

長文演習 (横浜国立大学 2011 年一部改題)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

‘Someone to see you, Mr Hedley.’

‘Who is he? What does he want?’

‘He says he will explain that when he sees you.’

‘Tell him to make an appointment.’

‘He says it is very urgent, Mr Hedley.’

‘Oh very well, send him in.’

The stranger was a thickset man. He might have been a rugby player. His first words startled Hedley.

‘The first thing I notice about a person, sir, is their shoes,’ he said.

‘What?’

‘(A)You can tell a lot about a person by their shoes,’ the stranger said. ‘Put it this way. They say that first impressions are the most important. What do *you* notice when you first meet someone, sir?’

‘Look, I’m a busy man. What is it you want, exactly?’

‘I notice shoes. What do you notice, sir?’

Perhaps he was a madman. Hedley thought it better to answer his question.

‘Oh, I don’t know. Their looks. Their clothes. The way they speak. I’ve never really thought about it.’

‘Looks? Do you mean ugly people are bad people?’

‘Well, no. I just meant...’

‘As to the way people dress, sir. Well, fashions change so quickly. And you never know whether you are looking at a fashion-house original or a cheap factory-produced copy.’

Hedley looked at the stranger’s suit. Dark blue, smart, ordinary.

‘OK, I agree, but one thing people can’t change is the way they speak,’ Hedley said.

‘So, someone comes to you for a job. They have a strong regional accent. So what?’

‘I’m talking about speaking correctly. You know, grammar, etc. I can’t stand people who say things like ‘If I’d have known... or ‘Between you and I...’

(B)Then you obviously can’t stand a lot of your fellow citizens!

‘But, *you* are saying that the best way to judge someone is by looking at their shoes,’ Hedley said. ‘That sounds even crazier.’

Despite himself, Hedley was curious to hear what the man had to say. Hedley wondered about his own shoes. What did they tell the man? Were they in good taste? What about their condition? Hedley polished his shoes every morning, but there might be (C)a speck of dirt on them. He hoped the man wouldn’t look at them, but he did.

‘Your shoes, for instance, sir,’ the man said. ‘About five years’ old, I’d say, Leather. Excellent quality. They have laces, they’re not slip-ons. And you keep them in good condition.’

So, (D)what does that tell you?’ Hedley asked. The stranger was beginning to irritate Hedley.

‘I think you’re a man who likes the best, sir,’ the stranger replied. ‘You’re a man who looks after his things. You’re not lazy. You’re a busy man...’ He paused then added: ‘... and a very careful one.’  
‘Perhaps,’ Hedley said, feeling uncomfortable now. ‘Now, let me see what I can tell about you from your shoes.’

He got up to look. The man was wearing heavy black boots, polished so hard you could see your face in them. They looked like the sort soldiers wear. Or policemen...

Hedley sighed. ‘Ah, officer, I was expecting a visit from your people sooner or later. I suppose, as you people say, “*The game’s up*”.’

‘I’m afraid so, sir. You’ll have to come with me to the police station to answer some questions about the disappearance of large sums of money from this company’s bank account.’

Obviously, for a careful man, Hedley had not been careful enough, shoes or no shoes.

(Excerpted from *Happy Days and Other Very Short Stories* by Jake Allsop)

appointment : 面会の予約	urgent : 緊急の	thickset : がっしりした	notice : 気づく
startle : びっくりさせる	ugly : 醜い	ordinary : 普通の	regional accent : 発音のなまり
correctly : 正しく	grammar : 文法	obviously : 明らかに	fellow citizen : 周囲の人々
despite oneself : 意外にも	a speck of dirt : 少量の土埃	polish : 磨く	irritate : 苛立たせる

1. 下線部(A)の意味を日本語で説明しなさい。
2. 下線部(B)の意味を日本語で説明しなさい。
3. 下線部(C)は何かを比喩的に表したものと考えられるが、それは何か。本文中から 12 語の英語で抜き出しなさい。
4. 下線部(D)の答えを、日本語で述べなさい。
5. 本文の内容と一致するものは T を、一致しないものは F をマルで囲みなさい。
  - a. The man made an appointment before he came to Mr Hedley’s office. ( T / F )
  - b. The man and Mr Hedley talked about how they got their first impressions on other people. ( T / F )
  - c. Mr Hedley expected policemen to come, so he noticed it by looking at the man’s face. ( T / F )