


3 First carefully listen to the whole transcript. Then the seven sentences containing blanks will be read again twice. Complete the blanks. 

Listening Points

I'm Catherine Kobayashi. April is New Year's all over again in Japan. It's the start of the school year and the business year. ① That means entering college students and **corporate recruits** are all _____

① 住む場所を捜して
(いる)

5 _____ at the same time.

Everything they say about Tokyo apartments is true. They're small, expensive and almost all look the same. This is a typical apartment in Tokyo and, for about 700 U.S. dollars, all you get is a space for the bed, a tiny **kitchenette** and a little washroom. That's all. ② And _____

② 何か違ったものを見
つけたいなら

_____, it's going to take some looking around.

For a more modern style here's what they call a designer's mansion. The apartments in this new building 15 are split-level.

(Catherine, Reporter)

"You don't usually see concrete walls like this."

③ _____, you face a staircase going down. Beyond the stairs are the bath and the toilet, not a typical layout at all. The living room is 20 downstairs. Unlike ordinary buildings, here you can sense the designers' tastes, whether you like them or not. Many people do. The waiting list for some **units** is two years.

③ 入るとすぐに

(Real estate agent)

25 "The space is comfortable. That's why people want to live like this."

Leave it to designer's mansion[s]* to add the comforts of modernization. ④ A thousand dollar rent is _____ 30 _____, but high style isn't everything. The money you don't spend on rent you can spend on something else.

④ 予算オーバーで

If cheap is best, this could be your idea of home-sweet-home. This building is located in Kagurazaka near the cen-

ter of Tokyo. It's 50 years old, but it's been repaired. Now
35 after being mostly empty for a number of years, it's ready
for residents once again.

Catherine: Hi. I'm Catherine. Nice to meet you. Wow! It's
small!

Mihoko: It is.

40 C: It's really small. Oh, wow! You have such a tiny bed!
How do you sleep here?

Mihoko Yonezawa's three-tatami-mat room isn't even big
enough to **roll out** the futon. ⑤ But _____
_____.

⑤ 家賃（値段）は妥当
である

45 M: One hundred dollars.

C: One hundred dollars?

M: Yeah.

C: That's it? That's so cheap!

M: Yeah, it is cheap. You see, this is very tiny. It's very
50 comfortable and relaxing, and, like, it reminds me of our
grandparents' home.

So there are apartments whose appeal is looks and there
are those whose main attraction is price. But there is
another **draw** in some places, the people who live there.

55 Half the residents in this building are from outside
Japan. It was **renovated** with them in mind. Renting here
allows them to escape the **notorious, up-front** charges
required at most places, as much as six months' rent.
Justin is one of the residents. He's from Australia. His
60 monthly rent is about \$480, but that's not the only reason
he lives here.

Catherine: So what do you like about this apartment build-
ing?

Justin: ⑥ Well, _____

65 is that you get to meet people from all over the world. And
also, you get to meet, there are a lot of Japanese people
living here, so you get to talk with Japanese people, which
is great. And also there are a lot of people from Australia,

⑥ すばらしいことの一
つは

so it's nice, actually, to talk about things back home all the
70 time with them, which is good.

C: ⑦ So, _____ then?

⑦ ホームシックになっ
たりしますか

J: Not at all. Not at all. It's great to be away, actually.

But living in a group isn't for everyone. There is one way
to make sure your home is as you like it. Do it yourself. In
75 the Mukojima District they're doing just that, **redoing** a
number of old wooden houses that had been left empty.

Yoshifumi Furuhashi works with computers, but here
he's going retro.

Catherine: Look at the wall! *Sugoi*. What? *Kyû*. *Konnani*
80 *kyû to omowanakatta*. It's so steep!

"It looks like something out of a movie."

The plan is to turn this place into an art studio and
gallery.

Yoshifumi: I've been wanting a place to work with artists.

85 Another **makeover** house is on its way to a new life.
Tamaho Moriwaki is a doll-maker by **trade**, but she's train-
ing herself to fix floors and walls.

Catherine: What's so great about doing it yourself?

Tamaho: I like to make things. And I think of this entire
90 house as my artwork. It motivates me.

So whether you're a person who likes the **lived-in** look
or someone for whom looks are everything, when you find
the right place, there is no place like home.

Catherine: Well, Yuko, I have to confess there was an **ulte-**
95 **rior** motive. Actually, I'm looking for a place myself.

Yuko: So, tell us, what kind of apartment have you chosen?

C: Well, you know, there were so many choices, so many
factors, I haven't decided yet.

Notes -----

* -sが必要

4 Fill in the blanks using the appropriate words from the list given below each sentence. There is one extra word in each list.

1. 「東京の新しいシーパークのこと聞いた？ そういうアイデアを思いつくのは、やっぱりディズニーだよね（ディズニーに任せよう）」

“() you () () the new sea park in Tokyo? () () () Disney to () of an () () that.”

to leave did idea have about it think heard like

2. 車を買う必要があるのだけれど、展示されている新しいモデルは自分の予算をはるかに超えている。

I really () () buy a car, () the new models () () are () () () ().

but my way need to must on beyond display budget

3. 私のアパートは便利にも、主要な JR 駅の近くに位置している。

My () () conveniently () () a () () ().

station near apartment located main principle JR is

4. ジェイソンは仕事が終わってから手軽に運動ができるようにと、自分の地下室をトレーニングルームに変えた。

Jason () his () () a training room () he could () () out () his job.

easily where into basement turned work after floor

► *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. Are you satisfied with the place you live in now (location of your house, arrangement of your room, rent, people you live with)? Why or why not?
2. Americans enjoy do-it-yourself jobs, such as painting walls or making bookshelves. If you were given an old house like some people in this video what would you do to improve it? Or if you could plan a so-called “designer’s mansion,” how would you lay it out?
3. For some people the place they live is the most important thing in their lives. Others think jobs take priority, while some others think money is almost everything. What is your top priority in life? Explain why.