

PART①

Everyone knows what is supposed to happen when two English people who have never met before come face to face in a train—they start talking about the weather. In some cases this may simply be because they happen to find the subject interesting. Most people, though, are not particularly interested in analyses of climatic conditions, so there must be other reasons for conversations of this kind. (1) One explanation is that it can often be quite embarrassing to be alone in the company of someone you are not acquainted with and not speak to them. If no conversation takes place the atmosphere can become rather (2) strained. However, by talking to the other person about some neutral topic like the weather, it is possible to strike up a relationship without actually having to say very much. Train conversations of this kind—and they do happen, although not of course as often as the popular myth supposes—are a good example of the sort of important social function that is often fulfilled by language. Language is not simply a means of communicating information—about the weather or any other subject. It is also a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people. Probably the most important thing about the conversation between our two English people is not the words they are using, but the fact that they are talking at all.

高2 英語総合 SA 読解基礎

問1 下線部(1)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問2 下線部(2)にもっとも意味の近い語を下の1～4の中から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

選択肢

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| 1. untouchable | 2. unbelievable |
| 3. uncomfortable | 4. Understandable |

問3 左の文章は言語の重要な働きを説明している。その働きを30字以内の日本語でまとめなさい。(句読点も一字とする)