



Hidemi's Rambling No.181

As my work for our new song is coming close to an end, I'm preparing for the next song as well. I've already written the song but the long, time-consuming process of the arrangement awaits me. For the arrangement, I need a new computer. The one I've been using now is seven years old and it's too risky to rely on it completely. Its specs are obsolete, too. And I don't know how long it will take to finish the next song. I've had my eye on a certain model of HP for my new computer and an online shop started the special sale for that particular model by reducing its price drastically over the weekend. I bought it yesterday and took delivery of it today. I got it much sooner than I had originally planned. I'm so excited to have a new computer but now I remember that I haven't finished my current project yet on my old computer...

Hideki's Rambling No.182

Technology is amazing. My new computer arrived in less than 24 hours after I placed an order. A computer is a faithful band member to me. It plays exactly as I ask for and it's a brilliant multi player. The best thing is it never quits the band. I have countless band members who came and left. Every time we failed an audition, somebody in my band wanted to quit and left. In some cases, they just quit because they wanted to get a 'real' job. I'm a person of staying power for music and quitting the band has never crossed my mind to date. After all, only my partner and I were left as human beings in the band except for computers and we've stayed this way for years. And now, another member joined our band in the shape of a computer. When I opened the box, the letters on a leaflet caught my eye. It said, 'It starts here.' I hope a lot of good things start here, with this new computer. Well, as things start here, the payment also starts here...

Hidemi's Rambling No.183

I've been exploring my new cell phone and setting it up to my liking, such as switching a display language from Japanese to English and a call receiving sound from a piece of music to a normal chime. The phone has a great deal of functions. I can browse websites on the Internet with it, or use it as a train ticket by placing it over the ticket gate at a station. It also has a Second Life-like simulation game in which I can live in and stroll around Paris. I could use those but I don't because they're all charged. The plan I've signed up is the most inexpensive one that I pay the basic monthly fee of \$8 plus the charge per communication use. So, the charged services cost me. Most of the phone's fantastic features require the communication charges. Other than getting discount coupons via e-mail, I only use its free features like checking news headlines, horoscopes and weather, and using the address book as a lowest price list sorted according to stores. That's how I enjoy this high-tech, function-filled cell phone...

Hideki's Rambling No.184

My conventional phone has been broken for a couple of months now. The phone line is fine but my phone makes a loud ragged noise constantly from the receiver and I can't put it to my ear. It doesn't receive a call for the answering machine any more, either. It's favorable for me, though. I really, really hate the telephone. I've rarely got the good news by it and usually feel very unpleasant by the time I hang up. It's probably because I don't have a friend who calls and only few calls I occasionally get are mostly from my parents. Those calls are the worst. But, with a broken phone, I won't receive nor make a call, hence, peaceful days. I have a cell phone for an emergency and I don't need its calling function normally. The other day, I needed to make an inquiry about the delivery time for what I had ordered. Since my phone was broken, they called me back to my cell phone. But when it came, I realized I didn't know how to answer it. I've used a cell phone for two and a half years and had never answered a single phone call...

Hideki's Rambling No.185

My moving plan is still alive. The most possible property I've found and liked so far is the one located in the snowy countryside surrounded by mountains. It stands alone in the woods and there's no house, building, or shop around it. It takes 50 minutes by bus to get to the closest town. So, it's like the one in that scary novel, 'The Shining' by Stephen King. It's completely secluded and away from people. Because of how it's located, it meets my low price range. If I moved in that place, I could finally get rid of this crazy society and concentrate on writing songs. Sounds ideal for me. There, only one road leads to the town, weaving through the mountains. If a landslide or a snowslide occurred and blocked the road, I would lose the way to get food and might die there without being found. I'm terrified at the thought of that. Am I left with no choice but to stick to this mad society and live among people, after all...?

Hidemi's Rambling No.186

Last weekend, the collision between the teammates happened at GP of Turkey. Weber and Vettel belong to the same team, and were running first and second when they collided. The win was handed over to Hamilton whom I disliked. Because the two drivers are my favorite drivers and I was cheering for them, I got furious from disappointment. If I were a team manager, I would fire them right away. In my history as an avid Formula One fan, I've fired countless drivers and team members in front of TV or from the stands of the circuits. Come to think of it, I'm a fan who doesn't even have a driver's license. So, I'm in no position at all to criticize an overtaking maneuver. If not behind the wheel, I'm too hot and passionate about the racing, and I wouldn't be able to make cool and calm strategies. What if I were a pit engineer? I'm naturally clumsy so I would get tangled with a cord of an electrical nut screwdriver when the car pits in and would fall over the car. At least couldn't I wax a Formula One car before the race? I'm not a morning person and can't wake up in the morning, so the race would start before I arrive at the pit. While I judge their work in every race, I don't have the slightest capability for the jobs in the beautiful, glamorous world of Formula One...

Hidemi's Rambling No.187

I go to sleep around 7 or 8 a.m. and get up in the evening these days. To go to my favorite Costco, I need to get up early because it takes time to prepare to go out, to get to Costco and to shop there before it closes. I went to bed much earlier than usual last night to go there today. I was sleepy and the plan seemed to work out. But while I was lying on the bed, I became less tired and more awake. The pressure to get up early the next morning also made me sleepless. I could have read a book, but the one I've been reading is a Stephen King which is never boring thus might keep me even more awake. I just wasted time in bed and fell asleep in the morning as usual. I managed to wake up in the early afternoon for Costco, though. But after only five-hour sleep, I felt drowsy and exhausted. Going to Costco requires a great deal of energy for a long trip and heavy bags, and there's no way of doing that with a condition like this. I gave up going there today. Why does it close so early like at 8 p.m.? By the time I get up and prepare, most shops have already closed...

Hidemi's Rambling No.188

The first CD we made was a compilation album. We left the master DAT to a recording engineer to do the mastering for the CD press. When we received the master CD from the studio, the sound was a lot different from the master we had made. We didn't expect the mastering changed the sound this much and preferred ours. We complained and they redid the mastering. From this bitter experience, when we released our original album in Japan, we joined in the recording studio for mastering. But a professional engineer worked for the actual mastering by asking our taste and we just examined whether the sound he was making was what we had desired or not. Now, I've been doing the mastering of our new song by myself and realized that the process has a lot of possibilities for sound and it's the area to use creativity. I found it fun but because of it, the completion has been delayed more and more...

Hideki's Rambling No.189

I successfully got up earlier than usual enough to shop at Costco before it closed for the day yesterday. It was my first time to shop there in the evening and the store was a lot less crowded and easier to move around with its gigantic cart because housewives in large numbers had gone home. I bought huge squares of garlic bread with a coupon, which price was about a quarter of the one at regular bakeries in Japan. After shopping, I had a slice of the delicious pizza outside the store watching the beautiful twilight sky. To go home, I need to walk for 15 minutes to the bus stop and take the bus to the train station before I take the train. When I was walking along the street toward the bus stop, I was passed by three buses in succession only several yards off to the bus stop. I thought I would have to wait for the next bus for a long time but two buses came in succession right away. This local bus line has the world's largest services, I guess. I came home and tried a piece of the garlic bread. It was so delicious but soon, I had heartburn. I had another piece for lunch today and had heartburn again. If it doesn't suit my digestion, what should I do with the massive rest of the bread...?

Hidemi's Rambling No.190

Yesterday I happened to see a news program on TV reporting about a discount store, which carried the lowest price soda in Japan. 'Lowest price' is the keyword that always hooks me and I watched the report. Astonishingly, the reported store is located near my apartment. I rushed into the store today. It existed on the site of a supermarket where I used to shop frequently but was closed for good four years ago. The building had been abandoned until the new discount store opened there last July. I can't believe I had neglected to find it for almost a year as a person who is hunting for the lowest price constantly. While the building was the same as four years ago, the store had been transformed into my taste. The prices are incredibly low, some are the lowest in Japan, and the store opens 24 hours! I had wanted an around-the-clock discount store for years. Since I decided to move out here, I've found fabulous shopping destinations one after another – first Costco, then this place. Is this a sign to stay put? I'm so confused now...