

Taking Care *of* Mother



Toshi is worried about his 78-year-old mother. Read Toshi's conversation with his wife, Midori, and find out: What do they want to do for his mother?

Toshi: We have to face the facts. **Mother is too old to live alone.**

Midori: Yes, you're probably right. She is getting older, and since your father died, she seems very forgetful.

Toshi: Mother will need someone to take care of her in the near future.

Midori: Perhaps we could hire a nurse. You know, someone who could come in during the day, clean the house, cook some meals, make sure she takes her pills.

Toshi: But nurses don't do all of those things. You're thinking of a nurse and a housekeeper. Who would pay for that? It will be very expensive!

Midori: Well, Toshi, what are you thinking?

Toshi: Since I'm the only child, we have to take care of her. She can come to live with us.

Midori: Here? In this tiny house? There are only two bedrooms. We can't move our two daughters out of their small bedroom.

Toshi: What else can we do? We can't afford to hire a nurse and a housekeeper. I'm her only child. Her husband, brother and sister are all dead. We have to take care of her.

Midori: Maybe we could look for a bigger house.

Toshi: In Tokyo? You know that's impossible. We tried looking last year and everything in this area of Tokyo is too expensive.

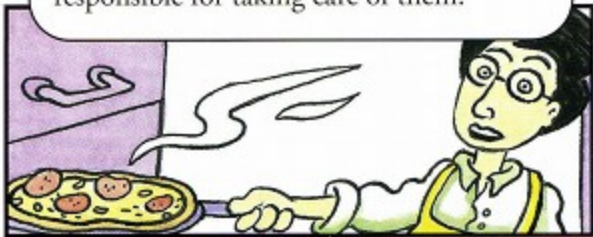
Midori: Let's move away from the city. Someplace cheap.

Toshi: But then I would be far away from my office. It might take me two or three hours on the train. I hate to commute. No, the only solution is for Mother to live with us here.

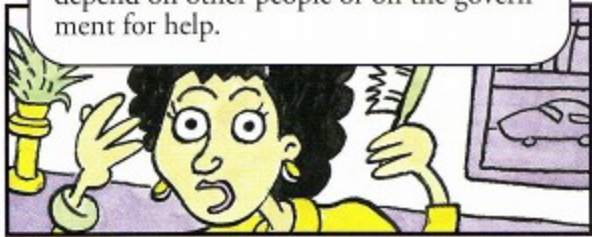
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which opinions do you agree with?
Check as many as you want.

It's too expensive to take care of old people. I think the government should be responsible for taking care of them.



Taking care of elderly parents is the child's duty. So the child should not depend on other people or on the government for help.



Your parents should live with you when they're old, even if your house is small.



If your mother or father suddenly comes to your house to live, it will cause a lot of problems.



Elderly people should live in special homes. They shouldn't bother their children.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 83 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

Many older parents live with their children. Can you think of reasons for and against this arrangement?

Older parents should live with their children because...

It's more fun with more members in the family.

Older parents should not live with their children because...

My small house would be crowded.