



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

* talk about the perception of Japanese in owning a car;
mention the advantages and disadvantages of owning a car.



Read the passage

In the early 1980s, it was a dream of almost every man in Japan--young or old-- to have his own car. Wages were still low and owning a car was outside the reach of the average man in the street. Most of the cars on the road were either taxis or government-owned. The few people who did own cars were thought to be very rich. Cars were a status symbol, and the bigger the car, the better.

Those first-time car owners cared for their cars like babies. Besides keeping them **immaculately clean**, they decorated the interior like their living rooms. Expensive seat covers were **mandatory**. Car "interior" shops **sprang up** on every corner. For Japanese men, it was a dream come true.



Let's Talk!

1. Before, car ownership was a symbol of wealth. Is this still true today? Why or why not?
2. Do you agree that Japan has a car culture? If so, what are the factors that caused it to happen?
3. What do you think are advantages and disadvantages of having a car?
4. What kind of car would you rather own— a big or a small car? Explain your answer.
5. Which of the statements about small and big cars do you agree on?
 - > Big cars are better because they are safer in case of accidents.
 - > Big cars waste too much gas and take up too much parking space.
 - > Small cars are better because they are more fuel-efficient and they cost less to own and operate.