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Firsts in Life

In this month's *University Express*, Lynn Zhou **interviews** students around the world about important firsts in their lives. Read their answers to the question:

What was an important first in life for you?

Miguel: For me, an important first was getting my driver's
5 license. I got it the moment I turned 18! Being able to drive
my father's car that summer gave me **freedom**, and made
me feel like an adult. For example, I'm from Madrid, and my
girlfriend is from a **suburb** about 30 kilometers away. Driving
made it easy for me to see her more frequently. Also, I was
10 able to take weekend trips with friends to other cities. I really
liked being **independent**.

Marta: I went on my first date soon after my 16th birthday.
It was with my best friend's brother. He invited me to a
movie, but we didn't talk much. We were both very shy.
15 Two weeks later, I went to a high school dance with him,
and we had a great time. After that, we spent most of
the summer together, but then he and his family **migrated**
to France. I guess you could say he was my first boyfriend.

Soo-Jin: An important first for me was traveling from Korea
20 to Europe. When I was 18, I spent the summer with my cousin
backpacking through Europe. It was my first time out of Korea
so I was nervous and **reluctant** to talk to people. Luckily
I **overcame** my fears and **gradually** started to open up. I
learned to be more independent. I made friends with other
25 travelers at the hostels we stayed at, and I keep in touch with
many of them even now.

