

Getting a Good Bike

Situation: Sounds of a door opening and a bell ringing.

W: Welcome!

M: Hi. I'm looking for a good bike. I'm a **freshman**, and I realized I need a bike to go to school.

W: I know. It's really difficult to **get around** in Saijo without a bike. You said you were a freshman? We recommend you get one of these. Most first-year students buy from these "Freshman Series" bikes.

M: How much is it?

W: Well, the price is really **affordable**! It's only ¥15,000!

M: Hmm... that's pretty cheap. Why's it so cheap?

W: Well, it has only one gear... the basket's a bit small... and it's the oldest model, but it's still usable! It'll **run** well for a long time.

M: And the design's not very cool. Um... I want something that has gears, a big basket and an **awesome** design!

W: Well, I can show you the new models. This white one over here has 3 gears and a dragon design! The only problem is that it doesn't have a basket.

M: Wait, how about that one? It has 6 gears, a big basket, and an amazing **blazing-fire** design!

W: That one's the best bike we have now.

M: I'll take it! Um... how much is it?

W: **¥100,000**.

M: What?! Ah! That's too much for me... How about the white bike with the dragon design?

W: That one's ¥40,000.

M: (sighs) I guess I'll just take the red bike from the "Freshman Series"...

(Written by Mikael Kai Nomura)

*** It's a Good Expression ***
(今回の重要表現)

freshman

(米) 大学一年生

※アメリカ英語では学年 (year) に
応じて以下のように呼ぶ。

大学 1 年生 : a freshman

大学 2 年生 : a sophomore

大学 3 年生 : a junior

大学 4 年生 : a senior

北米以外では a first-year student
のように序数に year をつける。ちな
みに gender inclusiveness の観点か
ら、1 年生の呼称として a first-year
(student) を推奨する北米の大学も見
られる。

get around in~

~を動き回る

affordable

お手頃な

run

(機械などが) 動作する

awesome

カッコいい

blazing-fire design

燃え上がるようなデザイン

¥100,000

※会話では "ten-man-yen" と日本語
混じりになっている。ご存知のよう

に英語表現では 1,000 より上の数字
は 3 桁ごとに単位が変わる

(thousand. million) が、日本に長
く在住している英語ネイティブスピ
ーカーは man (万) 単位に慣れてい
るので、このような表現でも通じる
ことが多い。

(ただし英語の授業では a hundred
thousand yen を使うようにしましょ
う！)