



Preview

In the last episode, Kate met her new roommate, Yuki. Yuki is in her second year and is not happy to be placed with a *frosh*. Even before Kate unpacked her bags, the roommates seemed to be *off to a rocky start*. Just a few weeks have passed but Kate has already *had enough of* Yuki and her “entourage”. In this episode, Kate approaches Alex about her roommate issues. Alex is the campus “Don”. A Don is the person in charge of resident concerns in a dorm. Will Alex agree that Kate has a reason to complain?

Are you afraid to be alone?

The term “**entourage**” is often used when talking about celebrities. Famous people often have a group of people who travel everywhere with them. A musician’s entourage may include a security guard, a makeup artist, a few fans, and a manager. Some everyday people travel with an entourage too. Do you know anyone like this? Unfortunately for Kate, Yuki is one of these people. Yuki doesn’t seem to need any *alone time*.

Pre-reading Vocabulary List

Word	Definition	Notes / Translation
the go to person	the person who has the answers and can offer guidance on a certain topic	
first things first	let’s discuss or attend to the first issue before we move on	
to get ahead of one’s self	to make plans or to show concern too far in advance	
dry	not interesting	
barely even	only just	
never mind	do not include or think of this as well	
on one’s plate	on your to-do list; things that need to be addressed or completed	
to work something out	to resolve an issue	
talk behind one’s back	to talk about someone to another person (usually negative or something you wouldn’t say to a person’s face)	
not exactly	emphasizes “not”; not really	

Dialogue 

Fill in the blanks with words from the vocabulary list.

Kate: You're Alex, right? I hear you are **the go to person** about dorm room problems. I've been looking for you everywhere.

Alex: Whoa. **First things** _____, what room are you in?

Kate: Sorry, I **got** _____ **of myself**. I'm Kate. Room 17 on the seventh floor.

Alex: Hi Kate. Yes, I'm the Don for floor 7. How have you enjoyed the first few weeks of school?

Kate: My classes are bit _____, but I guess that is to be expected for first year. I'm having a major problem with my roommate, though.

Alex: Uh-oh. Already? School has **barely even** started Kate. Is Yuki keeping you up too late or something?

Kate: It's not about the late nights. She just *always* has someone over in our room. The room is barely big enough for the two of us, **never** _____ her boyfriends.

Alex: Boyfriends? Oh, does she have more than one this year?

Kate: Well, I don't think she's really dating any of them, but she never comes to the room without an **entourage**. It's impossible to study.

Alex: Have you tried using the study hall or the library? It's only a ten minute walk across campus.

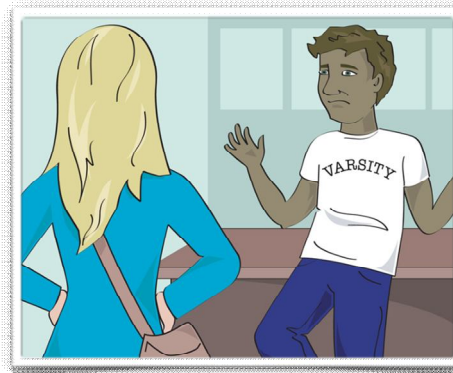
Kate: I know, but I like studying on my bed. That's what I always did in high school.

Alex: Look, I can talk to Yuki, but I have a few more serious issues **on my** _____ right now. I suggest you take it up with her first. Come see me again if you two can't **work something** _____.

Kate: There's one other thing. Yuki and her friends never talk in English. It feels like they're **talking** _____ **my back**.

Alex: It may be annoying but it's **not** _____ against the rules to speak your native language, Kate. This isn't high school, remember?

Kate: I know, but I'm just wondering if I can request a room change. I think a single room would suit me better.

**Comprehension Questions** ☒

1. Who is Alex?
2. What small talk does Alex try to make before discussing the main issue.
3. True or False? Kate is having a major problem with her classes in her first week.
4. Why can't Kate study?
5. What suggestion does Alex have for Kate in relation to studying?
6. What does Alex want Kate to do before he looks further into the issue?
7. What does the Don say is NOT against the rules?
8. What request does Kate make at the end of the conversation?

Vocabulary Match

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. to work something out | a) to resolve a problem |
| 2. first things first | b) the one to ask |
| 3. barely even | c) not including |
| 4. dry | d) boring |
| 5. never mind | e) gossip |
| 6. talk behind one's back | f) jump ahead |
| 7. it's not exactly | g) to do |
| 8. to get ahead of one's self | h) hardly |
| 9. the go to person | i) firstly |
| 10. on my plate | j) it isn't |

Vocabulary Gap

Complete the sentence.

- I'm having trouble studying because the material is so
a. damp b. dry c. hot d. fresh
- You didn't... ask me to turn the music down. How was I to know it was bothering you?
a. never b. bare c. exactly d. mind
- Sorry I haven't called recently. I've had so much
a. on my plate b. at my back c. at my desk d. off my work
- Kate thinks Yuki's friends are talking ... her
a. in...face b. to...hand c. behind...back d. at...side
- You... studied for the exam. How did you get an A?
a. not exactly b. first thing c. ahead d. barely even



My Life ☒

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

- Who is your "go to person" for education related issues. Who is your "go to person" for personal issues?
- If you were Kate, would you request a room change?
- Where do you like to study and why?
- Have you ever caught someone talking behind your back. How did you feel? What did you do?
- Do you like to have your "alone time"?

Group Discussion: ☒

Create a chart on the board or in a small group. Brainstorm the pros and cons to living with a roommate. After the discussion, take a vote to see who would rather live alone.

Living with a Roommate		Living Alone	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons

Stay Tuned: Episode #5

In the next episode, Kate **runs short on cash**.