

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210225-minister-of-loneliness-0.html>

Japan has a "minister of loneliness". Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga wants to stop a rise in suicides. More people are taking their own lives in the coronavirus pandemic. Japan's police said over 20,000 people died by suicide in 2020. The minister said he wants to "improve the ties between people".

There is a 70 per cent rise in suicide among women. Mr Suga said: "Women are suffering from isolation more than men are."

A 23-year-old designer said she misses not seeing people smile behind their mask. It makes her feel sad and lonely. She said: "I want to see happy faces."

Sources: <https://thehill.com/policy/international/asia-pacific/539917-japanese-prime-minister-appoints-minister-of-loneliness-to>
<https://nypost.com/2021/02/22/japan-creates-minister-of-loneliness-to-fight-covid-suicides/>
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/12/national/loneliness-isolation-minister/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210225-minister-of-loneliness-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Japan has a | a. in suicides |
| 2. Japan's Prime Minister | b. wants to |
| 3. stop a rise | c. pandemic |
| 4. taking their own | d. between people |
| 5. in the coronavirus | e. minister of loneliness |
| 6. 20,000 people died by | f. Yoshihide Suga |
| 7. The minister said he | g. suicide in 2020 |
| 8. improve the ties | h. lives |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. There is a 70 per cent | a. men are |
| 2. suicide | b. faces |
| 3. Women are suffering | c. rise |
| 4. more than | d. smile |
| 5. she misses not seeing people | e. and lonely |
| 6. behind their | f. from isolation |
| 7. It makes her feel sad | g. among women |
| 8. I want to see happy | h. mask |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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(1) _____ "minister of loneliness". Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga (2) _____ a rise in suicides. More people (3) _____ own lives in the coronavirus pandemic. Japan's (4) _____ 20,000 people died (5) _____ 2020. The minister said he wants to "improve (6) _____ people".

There is a 70 per cent (7) _____ among women.

Mr Suga said: "Women (8) _____ isolation more than men are." A 23-year-old (9) _____ misses not seeing (10) _____ their mask. It makes

(11) _____ and lonely. She said: "I want to

(12) _____."

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

Japan government creates a minister of loneliness – 25th February, 2021
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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____