

Lesson 89: Low Birth Rate and Aging Society

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

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

Akira: The government is raising taxes again. Can you believe it? They've gone up from 5% to 8%.

William: We can't really blame the government. There are too many senior citizens who need to be supported.

Akira: My thoughts exactly. There aren't enough young people to pay taxes. It seems increasing our taxes is the only solution.

William: How did Japan's birth rate plummet so dramatically, anyway?

Akira: I'm not sure. But if you ask me, I wouldn't want to get married in a bad economy.

William: I think there's more to it than economy. I noticed that Japanese men are too shy to ask women out.

Akira: What do you mean? I'm not shy.

William: Oh, yeah? Why don't you ask Jenny over there (pointing to a woman) for a date tonight?

Akira: I would but I'm kind of busy tonight. I have to... visit my mother.

William: Whatever you say, buddy.

2. Today's Phrase

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

1. Company profits plummeted from \$4 million to \$1 million.
2. After the earthquake, the value of houses in the area plummeted.
3. A small plane was seen plummeting towards the farm land.

* plummet / 急落する

3. Your Task

Your best friend is single. He is getting older and he's also starting to realize that being alone is not a good life.

You've decided to match him up with your single lady friends. Convince one of your lady friends (=your tutor) to go out with him. Remember that you have to say nice things about your best friend.

4. Let's Talk

What do you think are the reasons for the low birth rate in Japan?

Would you like to stay in a nursing home when you reach old age?

Explain your answer.

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



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