

# What is ordinary?

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What is ordinary? What is your understanding of ordinary? Let me tell you a story.

Two months ago a girl started to work in the same café as me. However after about a week the attitude of the other staff towards her began to change.

Because she could hardly do even the simplest task – a task that I thought anyone would be capable of.

And when she was trying to do two things at the same time, she really became confused.

At first I thought, “she is a rookie so she can’t help it.”

But as one month passed, and then two months, she still didn’t become able to do two things at the same time.

As I watched her struggle I thought, “honestly! Why can’t she do such simple, ordinary things?”

However I began to think – “What is ordinary?”

What is its definition?

Who decides what “ordinary” is?

I started to think that maybe my “ordinary” and her “ordinary” are different. I wondered if it was right that I tried to impose my “ordinary” on her and others.

What is ordinary life anyway? It seems to be going to high school, then college, graduating, find a job straight away, earning an average income and getting married around 30.

Even though our lives are not exactly the same, everyone seems afraid to do something that is different from the ordinary, out of the ordinary.

For example, as we get ready to graduate next year, we feel that there are only two choices facing us – getting a job or going on to more education.

We are afraid to get off this track called “ordinary” – we want to stay with the majority.

Especially these days, if someone wants to do something that is not ordinary, others who are tied to the stereotype of normal will try to crush their idea. But are they right?

For example, its considered normal to go to school but what if all children didn't go to school? What if those children who are bullied at school, didn't go to school? Maybe they would be happier. Maybe there wouldn't be so much suicide among unhappy school children.

Or what about this? If we didn't have the idea that work is a priority for adults, we may not have any deaths from overwork.

What I am trying to say is that this idea of ordinary is not something in our DNA. It is something we are taught by our education and environment.

What is considered normal depends on the time and place and culture that you grow up in. There is no correct meaning of ordinary.

Going back to my colleague in the café – now all the staff have come to accept her and we work well together. As a result, she looks like she is having fun working and the atmosphere in the café is much better than before. Just because her ordinary is different from our ordinary doesn't mean we can't work together or that we can't get along.