

Name:

Chapter 8 (People with Disabilities) Living Independently

Story A

Hi Lotta,

Today, I'd like to tell you about my best friend Yuki. Ever since she was in a 1) _____ , she has been in a wheelchair but always keeps a positive attitude. Yuki and I often enjoy talking about many things, including secret loves!

Yuki's morning begins at 2) _____ a.m. with a visit from a home care worker who helps her to get dressed and prepare breakfast. Home care workers also come at dinner and 3) _____ . The types of care she needs are physical care, housework and help when going out.

She has contracts with 4) _____ home care providers and employs a total of eight people to assist her. In the past, she did not have the 5) _____ to choose her own home care workers. They were sent by the authorities and so people with disabilities felt in a 6) _____ position always asking for help. However, under the new system, she is able to freely choose home care workers, and hire them according to what the system allows her.

The Japanese system classifies people 7) _____ disabilities from levels 1 to 6 according to their conditions. The amount of benefits a person can 8) _____ depends on the disability level. Payments for care vary according to the individual income level. For example, Yuki pays 9) _____ % of the total care costs.



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Story B

Awareness about a “barrier - free society” and 1) “_____ design” is gradually increasing in Japan. We now see various devices to help people with disabilities, such as textured paving blocks or wheelchair ramps. New buildings are often designed to be 2) _____ accessible for everybody.

These days, the number of buses that can take wheelchairs is increasing, but in reality it’s difficult for wheelchairs to enter buses that are always crowded. In Japan, it is still 3) _____ for people with disabilities to get around town.

In spite of this, my friend Yuki doesn’t stay quietly at home. She works at the 4) _____ desk of a hospital. I like to see her moving freely around the hospital in her wheelchair and enjoying her work. However, Yuki says it is still really 5) _____ people with disabilities to find work.

Yuki also does other activities with a positive attitude as much as she can. When she attended a Japanese festival supported by 6) _____ , she enjoyed dancing with me wearing a traditional costume! Please look at the picture. It’s beautiful, isn’t it?

Previously in Japan, usually only 7) _____ care was provided to people with disabilities. However, nowadays, there are many additional programs to 8) _____ them to live more independently. Since there are many disabled people with various talents, I think that we must continue to develop a society where these people can contribute.

Hana

