

Lesson 89: Low Birth Rate and Aging Society

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Brian: Have you ever been to a machikon party?

Shuhe: What is it? I've never heard of it before.

Brian: It's a matchmaking event. Single men and women gather in one place and meet other singles. It's similar to speed dating in the U.S.

Shuhe: Sounds interesting. But what does that have to do with me?

Brian: Well, you and I are going to a machikon party tonight. I **signed** both of us **up**.

Shuhe: (shocked) Why did you do that? I am not going.

Brian: Oh, come on. It'll be good for you. Besides, you'll be helping your country by going to the event.

Shuhe: What do you mean?

Brian: Believe it or not, the machikon is funded by the government. It aims to increase the birth rate in Japan. Isn't that great?

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. Brian **signed up for** tonight's machikon party.
2. My mother **signed** me **up for** yoga class. She said it'll help me release stress.
3. I helped my grandmother **sign up for** a Facebook account. She's always using the computer nowadays.

* signed up (for ...) / (...を)申込む、契約する

3. Your Task

You are at a speed dating party. You have three minutes to talk about yourself to your date (your tutor). Remember that you have to impress your date but you can only say true facts about you.

4. Let's Talk

What are the reasons for the low birth rate in Japan?

Would you like to live in a nursing home when you become old?

Explain your answer.

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



Image courtesy of imagerymajestic / FreeDigitalPhotos.net