Europe and spread to New Orleans in the 18th century. Masks allowed revelers to mingle freely with a sense of freedom and equality. Popular types include masks with three pointed tips and small bells at the end. These masks are typically deep black, purple, and gold colors to exhibit a strong contrast. Today, Mardi Gras masks symbolize the celebration, known for their elaborate designs and vivid colors.

3. Tengu



The Tengu mask is a striking representation of a creature from Japanese mythology. It is believed that the original figure of Tengu looked like a bird but it transformed into a human. Traditionally crafted from wood or paper, it is painted deep red with black mustache, eyebrows, and two chin spots. Tengu is well known for its long nose and fierce facial expressions. The mask is worn by actors and musicians in religious theater performances.

4. Lion



The Chinese Lion mask is used in dance performances to celebrate Chinese New Year. Believed to chase away evil spirits and bring good luck, the mask features bright colors like red and yellow. It consists of two parts: a head made of paper over a frame and a tail made of silky material. Two performers wear the costume—one in the mask and the other in the tail. The dance is challenging, requiring a good sense of coordination.

- a. Made from a soft fabric, the Venetian mask has a rough and uneven surface.
- b. Venetian masks have been used since the 13th century and are still worn during Carnival in Venice.
- c. Mardi Gras masks are usually in dull colors with simple designs.
- d. The tradition of Mardi Gras began in New Orleans and later spread to Europe in the 18th century.
- e. Actors and musicians wear the Tengu mask in religious theater performances.
- f. The Tengu is well known for its short nose and gentle facial expressions.
- g. The Lion mask is made entirely of plastic, and only one performer wears the costume.
- h. The head part of the Lion mask is made of silk, which makes it easier for performers to move.
- i. All the masks play significant roles in traditional cultural celebrations or performances.
- j. Two out of the four masks above are commonly used in celebrations that involve religious theater performances.

IV. 各文の空所に入れるのに最も適切なものを1つずつ選びなさい。

- (1) The upcoming () will decide the new president.
a. elect b. electing c. election d. elects
- (2) The box of cookies is () of the fridge.
a. behind b. beside c. on top d. underneath
- (3) Can you help me () my lost dog?
a. ask b. find c. look d. search
- (4) The match was postponed () to bad weather.
a. because b. by c. caused d. due
- (5) I like all vegetables, () for broccoli.
a. and b. despite c. except d. so
- (6) The schedule tells you when to build it and the instructions tell you ().
a. how b. what c. which d. who
- (7) You () introduce me your friend because I met her last week.
a. are supposed to b. do not have to
c. have to d. never should have
- (8) There is no () for hard work and determination.
a. effort b. grit c. replica d. substitute
- (9) My friend is the hardest worker I have ever ().
a. knew b. know c. knowing d. known
- (10) Unfortunately, her attempt to break the world record () in failure.
a. checked b. ended c. made d. succeeded

V. 次の各文の [] 中の単語を並べ換えて日本語の意味に相当する英文を完成させるとき、[] 内で3番目と5番目にくるものを、それぞれ選びなさい。

- (1) 彼は公園で見つけた猫をどうすればよいか分からなかった。
He didn't [a. cat b. do c. know d. the e. to
f. what g. with] he found in the park.
- (2) このスイッチに触ったらどうなるかな。
I [a. happen b. I c. if d. touched e. what
f. wonder g. would] this switch.
- (3) 家に帰ってしばらく休んだほうがいいですよ。
You [a. and b. better c. for d. go e. had
f. home g. rest] some time.
- (4) ドアに指を挟むなんて彼はなんて不注意なんだろう。
How [a. careless b. fingers c. he d. his e. pinch
f. to g. was] in the door.
- (5) あなたが日本を出発する日を知らせてください。
Let [a. are b. day c. know d. me e. the
f. when g. you] leaving Japan.