

"Being a twin" by Aiko Makabe

Hi everyone. Today, let me tell you about twins. I'm a twin. I have a twin sister. Her name is Ayaka. We are not identical twins so we don't resemble each other in appearance or character. But it is often said that our voices are similar, especially how our voices sound on the phone. So when I call my grandparents, or even my parents, I'm always asked to say my name first.

All our lives, we've been going to the same school. Elementary school, junior high school, high school, and now college too.

In elementary school twins are usually put in different classes, I think it's so they can each make their own friends. This happened to us too, but everyone often said to us, you two don't need to be in different classes because you don't look alike.

Now, I'm going to talk about what I think are the good points of being a twin. The first is that I also have someone like a best friend near me. Someone I can talk to about anything, casually. My twin and I always laugh and cheer each other up. We are great allies and sometimes rivals. Moreover, what I'm thinking is mostly the same as her, so it is easier for us to talk about things - we don't need to explain the background!

Similarly, when we played tennis, we used to pair up as doubles partners. We got along well and it was very easy to play together. But if one of us started to make a mistake, the other one made a mistake too, and we fed off each other's negative emotions and ended up losing the game.

Besides tennis we share other hobbies, for example, singing and playing the piano. When we were learning to play the piano, we used to do it with our four hands together on the keys! At our first piano recital when we were 5 years old, our performance was good because we were so in tune with each other.

Another good thing about being a twin is that people tend to remember us! Being twins we make a strong impression on people.

So much for the good things, now let me tell you about the bad things ... when you are small, it is not nice to be forced to wear the same clothes as your sister! Nor is it good to always be compared to your sister, OR to always be considered the same as your sister! Even though we are different, everyone thinks we're the same.

It is true that we do share some characteristics. For example, when we start laughing together, often we can't stop. Or, when we say the same thing at the same time, people say to us "That's cute! It's because you are twins." That annoys me! Moreover, at school the teachers used to say that we made the same mistakes on our tests. I didn't like to hear that either.

And then there is the fact that people often don't call us by our name. Some people call me "Twin half," "Partner" or "Twins's sister". So, I really want people to call me by my first name.

When I look at all these things together, I sometimes feel like I'm not being seen as an individual.

On a different note, I'm also not good at being on my own because I'm always together with Ayaka. Maybe that is also a disadvantage.

Although I've talked about a lot of bad things, don't get me wrong, on balance, I'm really glad we are twins. No matter how much other people who are not twins wish or try, they will never get it. I think I'll always be proud of it and I appreciate that we were both born healthy together.

Lastly, let me tell you that since twins are hereditary, I would be very happy if I had my own twins as children someday.

Thank you for listening.