

Name:

Chapter 6 (The Elderly)
Grandpa's Birthday

Story A

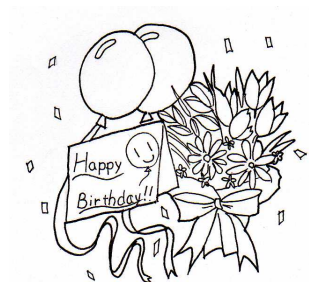
Hi Lotta,

Yesterday was my grandfather's 1) _____th birthday and all of our family visited Grandpa's senior facility to celebrate. Lotta, can you guess who joined us? It was Mats, who 2) _____ you to me! When we met at the international festival, he told me that he was really interested in the Japanese way of life. That's why I 3) _____ him to our birthday visit.

Recently in Japan, the number of older parents living with children is 4) _____, and many types of housing for the elderly are being developed. The place Grandpa lives in is an apartment offering various services to seniors. It is 5) _____ a normal apartment, and there is a large dining room, a common bath, a hobby room, a 6) _____, etc.

Not only a manager but also nurses are 7) _____ there. Each room has an emergency alarm for the residents to call staff members when they are not 8) _____. Grandpa is a member of some clubs and enjoys light exercises or karaoke with other residents.

Grandpa regularly goes to a local senior day care center for 9) _____. He sometimes visits the department of cardiology at a nearby hospital because of his heart problems. He is always smiling and telling jokes, so he is quite popular among the nurses and 10) _____ there.



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Grandpa really enjoyed our visit. We brought him his 1) _____ Japanese traditional sweet called *yokan*. It is really sweet and Mats liked it very much. Lotta, I 2) _____ you would like it? Please give it a try if you come to Japan.

Grandpa is spending a peaceful life supported by family and the staff members of the senior facility. On the other hand, I hear that many elderly have problems because of 3) _____ or financial circumstances and a lack of facilities able to receive them. I hope in Japan more 4) _____ and development will be done to support the elderly.

These days, Grandpa does not look in very 5) _____. When I was younger, he took me to many fun places, and I have a lot of good memories. I always hope he will 6) _____ and live long.

The 7) _____ for Japanese men is 79 years and 86 for Japanese women making average life expectancy for Japanese one of the 8) _____ in the world. Sweden is also one such country, isn't it? I hear that Sweden's welfare system is advanced and gives a 9) _____ life to the elderly and to people with disabilities. Lotta, do you also feel this way about Sweden's welfare system, and are you 10) _____ it?

Hana

