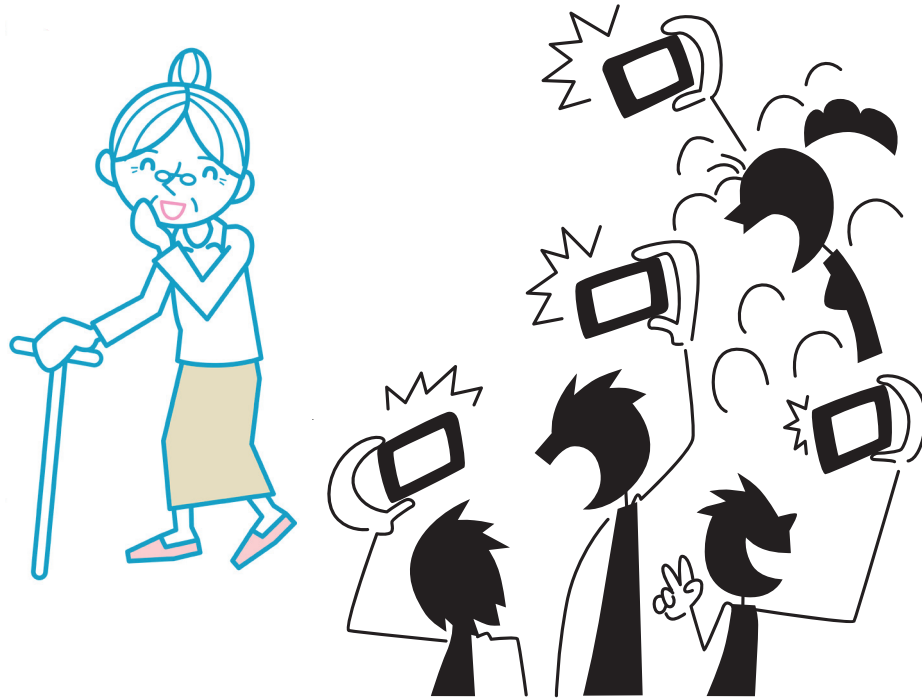


Life Starts at 72



● Warm-up Questions

1. How often do you take photos, and what do you take photos of?

2. Is art important in your life?

3. Do you think alcohol helps people live longer?

4. What would you like to learn/study in a class?

VOCABULARY

● WRITE THE CORRECT WORD IN THE SENTENCES BELOW

exhibition, for fun, no interest in, after all, comical poses, it's as simple as that, mastered, run wild, flattened, passed away, supportive, clearly, as long as

1. I saw a cat _____ at a museum last week. It was interesting.
2. When I make pizza, I _____ the dough with a rolling pin. It's fun.
3. I have _____ bugs except when they are in my home.
4. I have not _____ anything, so I feel a little dumb.
5. I like to play card games for money and _____.

Life Starts at 72

Kimiko Nishimoto is 92 years old and an SNS star on Instagram. She has over 230,000 followers, and has had several exhibitions in Kumamoto and Tokyo.

She was born in 1928 in Brazil, and returned to Japan when she was 8. She worked as a hair dresser, cycled for fun, and got married at 27.

She was a "regular housewife" in Kumamoto Prefecture, taking care of her husband and 3 children. She had no interest in art, and didn't own a camera.

Then one day after she turned 72, her friend asked her to join a photography course. Kimiko said yes. After all, the class was being taught by her son and art director Kazutami Nishimoto.

According to her son, "All doors opened wide for my mother after turning 72. Before at home, she wasn't very funny." That changed after she began taking photos of herself doing some comical poses.

"I'm interested in many things," Nishimoto says, "and always try to take pictures of things that are funny. It's as simple as that."

To take her photos, Nishimoto carries a tripod, camera, and remote control. She has mastered photo editing software, and this lets

her imagination run wild.

Nishimoto likes to take her photos in the area surrounding her home in Kumamoto. In some photos, she looks in pain, half-flattened by a car. In other photos, she is happily flying through the air as a witch or wheelchair racer.

In one famous photo, Nishimoto is dressed as a fairy, floating and praying to her late husband's shrine.

"My husband passed away five years ago but even today I still show him the photos I've taken," she explains. "He was always so supportive of whatever I chose to do."

Kimiko likes to change her photos with software like Adobe Photoshop. With this, she can create incredible photos. Her style is clearly popular, because she has so many SNS followers, and her exhibitions are filled with fans.

Nishimoto told a reporter, "To be honest, I don't think too deeply about what photography means to me. I just want to try and bring joy to people. Taking photos is the secret of my happiness. I'll keep doing it for as long as I'm alive."

To stay healthy, Nishimoto says she is a daily cigarette smoker and drinks a tall glass of Bourbon whiskey every day.

1. Why do you think hundreds of thousands of people follow Nishimoto on SNS?
2. Did your grandmothers do anything shocking or interesting?
3. What new computer skill would you like to learn?
4. Do you think people in Japan like to dress up?
5. What will you do for as long as you are alive?
6. What skill do you wish you had?
7. Does anything surprise you about old people?
8. Does getting older bother you?

Grammar Practice

Fix the sentences below. All of them have around 3 mistakes.

1. I was panicked when I realize that I forgot bringing my camera.

2. I was finding my camera nowhere, so I called a police.

3. I don't like when a person take a photo of me without ask.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks using: about, from, away, in, up, for, at, out, of, with, of, by

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

1. I like to take photos _____ mountains, especially _____ autumn.
2. My camera is made _____ metal, _____ Japan, _____ Canon.
3. Kimiko learned _____ photography _____ her son.
4. _____ the age _____ 72, she took _____ photography.
5. She is famous _____ taking photos _____ herself _____ strange poses.
6. After her husband passed _____, I think she had more time _____ herself.
7. _____ the "Asobokane" (Let's have fun) exhibit, held _____ Epson Imaging Gallery Epsite _____ Shinjuku Ward, Kimiko showed 89 _____ her photos.
8. She likes to dress _____ _____ animal costumes, like rabbits and frogs.
9. Sometimes, Kimiko goes _____ _____ her friends to take photos.
10. We can learn many things _____ her, _____ example, that life can change _____ an instant.

WRITING SENTENCES

1. star: _____

2. regular: _____

3. course: _____

4. director: _____

5. happily: _____

6. create: _____
