

## Lesson 4

### Paving the Way to a More Inclusive Society

#### ディクテーションシート

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❶ “Thanks to these blocks, I can walk around <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3 words] in the city.” This is a comment from a <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2] person in Japan about *tenji* blocks, known as tactile paving in English. This system helps people with a visual impairment to travel around in public. There are two types of tactile paving. One has raised stripes which indicate directions. The other has raised dots which <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [5] in front of stairs, at crossings, or near the edge of platforms. Visually impaired people can understand the direction or notice any danger <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3] these blocks or touching them with a white stick.

❷ It may surprise some people to learn that tactile paving originated in Japan. It was invented by Miyake Seiichi in his hometown of Okayama. Miyake had a friend who was losing his eyesight, and wanted to help him get around safely <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2]. One day, Miyake saw a person with a white stick <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3] a car at an intersection. This experience inspired him to invent a system of blocks to warn visually impaired people of possible danger on the street. Miyake realized if some patterns like braille were put on the ground, people <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [4] “read” them with their feet or a stick. After spending a lot of time and money, Miyake completed the first tactile paving tiles in 1965. He provided some blocks <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2] to various organizations in Okayama, Osaka, and other cities. He hoped that his invention would spread throughout Japan, but unfortunately, at that time, it <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3].

❸ The situation changed significantly in 1970, when a school for visually impaired children in Osaka made a request to Japanese National Railways (JNR). For the

students' safety, the school asked JNR to lay tactile paving on the platform of the nearby station. The organization <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2] its request, and other facilities also began to install tactile paving. From that time, tactile paving began to <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2].

④ In 1976, the United Nations proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. It <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3] to support disabled people, such as creating employment opportunities and promoting rehabilitation programs. In Japan, tactile paving was already helping visually impaired people participate in society. Based on this success, Japanese tactile paving became the international standard in 2012. Today, tactile paving is assisting visually impaired people in <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2] 70 countries around the world. They say, "In the past, we had to <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2] others when going out, but now, tactile paving allows us to be independent."

⑤ Recently, tactile paving with various functions <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3]. In one project, tactile paving in certain locations is equipped with radio transmitters. This means that smartphone app users can catch signals automatically when they are near these spots. If this system is <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [4], people will be able to get information about directions or nearby public facilities. In another project, people can also use an app on their smartphones to read patterns painted on blocks. That AI technology can provide huge amounts of <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [4] information on nearby restrooms, restaurants, and tourist facilities. Therefore, this system can be easily used by domestic and overseas visitors. Even in <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [2], tactile paving can give useful information about nearby emergency shelters.

⑥ In recent years, there has been a <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ [3] toward accepting diversity. This has encouraged people with disabilities to participate more

independently in society. As tactile paving offers <sup>20</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ [3],  
it will certainly continue to play an important role in creating a more inclusive society.