

My father is German. My mother is Japanese. I was born in Japan, and have spent most of my life here. In Japan I am often called ハーフ, which means half. I think I am not only half of a human being. So – you might say I'm half German and half Japanese. But I also do not feel like half-and-half. There are two hearts beating in my chest; one heart for Japan and one for Germany. Therefore, I'd rather say I'm "DOUBLE". At home I usually talk to my father in German. I have spent about 20 long holidays in Germany visiting my family and friends. I have seen so many great things in both countries and I would love to combine all the positive aspects of my home countries. Let me give you an example from which both countries could learn a little from each other: The schools in Japan and also in Germany lay emphasis on team work. We in Japan often use majority decisions. The goal is group consensus. In Germany, on the other hand, the team members fight harder and the final outcome often depends on the strongest in the group. This leads often to bolder, sometimes better decisions, but they may not be supported by everyone. In my opinion, either way has pros and cons. There are certain things in Germany, which are just normal for Germans, but when I look at them with my Japanese eyes, I wish they would be improved to a level like in Japan. And the same happens to me when I look with my German eyes at things in Japan. Wouldn't it be nice, if I could help to improve both societies by holding the mirror in front of them? Here is another reason for my feeling of being DOUBLE: I currently have two passports. And each of the two passports contains another name. But this is another story... However, under the present Japanese law I have to choose one of my nationalities before my 22nd birthday. Which country should I choose? Germany or Japan? Which passport? Which name? I'm now 15 years old, so

I still have some years before I am forced to decide. But I feel quite desperate, because it is like being asked to choose between my parents. I love both, both love me. It feels like having to throw one part of myself away. Suddenly having only one nationality would make me a foreigner when I stay with my family in the other home country. This is my story, but I know there are thousands who have a similar story.

> Let's have a look at Japan: The aging and shrinking population of Japan will lead to shortages in the workforce. The government started to discuss a plan to admit up to 200,000 foreigners a year by 2050, because employing more women and elderly will not be sufficient. These immigrants will learn, work and live in Japan. They will marry, and they will have children. They will further enrich the Japanese culture with their own culture. They will contribute to the society and make Japan younger and

more global. Japan will become their second home and many will stay here for the rest of their lives. To have equal rights, many will strive to become Japanese citizens, but most do not want to throw their original citizenship away. This is because (?!) - They will feel DOUBLE! like me. Many countries already allow for multiple citizenships. I wish Japan would become one of these countries, too. Hopefully very soon. Thank you.

> タイトルの訂正を以下のように併せてお願いいたします。

> (誤) Half or Dubble ?

> (正) Half or Double ?

> PS. 10行目 in Japan で始まる文と、15行目 Japanese eyes, で始まる文のインデントを2文字左に移動したいのですがどういう訳かできません。大変申し訳ありませんが、原稿にされる際は2文字 (2letters)分、左に移動していただきますようお願いいたします。