

- > Before, when I was little, I wanted more than anything to live in a house with a slide. And my dream was to sleep in an attic. I wanted a room to myself, without my brothers. Now, the house of my dreams, as far as I can remember, is a house not at all like others... But it's also a house where each crack is a concrete reminder of all sorts of memories and the trace of past experiences. The place where one lives should be a place where one can dream.
[002 / 03]
- > I'm often told what I say doesn't make sense. I've always been treated as someone who's a bit strange. If I sometimes seem a little excessive, it's because more than anything, I want to see people smile, but I'm always left on the sidelines.
[002 / 11]
- > I'm a student. I earn some money working in a Korean barbecue restaurant. What I like about this job is that everyone's nice and we laugh together. After work, the cook gives us a meal. What I don't like is that the boss is strict and picky. Being a student makes me feel a little anxious and impatient. You mustn't settle for a dull conventional life, that's what I'm always telling myself. I want to be able to make my voice heard and to express myself, even if I'm only a student. I want what I believe in to happen.
[016 / 02]
- > My mother tells me that I mustn't marry someone like my father.
[085 / 06]
- > Human beings are all different from each other, so it's hard to say how they are different. The way people think and experience things varies according to the environment they grew up in and the manner in which they were educated.
[007 / 11]
- > When I come home, a wife I love will be waiting for me with a bowl of rice and my exhaustion will disappear. On days off, I'd like to go to the sea or the mountains and have a good time. But I don't want to get married right away. It's still too early to choose the person with whom I want to spend the rest of my life with. I want to meet lots of other people until I find my ideal partner.
[011 / 07]
- > I'd like to have more time. There are lots of things I want to do, but I don't have the time. I want to have time not to do anything.
[040 / 12]
- > I'm married now, but I had a dream. Which has absolutely nothing to do with my life today.
[050 / 07]
- > My parents are separated now. It's positive. I think they should live their lives without worrying too much about what their children or society thinks.
[017 / 06]
- > Right now, I don't want to live with anybody. If I had my own house, it's true it would be simpler to have someone to take care of the housework. Whether it's a wife or a cleaning lady.
[046 / 04]
- > The house of my dreams? Right now I live in collective housing run by my firm. I don't have to do the cleaning and it's close to my work, so it's really practical. If it were possible, I'd like it to be a little bigger. Just a little.
[046 / 03]
- > I'd like to get married. I say that but haven't thought about it seriously. At any rate, when the right person comes along, I'll probably think about it.
[046 / 07]
- > The idea I have of marriage is that it's something tiresome and expensive. But lately I've been thinking that it's also a way of feeling protected. Maybe it isn't such a struggle to keep your identity and not change your natural inclinations once you're married. It wouldn't change my present situation that much. I'm not looking for change. I dream of a life filled with humour which would allow me to fully enjoy my peace of mind.
[019 / 07]
- > When I lived abroad, I felt Japanese. Now I feel more like a citizen of the world; I've gone beyond nationality, though sometimes it comes back during the World Cup or the Olympics. There are moments when I have the feeling that I can communicate by telepathy with my dogs. During these moments, I sometimes almost lose track of the border separating humans and animals.
[007 / 10]
- > At the moment my daughters are candidates for an exam to get into a school, so I've been participating like everybody else (and even more so) in meetings for parents to find out about the different school entrance requirements. When I'm there, I feel close to the other mothers even though I don't know them. I feel as if I'm part of a large group: "mothers of candidates".
[029 / 10]
- > Being a member of the group I work in can only be a source of pain for me. It's impossible for me to feel anything but pain due to the fact that I'm part of group with whom I work.
[009 / 10]
- > The Japanese only think of themselves as belonging to a group, but for me, I get the feeling of being all alone when I'm in a group. Relationships between individuals are worth more than relationships in a group.
[013 / 10]
- > I don't have the same body, and I think and feel things differently from other people. I think that I can feel things that others can't.
[016 / 11]
- > I express what I think more directly than other people because I believe that's more important than the form. I'm awkward and tactless, and often I have trouble sizing up situations, so sometimes I feel like I'm on another planet. But despite all these weaknesses, I think I'm really not much different from other people. I'm pretty happy when I feel "normal" like others.
[029 / 11]
- > I hurt my spine in a car accident (it was a case of life or death), and so now I'm in a wheelchair. I'm physically handicapped, but that doesn't stop me from being a human being, so I don't see any major differences between me and other people.
[117 / 11]
- > The difference is I'm me. And that's about it. I'm just me.
[035 / 11]
- > I believe that happiness is managing to be happy with little, in every aspect of life.
[058 / 13]
- > I want to create a home that has just enough so that my husband and children can live comfortably. On my days off, I'll bake cakes for my children.
[003 / 07]
- > I hate kids!
I'm going to live alone!
I need music.
I need technique.
I need a bigger repertoire.
I want people to notice me.
I want to be famous.
[005 / 8-12-11]
- > I think that because humans are also animals, and since having kids is the only way to leave some of your genes behind, it's important not to miss out on that opportunity.
[026 / 08]
- > It's a natural to become a parent, and to become attached to your role as a parent, and perhaps to derive some happiness from it. Sometimes I'd like to get a glimpse into the secret of my birth. We live and drift about like elements in the vast enterprise of nature. Understanding this takes us straight to the crucial problem of knowing whether we'll be able to finish out our lives honourably. And that has an important link with the fact of having children.
[018 / 08]
- > Sometimes I feel a kind of repulsion toward my mother, maybe because we live together.
[028 / 05]

> My mother worked for me until she retired, and now she lives off her pension. She reorganises the house and works in her garden; she only lives for herself. Often I feel jealous of her.

[047 / 06]

> I think the right thing to do is have a well-regulated household with a dog and a family.

[036 / 06]

> I wanted a house where artists could come when ever they liked to talk about art and other things, but due to a lack of time, my house has become just a place to live. The house of my dreams has a studio the size of 40 tatamis.

[032 / 03]

> I don't understand the meaning of "dream house"! You don't need dreams for a house! All it needs is to be able to stand up against the wind and the rain!

[005 / 03]

> Cement is cold and hard.

[045 / 03]

> I had my house built three years ago. It corresponds almost exactly to what I'd hoped.

[068 / 03]

> I don't dream of anything in particular for my house. To give an answer, I'd say that I'd like to live alone.

[038 / 03]

> When I prepare meals, I don't see my family's faces.

[033 / 03]

> I live in a community home for singles that's located on the same land as the company itself. It's too small! It's about four and a half tatamis, which is the only private personal space. A house you could feel comfortable in would have to be more spacious. I'd like to live somewhere where I'd want to spend my days off.

[047 / 03]

> Yes, I belong to the big group that is my company.

[031 / 10]

> My current house has become just a place to sleep. I communicate less and less with my family.

[105 / 03]

> I'd like to get married. But my sister got married not long ago, and when I see her, I tell myself it's still too early. She gives me the impression she's chained to her house, and I don't want to live stuck at home.

[042 / 07]

> I'm already married. My husband's understanding and he lets me do the job I like for which I'm grateful to him.

[034 / 07]

> I live alone in a house with six rooms. Once in a while, I'd like to have some company.

[109 / 09]

> I'm saaaaaad! I want to shout it out.

[076 / 09]

> There's someone I've been in love with for a long time. I thought that I managed to make it clear, but I'm still waiting for an answer.

[021 / 09]

> I'm alone. For me, what's most important, what is happiness? I have no idea. And then, I've lived alone for a long time. But on days when the sky is blue, I feel sunny inside too.

[013 / 09]

> My current life is devoted to my husband and our child. I think that's a little sad. But whatever, it's not so bad either...

[099 / 09]

> There are so things that need to be improved, I can't make up my mind.

[051 / 12]

> Sometimes I feel like wilted lettuce in a refrigerator. Especially when I'm alone in my room. But there are also moments of joy. It's a question of habit.

[047 / 09]

> I've had problems getting along with people ever since I was a little girl. So I try to avoid being part of anything. Loneliness in a group is even more frightening than inner loneliness. My current situation is a little sad because I don't have many close friends, but it's not a problem either. The Susuki prairie on a late autumn afternoon under a blue sky is a good image for me.

[029 / 09]

> I make plans for an electrical company. What I like is being able to build things that I imagined myself. What I don't like, is that I have the impression that this job's not for me.

[073 / 02]

> I don't have a designated spot anywhere. For me, there's no opportunity to be part of something.

[041 / 10]

> People often tell me I'm strange.

[080 / 11]

> I'm the eldest. I'm in my fourth year at university, it's a turning point. But I feel the pressure of finding a job. My parents have asked me to become (financially) independent. Never say too much, never do anything bad, be independent. Once I've become independent, I think we'll be able to have an adult relationship based on mutual respect.

[002 / 05]

> I'm alone. There are lots of things I wasn't able to do at university. I regret not having the student life that I'd dreamed of. I feel lonely when things and people don't go the way I'd like them to. I feel loneliness in my imperfect feeling of not being noticed while at the same time I want to be noticed.

[002 / 09]

> I do temp work. What I like about my job is that I can work when I want: since I'm a temp worker, I get called in to replace people here and there, and I get the chance to work with lots of people and in lots of different places. Obviously, when there's not enough work, I can't work, so there's no stability. Being too free is also a problem.

[002 / 02]

> I'm a member of my family. I'm a member of the organism we call 'University'. I've chosen to become a member of two groups, a film crew and a theatre circle. I meet a lot of people, but I can't really find my place. The people I really want to talk to aren't in these groups.

[002 / 10]

> You have to be able to get rid of your preconceived notions: "yakusas are dangerous", "work is hard", it all depends on people and their attitude. If I knew how to look on the bright side of things, everything would be nicer.

[002 / 12]

> In the autumn when I was 24, I was walking and a leaf fell from a tree branch, and floated down before me. At the moment that it touched the ground, something happened, and ever since I've never felt sad or worried.

[018 / 09]



cardboard house 185 x 180 x 240 cm, audio 16 min.

[01] First of all, could you please introduce yourself. [02] What is your profession? Could you tell me what you like and what you don't like about your job? [03] Describe where you currently live, then describe the home of your dreams? [04] Who would you like to share your home with? [05] What is your relationship with your parents? [06] Are they a model for you? Would you want to be like them? [07] How do you view marriage? What do you expect from it? [08] Does having children seem important to you? If yes, what do you expect the experience to be like? [09] Do you ever feel lonely? [10] Do you feel as if you belong to a group? [11] How are you different from others? [12] How could you improve your life? [13] What does happiness mean for you?