

## A DIFFERENT PATH

Jason rode his bicycle everywhere. He rode through the park to his job every morning and after work he rode back along the river. On the weekends he would ride his bicycle into the downtown shopping area to meet his friends. If it was raining, cold, or really hot, Jason would ride his bicycle anyway.

On a sunny Saturday morning Jason met his friends next to a large downtown department store. Jason's friends all drove motorcycles and when Jason arrived, they were parking their bikes next to the store. Jason locked his bicycle to a green metal post. Soon they were all ordering breakfast across the street at an outdoor café.

"Why don't you ( \* 1 ) get a motorcycle, Jason?" One of the friends asked. "They are faster and more exciting," his friend continued.


"I do not like motorcycles," Jason replied with a smile.

"But all of us have motorcycles except for ( \* 2 ) you. Perhaps you are afraid of riding something that is so fast!" Another friend said with a laugh.

Jason was silent for a moment and then said, "Motorcycles do not always get us some places faster. ( \* 3 )"

At first his friends laughed at his remark ( V1 ) and then they decided to challenge Jason to a race. After breakfast they told Jason to choose the final destination ( V2 ) that they would race to. Jason chose a place near the river on the other side of town. Then Jason said, “Go!” They sped away.

The river was a little far, but Jason knew many shortcuts ( V3 ). He rode through the city’s park while his friends rode around it in heavy weekend traffic. Then Jason rode along the river while his friends had to use the busy streets that were jammed with sight-seeing tour-buses. For the last part of the race Jason and his friends could not use a bicycle or a motorcycle. There were too many stones and rocks alongside the river and so they would have to finish the race by running. All of them began running at about the same time, but of course Jason was much faster than his friends. From cycling every day he had developed very strong, muscular legs and won the race by almost half a minute. When everybody reached the finishing place, Jason smiled and once again said, “Motorcycles do not always get us some places faster.”



## TEXT NOTES

## (\*1)Why don't you…?

「～してはどうですか、～しませんか、～したら」と、相手に提案する表現です。直訳すると、「どうして～しないのですか」ですが、話者は理由を聞いているわけではなく、話者が you 以下に書かれていることをすることが適切、当然と思っている場合に使用します。同様に、“Why not～?”も使えます。

## (\*2)except for

“except”の“ex-”は接頭語で「外へ、外に」の意味があります。“except for～”「～を除いては、～以外は」の使い方は、全体から“for”に続く名詞(句)を除く感覚です。

- ・ I could answer all the questions except for the last one.

(最後の一問以外はすべて問題に答えることができた。)→(全体から最後の一問を除外する)

- ・ My mother likes all musical instruments except the violin.

(母はバイオリン以外すべての楽器が好きです。)

↓

(すべての楽器からバイオリンを除外する)

全体から除く、外に追いやる、という感覚、理解できたでしょうか？

## (\*3)“Motorcycles do not always get us some places faster.”

この場合“not”は後に続く“always”にかかり、“always”「いつも」を否定するので、“not always”で「いつも～であるわけではない、ときには～でないこともある」という部分否定を表します。

- ・ The rich are not always happy. (富めるもの必ずしも幸いならず。)という言葉もあります。

## VOCABULARY

### (V1)remark

“remark”は、名詞で「(簡単な)批評、発言、意見」などを表します。同義の“criticism”は「(欠点や欠陥をあげた)批評」を表します。

### (V2)destination

“destination”は「目的地、到着地」です。車内で車掌さんが乗客に目的地を尋ねるときには、

- ・ What's your destination? 「どちらまでですか。」が使われます。

“destiny”は名詞で「運命、宿命」、 “destine”は動詞で「運命付ける、予定する」なので、“destination”「目的地」は、最終的に行き着くところ、と広く理解しておくといでしょう。

### (V3)shortcuts

“short”「短い」+ “cut”「カット、切断」から、「近道」のことです。近道を通るときに公園などを「突っ切る、横切る」といった言い方を日本語でもするので、“cut”と通じる場所がありますよね。パソコンでも、「ショートカットを作成する」ということばが使われています。ショートカットを作成すると、そのアイコンをダブルクリックするだけで、行きたい画面に行くことができる、近道が出来上がります。

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