

# FIRST YEAR 🔍

Episode 3: Off to a Rocky Start



#### **Preview**

In the last episode, Kate's father drove her to her new dorm. Kate was forced to tell her dad the secret she had been keeping from him: This residence is co-ed. Kate's dad is not pleased, but she asks him to give her the benefit of the doubt. In this episode, Kate meets her new roommate. Her dad will be happy that Yuki is a girl, but how will Kate react to living with this second year student?

#### Where's the pronoun?

In spoken English, native speakers sometimes cut out pronouns like "I" or "You" at the beginning of a sentence. Phrases like "I hope you don't mind..." or "I hope it is okay..." are often reduced to "Hope you don't mind" or "Hope it's okay". You might also hear "wish" or "thought" used this way. For example, "Wish you'd told me". When spoken quickly, clipped phrases like "Coulda' tol me!" (You could have told me.) are difficult to catch. The dialogues in First Year contain spoken English. You will find incomplete sentences and imperfect English. This is the stuff you hear in real life!

#### Pre-reading Vocabulary List N

Word	Definition	Notes / Translation
off to a rocky start	not starting well; problems from the beginning	
snatch up	take right away for one's own self	
first come first served	the first person to arrive gets the first opportunity	
making it	being able to attend	
stuck with	to have to keep	
get off lucky	to be blessed with good fortune	
No offence	Don't take this personally.	
frosh	person or group in first year of post-secondary school (short for freshman)	
Go figure	A remark used to show that you find something surprising, annoying, or unexplainable.	
a pain	something that makes life difficult	
one's type	a person or thing that is suited or similar	





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#### Dialogue

Fill in the blanks with words from the vocabulary list.

<b>Kate:</b> Hi, you must be Yuki. This is room 315, right?	
Yuki: Yeah. Hope you don't mind that I up the windon It's first come around here.	ow side.
<b>Kate:</b> That's okay. I prefer the darker side of the room anyway. I'm exactly a morning person. I'm Kate, by the way.	not
Yuki: Good luck it to all of your early classes. First y always get with 8 AM's.	years
<b>Kate:</b> I think I have Monday and Wednesday early classes. The other don't start until 10 or so.	er days I
Yuki: How did you get so lucky? Last year all my cl	asses started at 7:00 or 8:00.
Kate: You're in second year?	
Yuki: Yeah. No, but I can't believe they placed me w	vith a <b>frosh</b> .
<b>Kate:</b> It is kind of weird. I mean for you. I'm okay with it, though.	I'm majoring in English. How about you?
Yuki: Computer Science. I guess we won't be studying together	figure.
Yuki: Computer Science. I guess we won't be studying together	figure.  Comprehension Questions 🗹
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<ul><li>Kate: That's too bad. It would've been handy to have a study partner in the same room.</li><li>Yuki: I have a bunch of study partners from last year but none of them are living on rez, which is going to be a real</li></ul>	Comprehension Questions    1. Why does Kate say she prefers the dark the room?  2. What is Kate surprised to find out about the complete the control of the
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#### rehension Questions 🗵

- does Kate say she prefers the dark side of
- is Kate surprised to find out about her
- th subjects are Kate and Yuki majoring in?
- rding to Yuki, why is studying going to be ain" this year?
- can be inferred about Yuki's experience sidence last year?
- does Kate have to cut off her tion with Yuki?
- Do you think Kate and Yuki are going to become good friends? Why or why not?



## FIRST YEAR 🔌



### **Vocabulary Match** §

#### Match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- 1. my type
- 2. snatch up
- 3. frosh
- 4. no offence
- 5. Go figure
- 6. off to a rocky start
- 7. first come first served
- 8. stuck with
- 9. a pain
- 10. can't make it

- a) take quickly
- b) unable to get there
- c) the kind I am attracted to
- d) not starting well
- e) an annoying or unpleasant thing
- f) no harm meant
- g) there's no good explanation
- h) first year student
- i) the first to arrive gets the first service
- j) have to keep



#### Vocabulary Correction **N**

# Some of the words in these sentences are mixed up. Can you spot and fix the mistakes?

- 1. My roommate and I are up to a rocky finish.
- 2. No offend but, I can smell garlic on your breath.
- 3. The university halls are full of fresh.
- 4. Gone figures. There's no milk for the coffee.
- 5. I'm afraid you're stuck into the classes you picked.
- 6. I snacked up the last empty chair.
- 7. It's a pine that he gives us homework on the weekends.
- 8. I'll try to make out to soccer practice, but I have to work until 5.
- 9. Thanks for setting me up with Kyle. Sorry he wasn't my typing.
- 10. I got in lucky because my teacher was sick.



## Group Discussion: Vocabulary Review 🗵

Have a group discussion based on the questions below. Each time one of the words from this list is spoken, cross it off. Continue the class discussion until all of the review words have been used.

emotional rollercoaster, roommate, rocky start, go figure, early bird, night hawk, it pays, meaning to, I swear, benefit of the doubt, can't afford, off campus, rez, comfort zone, dorm, alone time, ups and downs, count on, deal with

- 1. What are the qualities of a good roommate?
- **2.** What are the qualities of a poor roommate?
- 3. Have you had an ideal roommate? Describe your experience.

#### My Life ☑

Discuss these questions with a partner or write your responses in a journal entry.

- 1. Describe a time when you got off to a rocky start with someone.
- 2. A morning person is also called an **early riser** or an **early bird**. The opposite is a **night hawk**. Which one are you and why?
- **3.** Are dorms co-ed in your country? Discuss the pros and cons of co-ed facilities, such as gyms.
- 4. Think of all of the people in your life (friends, family members, classmates). Who would make an ideal roommate and why?

### Stay Tuned: Episode #4

In the next episode, Kate **tracks down** the Residence Don and requests a room change.

