

# 21 - Marrying While Unemployed?!

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**SIGN** Marrying While Unemployed?!

**[01:36] mat**

Heya!

**[01:37] girl**

Hey there!

**SIGN** Otowa Radio Matsumoto

**[01:38] bon**

*Matsumoto-san of Otowa Radio  
is a popular commentator*

**[01:42] bon**

*who's done pro baseball play-by-play  
ever since he joined with the company.*

**[01:47] bon**

Hello!

**[01:47] bon**

Hey!

**[01:48] mat**

*When he's announcing for a night game,  
he always enters the stadium at 2 PM.*

**[01:53] mat**

*The home team will be doing  
batting practice around then.*

**[01:58] mat**

*He'll go right to interviews with the  
manager, the coaches, and the players.*

**[02:02] bon**

*At 3:20,*

**[02:03] bon**

*the day's starting pitcher  
will finish his warm-ups,*

**[02:06] bon**

*and he'll come in from the outfield.*

**[02:08] bon**

*One hour before broadcast,*

**[02:10] bon**

*he'll meet up with his station's director,  
color commentator, and bench reporters.*

**[02:15] bon**

*Then he'll have a light meal.*

**[02:17] bon**

*He always gets either curry or udon  
from the Jingu Stadium snack bars.*

**[02:22] bon**

*At 5:40, he starts his broadcast.*

**[02:24] bon**

*Then, at 6:00...*

**[02:27] mat**

Welcome to Jingu Spiders vs. Kawasaki Blue  
Comets, the first in a three-game series.

**[02:30] mat**

The Spiders' starter, Shiina,  
winds up and throws his first pitch!

**[02:34] mat**

It's a strike!

**[02:35] mat**

A fastball clipping the outside corner!

**SIGN** 10th 11th 12th

**[02:41] bon**

*And then, one day...*

**SIGN** Otowa Radio Z

**[02:50] toku**

Here, your pick-me-up.

**[02:52] mat**

Hey, thanks, Toku-chan.

**[02:54] toku**

It must be rough,

**[02:56] toku**

getting back from the stadium and moving  
right on to preparing for tomorrow's game.

**[03:04] ann**

That preparation is what makes  
a play-by-play announcer.

**[03:08] ann**

But what are you doing here at this hour?

**[03:10] toku**

I'm doing color commentary  
tomorrow, remember?

**[03:13] toku**

I thought I'd learn a thing or two from you...

**[03:16] toku**

and do my own prep for once.

**[03:19] toku**

It'll be a nice change of pace.

And we're pairing up tomorrow, too.

**[03:25] matsu**

You can really use that PC, huh?

**[03:28] toku**

Why don't you try a PC out, too?

**[03:31] toku**

They're really useful.

**[03:32] ann**

No, I need to write it all in by hand.

**[03:35] ann**

The words won't fly off my tongue unless I do.

**[03:40] ann**

But I have to say, you've been  
all-in these days, huh, Toku-chan?

**[03:44] toku**

I don't want to get fired, is all.

**[03:47] toku**

By the way, Matsumoto-san.

**[03:48] toku**

You know Nogawa of the Mops? The pitcher?

**[03:51] mat**

Nogawa?

**[03:52] toku**

He just came into the majors yesterday...

**[03:55] toku**

You didn't hear about it?

**[03:56] mat**

Oh, just two years in the league,  
twenty years old.

**[03:59] toku**

He pitched a great game four days ago  
in the minors. Seven shutout innings!

**[04:04] mat**

Oh, really?

**[04:06] toku**

And the scheduled starter, Sasamoto,  
has been in a bit of a slump lately...

**[04:10] toku**

He hasn't had a quality start  
his last two games.

**[04:14] mat**

Yeah, he didn't last a full five innings  
in his last two games.

**[04:17] toku**

So I checked up on Nogawa, thinking  
they might use him as a long reliever.

**[04:22] toku**

But if Sasamoto's starting,  
I'm sure he'll have made adjustments.

**[04:27] mat**

Well, the third time is  
frequently *not* the charm...

**[04:30] mat**

It might be good to read up  
on Nogawa. Just to be safe.

**[04:35] mat**

If I do that, I'll be getting home after 3 AM!

**[04:44] mat**

And it breaks through left-center field!

**[04:48] mat**

Two runners come home!

**SIGN** 1st 2nd

**[04:51] mat**

The starter, Sasamoto, has given up  
four runs in only two innings!

**[04:55] mat**

He only has one out, with two men on base!

**[04:57] mat**

*It's turning out just like Toku-chan said!*

**[05:01] mat**

Looks like the Mops have  
given up on Sasamoto!

**[05:04] ann**

*Pitcher: Nogawa.*

**[05:10] mat**

This is twenty-year-old Nogawa, who just  
came up to the majors two days ago.

**[05:13] mat**

This will be his first appearance as a pro.

**[05:16] pro**

Okay, we're going to commercial!

**[05:18] mat**

Your prediction came true, Toku-chan!

**[05:20] mat**

I've got tons of material on Nogawa!

**[05:23] mat**

I'll bet the other stations  
are freaking out right now!

**[05:27] guy**

Hey, hey! Get us some data on Nogawa already!

**[05:31] guy**

How can we not have any data on him?

**[05:33] guy**

I give up!

**[05:35] mat**

Toku-chan, fine play!

**[05:37] toku**

I've gotta work hard if I want to keep my job!

**[05:40] bon**

*It was things like these  
that caused Matsumoto-san*

**[05:42] bon**

*to form a special attachment to Toku-san.*

**[05:47] bon**

*And now...*

**[05:49] mat**

Pro baseball fans feeling down  
during the off season,

**[05:52] mat**

we're here for you! It's 5:40 PM!

**[05:55] It's 5**

Time for the informative  
variety show, *Night Off*.

**[05:57] It's 5**

It's Matsumoto Hideo's "Digging  
Deeper! Just Between Us!"

**[05:59] It's 5**

My partner today is...

**[06:01] nan**

Otowa Radio's Mizugoshi Nanako!

**[06:04] mat**

And our guest is the pro  
baseball color commentator...

**[06:07] toku**

Tokunaga here. Nice to be here!

**[06:09] mat**

Tokunaga-san's here to talk about  
pitching prospects in the Central League.

**[06:14] mat**

Which young pitcher will transform  
the Central League next season?!

**[06:19] bon**

*During the off-season,  
Matsumoto-san hosts this variety show.*

**[06:25] nan**

Great job, everyone!

**[06:27] hagi**

Toku-chan, your comments  
today were so unconventional!

**[06:31] hagi**

You've really been on fire lately!

**[06:33] toku**

Y-You think?

**[06:34] hagi**

Your color commentary's been getting rave reviews, too!

**[06:38] mat**

Okay, Toku-chan. See you later!

**[06:43] toku**

Thank you for having me.

**[06:44] toku**

I'll be off, too.

**[06:46] hagi**

Toku-chan! Toku-chan...

**[06:49] hagi**

You'll stay with us as a color commentator next season too, won't you?

**[06:52] toku**

What? You're keeping me on next year?

**[06:55] hagi**

Of course we are!

**[06:57] hagi**

We're still finishing up the contract arrangements, of course...

**[07:01] hagi**

But there's no need to worry about yours!

**[07:03] hagi**

I'll see to it!

**[07:04] toku**

Thank you so much! I'll do my best!

**[07:08] toku**

Great to work with you again!

**[07:09] toku**

Yes! I already got my contract for next season!

**[07:17] toku**

Hey, Natsunosuke. How you doing?

**[07:19] bon**

Toku-san!

**[07:21] toku**

Sorry it's so sudden, but let's have a prefecture clique meetup tomorrow.

**[07:24] toku**

Tell Yukio, too.

**[07:25] bon**

Sure. Got it.

**[07:28] toku**

There's someone I want to introduce you to.

**[07:32] toku**

Also, I learned Otowa Radio's keeping me on color commentary next year.

**[07:36] bon**

That's great to hear!

**[07:38] bon**

It figures, though. Everyone says your commentary has gotten really good.

**[07:41] toku**

Hey, it's not that great.

**[07:44] toku**

Once you're done with pro ball, maybe I'll introduce you around the station.

**[07:47] nat**

Yes, please do!

**[07:49] toku**

I've got you!

**[07:53] toku**

This is Akemi. Akemi.

**[07:58] toku**

I'm Akemi!

**[07:59] toku**

We're getting married.

**[08:01] bon**

T-Toku-san!

**[08:03] yuki**

That's so great!

**[08:05] bon**

Congratulations!

**[08:07] toku**

Well, I wanted to get married while I was still an active player,

**[08:11] toku**

but I guess waiting this long was the right choice.

**[08:16] bon**

Are you gonna have a ceremony?

**[08:17] toku**

We dunno yet.

**[08:20] toku**

But my folks back in Yamanashi will get on my case otherwise,

**[08:22] toku**

so maybe we'll have a small one, at least.

**[08:24] toku**

Right?

**[08:25] ake**

Yes!

**[08:26] bon**

*I see! Toku-san is finally getting married!*

**[08:30] bon**

*Marrying at thirty-six...*

**[08:32] bon**

*It feels a bit late in life, but I guess  
that's how people do it these days!*

**[08:37] ake**

Go on, down those glasses!

**[08:40] ake**

Look at you! Baseball players  
sure can down their alcohol!

**[08:44] ake**

Go on, have another!

**[08:46] bon**

*Is Akemi-san from that place in Roppongi  
that Toku-san used to visit a lot?*

**[08:52] yuki**

She's so sweet and attentive.

**[08:55] yuki**

I'm really envious.

**[08:57] yuki**

Hey, Akemi-san! What do you do for a living?

**[09:00] yuki**

How did you two meet?

**[09:03] toku**

Um... Well...

**[09:06] bon**

*Idiot!*

**[09:07] yuki**

Ow!

**[09:08] yuki**

Wh-What was that for?

**[09:09] bon**

*Don't ask such intrusive questions!*

**[09:13] bon**

C'mon, let's have another toast!

**[09:16] bon**

Toast, toast!

**[09:17] all**

Congratulations!

**[09:19] all**

*After getting engaged and having  
his contract renewed for next season,*

**[09:23] all**

*Toku-san had hit peak happiness at this time.*

**[09:27] all**

*But in another restaurant not far from there,*

**[09:31] all**

*the head of Otowa Radio's sports department*

**[09:34] all**

*was having a meal with a certain  
big-name color commentator.*

**[09:37] jin**

Of course! I'd be delighted to join you.

**[09:41] man**

Thank you so much!

**[09:43] man**

We were hoping to make you our  
main color commentator, Jinno-san,

**[09:47] man**

so we look forward to working with you.

**[09:49] jin**

This is wonderful.

**[09:51] jin**

I'm just so honored that you approached me.

**[09:54] jin**

Otowa Radio employed me until  
about ten years ago, after all.

**[09:59] jin**

Not at all.

**[10:02] jin**

Looking back... I really was  
so immature back then.

**[10:06] jin**

My commentary was, too.

**[10:09] jin**

But I've spent these last ten years  
picking up in-the-field experience.

**[10:14] man**

Well, not only did you do amazing  
things back when you were a player,

**[10:19] man**

you've had a fruitful career with  
eighteen years in the booth and as a coach.

**[10:23] man**

And you've even served as  
head coach for two ball clubs!

**[10:27] jin**

I'll be making use of all that  
experience in my commentary.

**[10:31] jin**

You'll see some truly mature work from me.

**[10:33] man**

We can't wait!

**[10:36] man**

*Paying him is going to be rough, though.*

**[10:37] man**

*We'll need to scrape up the money somewhere.*

**SIGN** Otowa Radio Z

**[10:43] man**

Really? We're signing Jinno-san?

**[10:46] man**

He's big time!

**[10:48] mat**

Yeah, the chief went and sealed the deal.

**[10:50] mat**

But a man of Jinno-san's caliber  
will cost a pretty penny, won't he?

**[10:54] mat**

The manager said to cut someone  
to make it happen if we need to...

**[10:58] mat**

Cut? We're losing a commentator?

**[11:00] mat**

But who?

**[11:02] mat**

I dunno. But the easiest one  
to cut would be...

**[11:06] mat**

The youngest.

**[11:08] mat**

Toku-san, huh?

**[11:10] mat**

Yeah...

**[11:11] mat**

*What? Toku?*

**[11:13] mat**

Yeah, I can see it...

**[11:14] mat**

*Not Toku!*

**[11:29] toku**

Thanks for inviting me out.

**[11:32] mat**

It's nice to go out now and then.

**[11:34] mat**

So... You color commentators...

**[11:37] mat**

You're going through contracts now.

It must be rough...

**[11:43] mat**

Did the director, Ogiwara-chan,  
say anything to you about yours?

**[11:47] mat**

After our last show, he said he  
wants me to stay on next year.

**[11:51] mat**

Really? Th-That's good to hear...

**[11:55] mat**

*That was before they struck  
the deal with Jinno-san.*

**[11:57] mat**

A-Anyway... You know...

**[12:01] toku**

Hey, Matsumoto-san, listen.

**[12:05] toku**

Down the line, I want to be  
a coach for the Spiders.

**[12:10] mat**

Oh... Good luck with that!

**[12:13] toku**

To get there, I need to rack up a  
few quality years as a commentator.

**[12:19] toku**

You know, because my playing  
career was pretty mediocre.

**[12:23] mat**

R-Really?

**[12:25] toku**

The truth is, at the start,  
I underestimated what commentators do.

**[12:31] toku**

I thought you could just say whatever.

**[12:35] toku**

But I've realized that you can't just chat  
about what's going on on the field.

**[12:40] toku**

I couldn't see the whole picture.

**[12:42] toku**

I didn't have the vocabulary.  
My reports lacked depth.

**[12:47] toku**

It might sound trite,

**[12:48] toku**

but I also realized that I need to read books  
about things other than baseball, too.

**[12:53] mat**

Now that you mention it,

**[12:55] mat**

the older commentators do read  
a lot more than you'd expect.

**[12:58] toku**

Everyone does the research  
and learns about baseball.

**[13:03] toku**

I need to acquire more depth as a human being

**[13:06] toku**

to set myself apart from the others.

**[13:09] toku**

Because in our world, you never  
know when you might get the axe.

**[13:13] mat**

Toku-chan, you've changed a lot  
since you first started in this business.

**[13:18] toku**

Hey, even I can grow up a little.

**[13:21] mat**

Yes, Toku-chan...

**[13:22] mat**

I hope you'll use this as a stepping stone  
to return to the field some day.

**[13:25] toku**

Sure. But, Matsumoto-san,  
it's easier said than done.

**[13:30] toku**

For men as mediocre as me, even if  
we work really hard as a commentator,

**[13:35] toku**

there's no guarantee we'll ever  
get to put on a uniform again.

**[13:39] toku**

I know myself better than anyone.

**[13:43] toku**

But as long as Otowa Radio's paying my bills,

**[13:48] toku**

it would be ungrateful  
not to give them my best.

**[13:51] toku**

Work as hard as you can on the work  
that's in front of you, year after year.

**[13:56] toku**

That's what life's all about.

**[13:58] mat**

Toku...

**[14:00] mat**

*How am I supposed to tell him now?*

**[14:03] mat**

*I wanted to clue him in on the big-name  
color commentator they're hiring...*

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**[14:12] hagi**

You're not signing Toku-chan next year?!

**[14:15] man**

That's right.

**[14:16] man**

We reached an agreement with Jinno-san,  
who has both a record and renown.

**[14:20] hagi**

B-But, Boss,  
it's not like we're overstaffed...

**[14:25] hagi**

It's not a matter of staff count.  
It's a matter of budget!

**[14:28] hagi**

But I can't tell Toku-chan about this!

**[14:31] hagi**

He's still only in his second year!

**[14:33] man**

If you don't tell him, who will?!

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**[14:35] hagi**

B-But...

**[14:37] hagi**

*I can't do this!*

**[14:39] hagi**

*I already told him I'd see to it  
that he got a contract, too!*

**SIGN** Announcer Room

**[14:44] mat**

Wh-What?!

**[14:45] mat**

I-I'm supposed to tell Toku-chan he's fired?!

**[14:49] hagi**

Please, Matsumoto-san!

**[14:50] hagi**

You and Toku-chan are friends!

**[14:53] mat**

You're the one who brought him in!

**[14:56] mat**

Try to tell him as soon as possible!

**[14:58] mat**

His ability to find another job  
in time will depend on it!

**[15:01] mat**

W-Wait a minute! You can't do this to me!

**[15:04] mat**

I'm counting on you, Matsumoto-san!

**[15:07] mat**

H-Hey!

**[15:08] mat**

You've gotta be kidding me!

**SIGN** Bar

**[15:13] mat**

*What will I do?*

**[15:15] mat**

*I'm supposed to tell Toku that he's fired?*

**[15:18] mat**

*How is that an announcer's job?*

**[15:20] mat**

*But I don't have time for this!*

**[15:23] mat**

*Toku needs to find a source  
of income for next year!*

**[15:27] mat**

*The company's made up its mind,*

**[15:30] mat**

*so I need to tell him ASAP.*

**[15:33] mat**

*Oh, but...*

**[15:35] mat**

*He's been working so hard!*

**[15:38] mat**

*I can't tell him!*

**[15:40] mat**

*No! I need to tell him!*

**[15:42] mat**

*He'll be in real trouble if I don't!*

**[15:49] vo**

*The number you're calling is either  
switched off or not reachable.*

**[15:54] mat**

*I can't even get in touch with him!*

**SIGN** Otowa Radio Z

**[15:59] mat**

*What's going on with Toku?*

**[16:01] mat**

*His phone's been*

*out of range since yesterday!*

**[16:03] mat**

*Is he off messing around somewhere?*

**[16:06] mat**

*At the same time, it's a bit of a relief that I can't get through...*

**[16:10] mat**

*And Toku is single. That makes it a little less urgent, I guess.*

**[16:16] mat**

*No, I can't let myself believe that!*

**[16:24] mat**

H-Hey.

**[16:26] bon**

M-Matsumoto-san?

**[16:28] bon**

What are you doing here so early?

**[16:31] mat**

W-Well, Bonda-kun, I heard you often come running here at this time of day...

**[16:36] mat**

So... I thought I'd come to see you...

**[16:39] bon**

Is it some kind of emergency?

**[16:41] mat**

Well, I've been calling Toku-chan since two days ago,

**[16:45] mat**

and I can't get through at all...

**[16:47] mat**

Has he gone off somewhere, perhaps?

**[16:49] bon**

Toku-san's home in Yamanashi.

**[16:52] mat**

Yamanashi isn't out of signal range!

**[16:54] bon**

He's at a hot spring in the mountains with some friends from high school.

**[16:59] mat**

A hot spring?

**[17:00] bon**

They've rented out a little hot springs inn on the Nagano border,

**[17:04] bon**

and they're spending a few nights there.

**[17:06] mat**

Oh, so that's why I couldn't get through.

**[17:10] mat**

Places like that still exist, huh?

**[17:12] mat**

So? When will he be back?

**[17:14] bon**

I don't know, but... Matsumoto-san...

**[17:18] bon**

What could you need to get in contact  
with Toku-san about that urgently?

**[17:24] mat**

Oh, well...

**[17:25] bon**

Hey, is it bad news?

**[17:28] mat**

No, of course not!

**[17:29] bon**

Look, this is weird!

**[17:31] bon**

You wouldn't come here  
to talk to me otherwise!

**[17:33] mat**

No, no, it's nothing!

**[17:35] mat**

I'm sorry! This has nothing to do with you!

**[17:40] bon**

T-Toku-san's been fired?!

**[17:42] mat**

We need to tell him  
as soon as possible, right?

**[17:46] bon**

He's fired? Th-That can't be...

**[17:49] bon**

Toku-san is about to get married!

**[17:52] mat**

Married?

**[17:53] mat**

Married?!

**[17:54] bon**

He said they're making it official next year.

**[17:58] mat**

T-Toku... has a fiancée?!

**[18:01] mat**

Oh god, marrying while unemployed?!

**[18:06] mat**

Waiting until after the show  
to head out left it pretty late,

**[18:09] mat**

but we should reach the mountain spring before midnight at this rate.

**[18:14] bon**

Yeah.

**[18:15] mat**

Now that I think about it, this is too important for a phone call, right?

**[18:20] mat**

I need to tell him in person.

**[18:22] bon**

I get that, but...

**[18:25] bon**

Why do I have to come along with you?

**[18:28] mat**

Don't be like that.

I couldn't do this by myself.

**[18:32] mat**

And you're the only person I can ask.

**[18:49] man**

Tokunaga-san went home already.

**[18:53] man**

A friend drove him.

**[18:55] man**

He said he had to get back to Tokyo before day's end.

**[19:11] bon**

It's seven already?

**[19:14] bon**

Toku-san?!

**[19:16] bon**

Hello?!

**[19:17] bon**

Matsumoto-san!

**[19:19] toku**

*Hey, Natsunosuke!*

**[19:20] toku**

*I'm at Haneda! Haneda Airport!*

**[19:24] bon**

Haneda?!

**[19:26] mat**

Haneda?

**[19:27] toku**

I'm on my way to Guam.

**[19:28] toku**

*Guam?!*

**[19:30] toku**

I'm with the lady you met the other day.

**[19:34] toku**

W-Wait a minute!

**[19:36] toku**

M-Matsumoto here.

**[19:38] toku**

*Hey, Matsumoto-san, sorry.*

**[19:40] toku**

*I see you tried to call me a few times,  
but I've been too busy to call back.*

**[19:44] toku**

*Hey, we've gotta go.*

**[19:46] toku**

I'll be back in the evening  
five days from now.

**[19:48] toku**

So long!

**[19:50] toku**

*W-Wait, Toku!*

**[19:51] toku**

Toku! Toku!

**[19:53] toku**

Toku!

**[19:55] bon**

*And so, Toku-san went to  
Guam in ignorant bliss.*

**SIGN** Bar

**[20:00] yuki**

Marrying while unemployed...

**[20:01] yuki**

That's rough.

**[20:04] yuki**

So he didn't tell Toku-san?

**[20:09] yuki**

He could call him in Guam, though, right?

**[20:12] bon**

But Matsumoto-san said...

**[20:15] bon**

"They're enjoying their pre-wedding trip.

**[20:18] bon**

I don't want to spoil that.

**[20:20] bon**

I think I should tell him after he gets back."

**[20:23] yuki**

That's a fair point, I guess.

**[20:25] bon**

But Toku-san... What's he going to do now?

**[20:29] bon**

Poor guy...

**[20:31] yuki**

Maybe they can work it out after the wedding?

**[20:35] bon**

"Work it out"? He can't  
even get married like this!

**[20:41] yuki**

Why not?

**[20:42] bon**

Because he can't! He'll be unemployed!

**[20:46] bon**

You think Akemi-san would go along with that?

**[20:48] yuki**

I-Is that what it's about?

**[20:51] bon**

Yeah, that's how the world works.

**[20:55] bon**

It hits too close to home for me...

**[21:01] bon**

You can't get married unless  
you have steady income.

**[21:04] yuki**

The world of pro baseball really is rough.

**[21:08] yuki**

Even Toku-san, who got 49  
wins, is in these straits.

**[21:12] bon**

We don't have a real accomplishment  
to our names, either.

**[21:15] bon**

We need to hit the big time  
while we're still active players.

**[21:19] bon**

Yeah.

**[21:23] bon**

*Reality weighed heavy on Yukio and me.*

**[23:01] bon**

Natsunosuke here.

**[23:02] bon**

Toku-san makes it home, and he's  
shocked to learn he's been fired!

**[23:06] bon**

Matsumoto found him a coaching job  
at an independent league in Fukui,

**[23:11] bon**

but will his fiancée, Akemi-san,  
go with him to Fukui?

**[23:16] bon**

Is this the end for Toku-san's marriage?

**[23:19] bon**

Meanwhile, another situation develops.

**[23:23] bon**

Next time: "Sudden Turnaround!"

**[23:25] bon**

Seize tomorrow's success and today's money!

***SIGN*** Sudden Turnaround!

**[23:28] bon**

Money Pitch!

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