

Single Mom



● Warm-up Questions

1. When is it okay to lie to someone?

2. What is your opinion of single mothers?

3. What is your idea of a good parent (mother or father)?

4. How was your childhood (幼年期)?

VOCABULARY

● WRITE THE CORRECT WORD IN THE SENTENCES BELOW

divorced, noticed, her fault, tease, refused to, fake, complex situation, outgoing, this has all been worth it, grown very close, fictional character

1. The sick man _____ go to a hospital because he hates doctors.
2. Do you like my diamond ring? I paid 500 ¥ for it. It is _____.
3. My sister broke my TV. It is 100% _____.
4. I used to _____ my sister all the time. She HATED it.
5. Anpanman is a popular _____ in Japan.

Single Mom

Megumi's parents divorced when she was a baby. When she was younger, Megumi didn't care that she had no father. But when she started elementary school, she started to feel bad. "Where is my dad?" she asked her mom.

Megumi's mom, Asako, noticed that something was wrong with her daughter. "She stopped talking to me, and she always wanted to be alone."

Megumi thought it was her fault that her father left the family. Her classmates used to tease her because she had no father. Megumi was so unhappy that she refused to go to school.

Asako decided to tell Megumi that her father wanted to meet with them again. It was a lie.

Asako heard about companies that rented actors to be guests at weddings or for dates. So, she telephoned one company, and she found a man to be Megumi's fake dad. His fake name is Yamada.

"He was kind and sweet," Asako said, "so I picked him." She pays the actor to be Megumi's father. Megumi doesn't know about this.

Takashi runs a rental business. He has close to 1,000 part-time actors and actresses. Takashi is also an actor. He has acted as a boyfriend, businessman, friend, father, and has gotten

married 5 times.

Asako contacted Takashi's company 10 years ago. She thought Takashi would be a good father for Megumi. Takashi is Yamada.

Takashi still remembers their first meeting. "It was a very complex situation," he says. "Megumi asked me why I didn't come to see her before, and I felt her anger."

Asako says her daughter quickly got better. "After a while, Megumi became happier and more outgoing," she says. "She wanted to go back to school. That's when I thought, 'This has all been worth it!'"

Takashi's service is not cheap. He gets paid 10,000¥ every time he meets Asako and Megumi.

Over the last 10 years, Takashi's character Yamada has grown very close to Megumi. He is a part of the family. He even tells Megumi that he loves her, just like a real father - but, of course, he doesn't really love Megumi.

"It's hard to lie to her because Megumi cares for me," he says. "But I have to remember that this is a business, and I'm an actor."

One complication is that Asako has also fallen in love with the fictional character Yamada. "When the three of us are together, I feel my life is better," she says.

-
1. If you used Takashi's company, what kind of actor would you rent?
 2. Should women stop working after they marry. What do you think about this?
 3. What do you think about Takashi's business?
 4. Should Asako stop or continue using Takashi's company?
 5. Do you agree that children don't grow up well in single parent families?
 6. If a couple divorces, who should take care of the children?
 7. Is bullying a problem in Japan?
 8. What is good about being single?

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

The sentences below are all incorrect. Try to fix them.

1. If I am Megumi, I will upset when I know the truth.

2. She spend time too much for doing homework.

3. I am hard to tell truth sometimes when I dishonest.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks using: by, from, for, in, of, up, at, about, to

Write a proper preposition for each sentence. Sometimes, there is more than one answer.

1. I could see a real change _____ my student's speaking skills. I was happy.
2. My friend got a divorce _____ his ex-wife _____ the middle _____ May.
3. He left her _____ another woman, and has no regrets _____ doing that.
4. Then got married _____ another woman _____ less than 1 month.
5. Women are attracted _____ him because _____ his charm and wallet.
6. Children get bullied _____ school _____ older students.
7. I saw 1 boy beat _____ another boy _____ school.
8. The angry boy was upset _____ the weaker boy _____ laughing _____ him.
9. Making fun _____ people is not a kind thing to do.
10. People dream _____ having a perfect family, but they should give _____ that hope.

WRITING SENTENCES

Write a sentence with the words below. All of the words are taken from the reading. Try to write a sentence that has no grammar, spelling, or punctuation mistakes.

1. stopped: _____
2. left: _____
3. contact: _____
4. anger: _____
5. worth: _____
6. better: _____