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Vocabulary: Human behaviour 词汇：人类行为

I count myself lucky to live in the relative calm of the countryside, a safe distance away from the chaos and **claustrophobia** of city life. However, I have to venture into the **urban jungle** every day to work and it's then that I realise how rude **city dwellers** can be.

Maybe I'm being unfair. Not everyone comes from the city – many of us commute from somewhere else and, together with a large number of tourists, we are all squeezed into this small space – so it's no surprise that we get **irritable** and **hot under the collar**.

Competing for a space on the tube train or bus is only one of the reasons that makes us **grumpy**. Our rush to get into the office and home again means we have no time to make conversation with other people: we are driven by efficiency. Thomas Farley, writer and broadcaster explains that "we're in a rush, we're off to a meeting, to a luncheon... and I don't think it's a bad thing, I just think we need to be mindful that it's not a deliberate **disregard** or somebody's trying to be rude on purpose." So we are not trying to be rude, we just have something important on our mind to think about.

Cities can, however, be scary places – especially if you're not used to them and this can make us **reluctant** to start a conversation. We might be **hyper-vigilant** thinking that the person next to us is going to kill us or worse still, get into conversation with us! Dr Elle Boag, a social psychologist at Birmingham City University, agrees that people can view cities as threatening places. She says "we're **persistently** looking for potential threats around us, and this then makes us not give **eye contact**, this will reduce the likelihood that anybody will say hello." She calls this our 'protective mechanism' which is another way that makes us appear **antisocial**.

Perhaps if we did start talking more to each other we may realise that our fellow train or bus passenger is actually quite normal with the same concerns and that if you have to **grin and bear** the pressures of city life, at least you can do it together. In London, a group called 'Talk to me London' is trying to encourage just that. They have created '**tubechat**' badges which you can wear to show you're happy to talk to a stranger.

But of course, you may choose to live in the city in order to be **anonymous** – to blend in with the crowd – and not have to talk to people! Maybe that's the benefit of living in the city: you can be who you like – and as rude as you like. Do you think people in your city seem to be rude?

词汇表

claustrophobia	幽闭恐惧症
urban jungle	“城市丛林”，都市生活中令人感到不快的部分
city dweller	城市居民
irritable	烦躁的
hot under the collar	恼火的，窘迫的
grumpy	易怒的，脾气不好的
disregard	漠视
reluctant	不情愿的
hyper-vigilant	异常警惕的，高度警觉的
persistently	执意地
eye contact	目光接触，眼神交流
antisocial	不合群的，不喜社交的
grin and bear	苦笑着忍受，忍气吞声
tubechat	“地铁聊天”活动
anonymous	匿名的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why does the author think he is lucky to live in the countryside?
2. What word is used to mean 'to travel regularly to and from work'?
3. How might wearing a 'tubechat' badge help you appear less rude to other people?
4. True or false? *We have to be rude to show people we're in a rush.*
5. According to the article, what might stop us saying 'hello' to someone?

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

1. The boys were very _____ in class because they went to bed very late last night.

reluctant	irritable	anonymous	hyper-vigilant
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2. He _____ turned up late for work so in the end they sacked him.

persistently	persistent	persistable	persisted
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3. These days, smoking in a cafe or bar is seen as _____ by many people.

hyper-vigilant	antibiotic	grumpy	antisocial
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4. The manager got _____ when the referee disallowed a goal his team scored.

hot over the collar	hot round the collar	hot under the collar	hot collared
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5. The party was awful. It was in a small room with too many people – it felt very _____.

disregarded	grumpy	claustrophobic	reluctant
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why does the author think he is lucky to live in the countryside?
Because it is relatively calm, not chaotic like the city.
2. What word is used to mean 'to travel regularly to and from work'?
Commute.
3. How might wearing a 'tubechat' badge help you appear less rude to other people?
It shows you are happy to talk to a stranger.
4. True or false? *We have to be rude to show people we're in a rush.*
False. Thomas Farley, writer and broadcaster said we're in a rush but "it's not a deliberate disregard or somebody trying to be rude on purpose."
5. According to the article, what might stop us saying 'hello' to someone?
According to Dr Elle Boag, a social psychologist at Birmingham City University, not making eye contact will reduce the likelihood that anybody will say hello.

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

1. The boys were very **irritable** in class because they went to bed very late last night.
2. He **persistently** turned up late for work so in the end they sacked him.
3. These days, smoking in a cafe or bar is seen as **antisocial** by many people.
4. The manager got **hot under the collar** when the referee disallowed a goal his team scored.
5. The party was awful. It was in a small room with too many people – it felt very **claustrophobic**.