

Always Late!

WARM UP

1. Are you usually on time for work? For meetings?
2. What is a good reason for being late?



SITUATION

Duksoo is a Korean American. He's talking with his father about his fiancée. But his father thinks there is a problem. What is the problem?

Father: We've been waiting almost half an hour now. Where's Jinhee?

Duksoo: I don't know. I guess she's late again.

Father: You mean this has happened before?

Duksoo: Yeah. All the time.

Father: Really? And this is the woman you're engaged to, and planning to marry?

Duksoo: Yes, of course! She's beautiful, she's kind, she's really a wonderful person, Dad. And I know she'll be a great mother. So what if she runs late¹ sometimes? It's really not that big a deal².

Father: Okay, but being late is a sign of disrespect³. It shows a lack of respect for other people, for commitments. It's a sign of a bigger problem.

Duksoo: No, it's nothing like that. Believe me. She's not disrespectful, she's just, um... disorganized⁴.

Father: Disorganized? Well, let me make sure I understand. She's really this late all the time?

Duksoo: Yes. To tell the truth, sometimes it's even worse. Like yesterday, we had an appointment at 5 o'clock to talk with the manager of the Prince Hotel.

Father: Where the wedding is going to be? That's a very important meeting.

Duksoo: I know. So I arrived on time, at 5. But Jinhee didn't come until almost 6. Actually, it was really embarrassing⁵. But, Dad, she didn't mean it. She said that...

Father: An hour late. I had no idea it was that bad. That is rude⁶. That's very selfish. Very disrespectful. Have you talked to her about it?

Duksoo: Of course I have. Over and over. But if I bring it up too often she gets angry, and tells me to relax.

Father: You're trying to help her with her problem, and she gets angry at you. That's even more disrespectful. It's obvious that the problem is deeper than just being late. If you marry her, you're going to have a lot of trouble.

Duksoo: Ahh...

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. Why is Jinhee late a lot?
2. Does it bother Duksoo?
3. What does Duksoo's father think?
4. What does Jinhee think?

PERSONAL STORY

What is the latest you have been for something (a meeting, a class, an interview, an airplane...)? Why were you late? What happened? Think about the situation, and write some notes.

notes:

took place in:

your reaction:

what you learned:

main event:

other people's reaction: