



- At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:**
- * **enumerate different options in rearing an elderly parent.**
 - * **understand the idea of nuclear family.**



Dialogue

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 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 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 is too expensive.

Midori: Let's move away from the city. Somewhere 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.



Let's Talk:

1. How old is Toshi's mother?
2. What are Midori's concerns about Toshi's mother living with them?
3. How many rooms does the average house in your city have?
4. Is your house big enough to accommodate another person?



Express Yourself:

1. Do you live with your parents?
2. Do you live in the same city with your parents?
3. How often do you visit your parents?
4. Are there any advantages or disadvantages living with your parents?
5. Do children in Japan move out when they finish college and get a job?
6. How old were you when you moved out from your parents house?
7. Would you be willing to live with your parents when they're too old to take care of themselves?