



A view of the Fukuoka City skyline at night

# COMING HOME

**December 12, 2017**

José Cruz: How do you- How how are you feeling in Japan, now that you've come back from America?

Ayaka Tanaka: Uh hmm about six months ago- six months have passed since I came back to Japan uh, I realize again that I am Japa- I am Japanese ha ha.

José: Ha ha. (Yeah) That's an interesting statement, but **could you**- what does that mean?

Ayaka: Hmm when I was in **the** Pittsburgh um I realized that I feel like I am American ha ha. Like something like (Hmm) enjoying the American culture, speaking English (Mm hmm) and everything is really new for me and interesting for me, so...

José: And and- but but still you felt like you were American?

Ayaka: No, I'm Japanese right now. Ha.

José: No, I meant- OK let me see if I- maybe I'm confused. You- I think you said when you went to Pittsburgh (Yeah) you felt everything was new (Mm) but you...

Ayaka: And I- And I could- **nan da ke** I could- I could be **more (by) myself** in American culture (Ahh) Mm hmm. And pe- friends and people **around** me almost American

friends, and people from around the world, no Japanese. So I feel I should use just only English in order to communicate with people. So after coming back to Japan, I'm just using Japanese, and- actually I really love to speak in English with people (Mm hmm) around the world.

José: Well good. This is a good chance then.

Ayaka: Yeah but, um, but when I just using Japanese it's really comfortable- com- comfortable for me. Ha ha.

José: I completely understand. I um, I have- I- I wouldn't call it a problem, but I have the same situation. (Oh) I enjoy speaking (Mm) Japanese but whenever I get to speak English like a really good conversation on (Yeah) on an interesting topic with an intelligent person all in English- and I mean another native speaker, so there's no effort (Yes) It just feels so comfortable. (Yes) So I know (Makes sense) exactly what you mean. (Oh) Are you- are you doing any English study now, though?

Ayaka: Uh sometimes ha ha. Actually I have- I have just only a few classes right now (Uh huh) and mm, there is not many opportunity- opportunities to speak in English actually. But I'm working at **cafe** right now (Mm hmm) and there is a lot of

foreign people from around the world (Mm hmm) so um always I'm using English and Korean just, (OK) yeah just (Good) them. Mm hmm **but um** I'm **going to** work at international airport starting next spring.

Ayaka: Uh still- still not **decide**. (Oh) But maybe I'm going to work at Haneda Airport (Wow) or Narita. In just- only international airports.

José: Wow.

José: So you've got your job? It's set?

Ayaka: Yeah.

José: OK. Good for you.

Ayaka: I'm going to work as **an grand staff**.

José: Uh where, which airport? Kitakyushu

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
475	3:00	158.33

Pointers:

**could you:** pronounced, "**KUJU**" (0:21)

**nan da ke:** Japanese for "What is it?" Ayaka is talking-to herself, looking for the right English expression (0:57)

**more (by) myself:** Ayaka meant "**more myself**" (1:01)

**around:** Ayaka makes a small pronunciation mistake (1:07)

**cafe:** Ayaka should have said "**a cafe**" (2:27)

**OK:** pronounced, "**KAY**" (2:38)

**um:** Ayaka uses the pause word, "**UM**" very fluently (2:41)

**going to:** pronounced, "**GONNA**" (2:42)

**an:** Ayaka didn't need to use an article (2:49)

**grand staff:** Japanese English mistakenly calls "airport **ground** staff" as "**grand** staff" (2:49)

**decide:** Ayaka should have said "**decided**" (2:53)

Discussion:

Do you know what "culture shock" is? Can you imagine what "reverse culture shock" is?

What kind of career would you like if you could speak English fluently?

Is English necessary for a good job in your country?

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