



Kitakyushu University, 2010

UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN

March 16, 2015

José Cruz: Do you think our students um appreciate the opportunity that they have here? In that sense you know, studying here?

Danny Minn: That's a good question. I see these students, uh yeah in general their parents are paying (Right) for the tuition, and they're even sending them money every month. (Bags of rice) Bags of rice and other ha ha.

José: Uh (other supp-) here I know I know you're out of underwear, so here's a- a three-pack (Yeah) of underwear for you too.

Danny: Yeah supplies, yeah. So Japanese students uh don't really have to worry too much about money. (Right) Although they complain that they- they wish they had more money to, I don't know, go out on the weekends.

José: Go to karaoke, yeah right right. (Yeah yeah) Which which you know, I- I we shouldn't giggle about that. **I mean** everyone wants to have a chance to blow off some steam and stuff.

Danny: Yeah that's fine. You want- you- Everyone needs to have a little play money. (Sure) Uh but I don't know if most Japanese students appreciate their time at uni- universities, yeah.

José: I think one thing that kind of um shocks my students- and I don't know if these numbers are the same, but certainly when I was going to university they were they were **kind of** like this. Generally in Japan, uh at least for all the

time I've been here since 1991 to now. Um the the uh um- **what's the word I'm looking for-** the matriculation rate from high school to university so that's the entrance rate from uh high school to university, not the graduation rate uh was something like 85% to a four-year university. So something like 85% percent of kids went on to four-year university. I could be wrong about that. It could be like both **second year and fourth year** university

Danny: Yeah probably both. Yeah yeah.

José: Probably both. OK. Then there's the technical colleges and stuff. Technical high schools and stuff but um, it is- it's actually relatively rare to meet somebody who didn't go to university for me. (Mm hmm) You get that experience? (In Japan?) Yeah (Right) Most of the Japanese people you meet went to university.

Danny: Right or including two- two year yeah yeah.

José: Including two-year programs, right? OK. So second- two-year and four-year programs. (Right) And 85% 80% is a fair number. (Mm) I think most of the people who've been living here long enough know that, yeah, that's about right. (Mm) But when I tell my students that's not the case in Canada and I ask them can you guess what the number is for a similar statistic in Canada. They just can't guess that it's something like 30% (Mm hmm) They you know- More than two-thirds of the people in America never get anywhere close to university. (Mm hmm) And this was

before the the you know, the recent scandalous prices uh that are being charged in American universities. Even when it was reasonable, it was just hard to enter. (Mm hmm) And then I ask them, "Well now, do you know what our graduation rate is?" Because they think about the graduation rate in Japan, and it's close to like 90%. (Right) If you enter, as long as you can keep paying you will graduate.

Danny: Right. Well, attend classes.

José: Well just-. T- Yeah **you've got to- OK, you've got to** show up a bit. But like it's- Yeah, OK, that's really rare, right. So OK let's let's make it easy, 80% again. (OK) OK? That that- It's hard to argue with that number even if it's, um even if you you put in all of those things. But um, when I tell them that

you know, graduation rate in Canada is closer to 50% 40%. (Mm hmm) Most people don't graduate even if they begin a program, they're just shocked. Because I- I think people take it for granted that you'll go to university here. (Mm) They'll take it for granted that you'll graduate. It's part of that locomotive you were talking about before.

Danny: Ha ha. Yeah.

José: Right?

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
689	3:52	178.19

Pointers:

I mean: said very quickly. **I mean** is now a common discourse marker, similar in function to saying "well" as the beginning a phrase (0:56)

kind of: pronounced, "**KAINDA**" (1:25)

what's the word I'm looking for: something English speakers say when they want to indicate they are searching for a word (1:36)

second year and fourth year: José should have said "**two-year and four-year**" (1:58)

you've got to: pronounced, "**YU GOTTA**" (3:17)

Discussion:

How important was your education to you?

What makes for a bad education?

In what ways do you think your education could have been better?

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