

# The kindness of strangers 有感於陌生人的慈善心懷

**Vocabulary: Crowds** 群眾

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.

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**.

### **Find the answers from the given text**

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'?

## Choose the correct answer

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

apathy	empathy	solidarity	intervention
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2. What a chaotic situation. Everyone is trying their best, but there is no \_\_\_\_\_ and nothing is getting done.

continuation	intervention	coordination	empathy
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3. Thank you for helping \_\_\_\_\_. I couldn't have organised the party all by myself.

out	in	on	off
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4. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ in the meeting room to discuss the latest data coming from the US.

join	inhibit	collaborate	gather
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5. I was going about my \_\_\_\_\_ when the police turned up and arrested me. I'm innocent!

intervention	behavior	business	street
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## Vocabulary

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.

- empathy n. 感同身受、同情  
→補充
- to give in v. 屈服，讓步  
→補充
- apathy n. 冷漠  
→補充
- to go about your business v. 去做自己的事  
→補充
- a bystander n. 旁觀者  
→補充
- to trap v. 陷入（出不來），困住  
→補充
- to go viral v. 像病毒一樣迅速在網上傳播  
→補充

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- to gather v. 聚集

→補充

- the initiative n. 倡議，提議

→補充

- coordination n. 協調

→補充

- collective adj. 集體的

→補充

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- spontaneous adj. 自發的  
→補充
- collaboration n. 合作  
→補充
- social psychology n. 社會心理學  
→補充
- to inhibit v. 抑制  
→補充
- intervention n. 介入，干涉  
→補充
- solidarity n. 團結  
→補充