

Discussion Vocabulary

- ¹ **population** = the number of people
- ² **assist** = help
- ³ **beneficial** = good for
- ⁴ **rural** = in the countryside
- ⁵ **urban** = in the city
- ⁶ **allow** = let, permit
- ⁷ **immigrate** = move to a foreign country



Discussion Questions *Think about what you'll say in English. Write some notes for your ideas.*

Notes

1. How many people are there in your family? Would you like to have a bigger family than now, with lots of brothers and sisters?
2. What age, do you think, is a good age to get married? Why?
3. Do you want to have children someday?
If yes, how many children? If no, why not?
4. Do your parents spend a lot of money on you?
Can you give some examples?
5. Japan's **population**¹ is decreasing every year.
Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
6. How can the Japanese government **assist**² couples who want to have children? What kind of programs would be **beneficial**³?
7. Since the population is decreasing every year, do you think it's easier to get into a good university?
8. More and more Japanese people are moving from **rural**⁴ to **urban**⁵ areas.
Do you think this is a problem?
9. Do you think Japan should **allow**⁶ more foreigners to **immigrate**⁷ to this country?
10. The global population is increasing every year.
Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

What's Wrong? *Correct these sentences.*

1. **X** My mother grew up three children and worked full-time.
O
2. **X** I have three families, my mom, my dad and me.
O
3. **X** There are many grandmas and grandpas in my town.
O There are many () people in my town.



Example Discussion Question Responses & Partner Responses

1. *Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words. Check your answers with a classmate.*
2. *Practice reading the Discussion Questions and the Example Responses with a classmate.*
3. *Use the Discussion Questions as conversation starters. Take brief notes of your partner's answers. Try to give long answers, make comments, have reactions, and ask follow-up questions.*

both	expensive	hard	people	rent
environment	free	need	problems	then

Partner's Name

()

Notes

1. There are six () in my family. I don't think I need any more brothers or sisters.
2. I'm not sure, but maybe 30 or 35 years old is a good age to get married. I think that by (), I will have a good job.
3. I'm not interested in having children. They are too (), and I don't want to change **diapers**⁸!
4. I think they do. They pay my () and **utilities**⁹, but I get my spending money from my job.
5. I think that it is () good and bad. Right now, I think that Japan is too **crowded**¹⁰, but if there aren't enough workers, then that's bad for the economy.
6. The government should help by making all education (), including university **tuition**¹¹.
7. I think it is still (). I had to study a lot to get into this university.
8. I think it's a problem because the cities are too crowded. More people should live in the rural areas. It's better for the (), too.
9. Yes, I do. Japan will () more foreigners to help with **labor**¹² shortages.
10. If the global population gets too big, there will be serious environmental ().

⁸ **diaper** = a cloth for a baby's bottom

⁹ **utilities** = services such as electricity, water and gas for a home

¹⁰ **crowded** = too full of people

¹¹ **tuition** = money paid for education

¹² **labor** = workers, work force



*Nozomi and Jack are in love and have recently become **engaged**¹³. They are planning to marry next year.*

Jack: Hey, **honey bunny**¹⁴. What's going on?

Nozomi: Oh, hi darling. I was just thinking about what our life will be like after we get married.

J: It will be a perfect paradise every single day, I'm sure.

N: Yes, it will. Of course, having the wedding and honeymoon in Okinawa is going to be a great start.

J: Yes. A little **pricey**¹⁵, but **definitely**¹⁶ worth it!

N: **Uh-huh**¹⁷, and then after that we'll have to start looking for a big house with lots of bedrooms and a beautiful **yard**¹⁸.

J: **House hunting**¹⁹? I thought we'd live in my apartment. You know, it has such a great view of the city.

N: Oh, your apartment is wonderful, but it's just too small.

J: What do you mean? There's **plenty**²⁰ of space for the two of us.

N: But **sweetie**²¹, what about the children?

J: What children? We don't have any children.

N: I know we don't have any children now, but I thought we'd start a family right after we got married.

J: Right after we got married? But what about your job, your career? Don't you want to work?

N: Um ... taking care of a family *is* work.

Besides²², if we have three or four kids, then it will be impossible for me to work outside of the home.

J: Three or four? What are you talking about?

N: I'm talking about our family. I don't want to have just one child. I want a big family, lots of kids, maybe even five or six children.

J: **Huh?**²³

N: Wouldn't it be so much fun to have a big family?

J: Maybe fun, but definitely expensive. Do you know how much it costs to **raise**²⁴ even one child?

N: Loving your children is more important than money, right?

J: Nozomi ... honey bunny ... we need to talk about this a lot more.

Main Text Vocabulary

¹³ **engaged** = promised to marry

¹⁴ **honey bunny** = a term used for someone your love

¹⁵ **pricey** = expensive

¹⁶ **definitely** = surely, certainly

¹⁷ **Uh-huh** = a casual "yes"

¹⁸ **yard** = an outdoor area that is around a house, covered by grass

¹⁹ **house hunting** = looking to buy a house

²⁰ **plenty** = a lot, more than enough

²¹ **sweetie** = a term used for someone your love

²² **besides** = furthermore, in addition to that

²³ **Huh?** = a casual "What?"

²⁴ **raise** = take care of, to bring up (a child)

Main Text Questions

- 1. Why does Jack call Nozomi, “honey bunny”?**
 - a. Because Nozomi looks like a rabbit.
 - b. Because “honey bunny” is a term that shows his love for Nozomi.
 - c. Because she likes to eat rabbit with a honey sauce.
 - d. Because he can't remember her real name.
- 2. What does Nozomi plan on doing after their honeymoon?**
 - a. buy a house
 - b. buy an apartment
 - c. move to Okinawa
 - d. hunt rabbits
- 3. How many children would Nozomi like to have?**
 - a. none
 - b. one child
 - c. less than three children
 - d. three or more children
- 4. According to Nozomi, what is more important than money?**
 - a. loving Jack
 - b. raising bunnies
 - c. loving your children
 - d. having fun

Opinions

Group Members:

Do you agree, partially agree or disagree with the following opinions? Take notes. Explain your reasons.

#1 The government should pay for children's education, from kindergarten all the way to university. Do you think this is a good idea?

Agree / Partially Agree / Disagree

Notes:

#2 Since the number of young people in Japan are decreasing every year, it is easier to get a good job after graduating from university. Do you agree?

Agree / Partially Agree / Disagree

Notes:

#3 The younger generation of workers needs to pay more into the **pension²⁵** system to support the older generation. Do you think that this is necessary?

Agree / Partially Agree / Disagree

Notes:

²⁵ pension = money received after retiring

Writing

Choose one of the questions below. Write 100 to 150 words. Write on pages 000 to 000.

1. Write in detail about your ideal future family.
2. What are some of the challenges of raising a big family?
3. Do you think it is better to have children or no children? Explain your answer.