

Lesson 2

衣服・住居

A

Jeans were first created in the 1850s (1) the California Gold Rush as workwear. By the 1920s, they had (2) widely known in the United States and were associated with the image of cowboys. In Japan, jeans (3) a rise in popularity after World War II when the U.S. military released old clothing. In a recent auction, a pair of jeans (4) in an abandoned mine in the American West sold for \$87,400, which was (5) to everyone.

B

- ① In Japan, the average lifespan of a house is about 30 years, which is significantly shorter than in other countries. For example, houses in the United Kingdom last around 77 years, and in the United States, they last about 55 years. Although differences in climate and the frequency of natural disasters may explain some of this gap, the difference remains surprising.
- ② One main reason for this short lifespan is the strong preference in Japan for newly built houses, combined with the rapid decrease in the value of used houses. Japanese people often prefer modern design and updated earthquake-resistant features, which makes old houses less appealing. While it may seem understandable due to the low value of used houses, it feels wasteful to tear down houses that are still usable. With Japan's shrinking population, rather than continuing to build and remove houses, it might be better to repair and use existing houses for a longer period.
- ③ Renovating older houses could also bring benefits to younger people. By choosing to buy and remodel used houses, they could save money, allowing them to spend more on other needs or invest in other areas. Moreover, such ^(A)practices would undoubtedly contribute to sustainability, as housing and construction ^(B)account for a significant share of Japan's CO₂ emissions.
- ④ In fact, extending the life of houses can be seen as a sign of a developed society. Valuing and using resources carefully is a true reflection of social progress. Building a culture that appreciates () could lead Japan to a future that is both resilient and thoughtful.

A

問 空所 (1) ~ (5) に入れるのに最も適当な語を、ア～コから1つずつ選びなさい。ただし、同じものを繰り返し用いないこと。

- ア found イ surprising ウ while エ become オ saw
カ during キ come ク surprised ケ finding コ gave
(1) () (2) () (3) () (4) () (5) ()

B

問1 段落①～③の内容に合うように、空所にア～エから最も適当なものを1つずつ選んで入れなさい。

- ① In Japan, houses ().
ア are designed to last over 77 years with minimal maintenance
イ are rarely impacted by natural disasters like earthquakes or typhoons
ウ have a lifespan significantly shorter than in other countries
エ remain unaffected by the climate, leading to a longer lifespan
- ② Japanese people might as well continue using old houses because ().
ア they are not affected by natural disasters
イ newly built houses lack modern features
ウ used houses increase in value over time
エ it is more sustainable than tearing them down
- ③ Renovation of older houses ().
ア always costs more than buying new houses
イ could help reduce CO₂ emissions in Japan
ウ has no financial benefits for younger people
エ discourages sustainability in the housing market

問2 段落④の空所にア～エから最も適当なものを1つ選んで入れなさい。 ()

- ア the lasting value of existing houses
イ the appeal of overseas housing designs
ウ the investment value of used houses
エ the strength of a house that stands firm in the face of disasters

問3 下線部(A) practices の文中での意味として、最も適当なものを1つ選びなさい。 ()

- ア destructions イ actions ウ abuses エ decorations

問4 下線部(B) account for の文中での意味として、適当でないものを1つ選びなさい。 ()

- ア make up イ represent ウ consume エ constitute