BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Take Away English 随身英语
The kindness of strangers
有感于陌生人的慈善心怀

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Vocabulary: Crowds 词汇：群众

How much **empathy** do you feel towards other people? If you saw someone fall off their bike in traffic, would you stop and help - or just walk away? Many people would **give in** to **apathy**, **go about their business** and just do nothing. So it was a big surprise when about 100 **bystanders** got together recently to move a bus in east London to help a cyclist **trapped** under it. A video of the incident **went viral** on social media.

Spontaneous collaboration doesn't happen often

According to Zoheb, a driver who stopped his car to take part in the rescue, about five people **gathered** to move the bus. He says: "There was no chance we could do it, it was more an invitation for other people to help, really".

The **initiative** paid off. Diners from nearby restaurants joined in. There wasn't much **coordination** but it didn't take long to develop a **collective** understanding of what the objective was.

Spontaneous collaboration among **strangers** doesn't happen often. People in a crowd are not sure what to do - they don't have a plan. It's one of the reasons bystanders often do nothing, according to Dr Mark Levine, professor of **social psychology** at Exeter University in Britain. "The presence of others can **inhibit** you from helping", he says.

The key to positive group behaviour and **intervention**, Levine explains, "is building a sense of shared identity". Action has to be decided quickly, Levine says. "The longer you leave it, the harder it is to make a decision. If you don't immediately act then you kind of think 'Well, actually I probably couldn't have done anything anyway'."

But the people who took the initiative like Zoheb might make a difference. The cyclist ended up in hospital and the images of the collective effort might inspire others to more acts of **solidarity**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

词汇表

empathy	感同身受、同情
to give in	屈服，让步
apathy	冷漠
to go about your business	去做自己的事
a bystander	旁观者
to trap	陷入（出不来），困住
to go viral	像病毒一样迅速在网上传播
to gather	聚集
the initiative	倡议，提议
coordination	协调
collective	集体的
spontaneous	自发的
collaboration	合作
social psychology	社会心理学
to inhibit	抑制
intervention	介入，干涉
solidarity	团结

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How were the images of the rescue distributed?
2. How many people took part in the rescue effort initially?
3. Why do people give in to apathy when they should be helping?
4. What happened to the cyclist who was rescued?
5. Which word in the text means 'goal'?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The concert was a failure. The band played as well as they could but their performance was met with _____.

apathy	empathy	solidarity	intervention

2. What a chaotic situation. Everyone is trying their best, but there is no _____ and nothing is getting done.

continuation	intervention	coordination	empathy

3. Thank you for helping _____. I couldn't have organised the party all by myself.

out	in	on	off

4. Let's _____ in the meeting room to discuss the latest data coming from the US.

join	inhibit	collaborate	gather

5. I was going about my _____ when the police turned up and arrested me. I'm innocent!

intervention	behaviour	business	street

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How were the images of the rescue distributed?
    The video went viral on social media.

2. How many people took part in the rescue effort at the beginning?
    About five people, according to Zoheb, a driver who was there.

3. Why do people give in to apathy when they should be helping?
    According to professor of social psychology Mark Levine, one of the reasons it happens is that people are not sure what to do.

4. What happened to the cyclist who was rescued?
    He was taken to hospital.

5. Which word in the text means 'goal'?
    Objective.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The concert was a failure. The band played as well as they could but their performance was met with **apathy**.

2. What a chaotic situation. Everyone is trying their best, but there is no **coordination** and nothing is getting done.

3. Thank you for helping **out**. I couldn't have organised the party all by myself.

4. Let's **gather** in the meeting room to discuss the latest data coming from the US.

5. I was going about my **business** when the police turned up and arrested me. I'm innocent!