6. DECISION

When I told the doctors I wanted to do the London Marathon within a year, they were strongly against the idea. It normally takes over a year to adapt to an artificial leg. Running was out of the question, they said. I knew the doctors were doing their very best, but one month after entering the hospital, I decided to leave.

When I walked in the streets, people stared at me, some with shock, others with sympathy. My trousers hid the artificial leg, but the arm attracted a lot of attention. In order to face up to people's stares, I started going to a public swimming pool.

Even with a handicap, there is no doubt that we are capable of doing a lot more than we imagine. I decided to free myself from the limitations I had slowly begun to accept. More than ever, I wanted to run in the London Marathon.

Two important things happened during my rehabilitation. Firstly, I got into graduate school. The experience of my injury had awoken my interest in Security Management. I also wanted to learn something that might be useful for my own future. It was then that I decided to set up my own company after graduation. It would focus on security management counselling and I would also give lectures about my experience.

The second important thing was meeting Alison at a friend's wedding in the USA. I liked her from the start. Talking with her, I soon realized that we had a similar sense of humour. But I wasn't her only admirer. There were three other men. They were an elite businessman, a first-class engineer and a popular actor. Besides being successful, they all had one more hand and leg than I. They were also rather good looking.

However, I did not believe that being disabled was a handicap for marriage. I had never felt attracted to women who valued looks more than character. As it turned out, Alison and I continued to see each other after the wedding. My disability didn't seem to bother her one bit. We often chatted on the phone and saw each other at weekends.

In time, we were married. From then on, in a marvellous way, Alison became my right arm.

EXERCISES (6)

Ａ　本文の内容に合うものにはＴ、合わないものにはＦを書きなさい．

(1) I decided to leave the hospital because I wanted to free myself from my limitations. ( )

(2) In the streets, people stared at me because of my artificial arm. ( )

(3) I studied Security Management at graduate school. ( )

(4) Alison did not care about my disability one bit. ( )

Ｂ　日本文の意味に合うように、（　）に適語を入れなさい．

(1) 両親は私の計画に強く反対していた．

My parents were strongly ( ) my plan.

(2) 新しい学校になじむのに時間がかかる．

It takes a long time to ( ) ( ) a new school.

(3) 彼は自分のことは自分でできる．

He is ( ) ( ) looking after himself.

(4) 彼女の講義は環境問題が中心だった．

Her lecture ( ) ( ) environmental problems.

(5) 結局、彼は自分の会社を設立した．

As it ( ) ( ), he set up his own company.