

Vg2 Bilskade, lakk og karosseri

Restoring a Volvo Truck

A class from the Motor Vehicles Course at Topp Upper Secondary School are about to start a project where they are going to repair an old Volvo truck. The truck was donated to the class by a local truck dealer. A teacher who has worked in England and a student, Olav, are planning together with an English student called Jessica how they are going to approach this project. Jessica had started on a course in motor vehicle maintenance and repair in England before she left for Norway.

Olav: Did we really get the truck for free? I think that's just great!

Jessica: I must say, I can't wait to get started...

Teacher: Well, I appreciate your enthusiasm. However, we should check the register in Brønnøysund and the NPRA *BEFORE* we do anything at all.

Olav: The NPRA??

Teacher: Yes, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration – “Statens Vegvesen”, you know...

Olav: Right! We have to check if the dealer is the legal owner of the vehicle, you mean? And also if he has paid all the required fees and submitted the vehicle for EU inspection?

Teacher: Exactly! If the former owner has missed out on any of these things, it would be a waste of time to do the repairs.

Jessica: I see... But what is the general idea with this project? Is it to put the truck back on the road again?

Teacher: Yes, definitely. Our primary goal is to repair the truck to the required standard, register it and make sure it passes the EU-inspection.

Olav: By the look of it (*admiring the truck*), that should not take too much effort?

Jessica: Well, talking from experience, - appearance is one thing, but what does not show at first glance, is quite another matter.

Teacher: I think we'll ask the Volvo Truck Workshop to evaluate its technical condition before we start investing too much work and money. If they find that it is worthwhile to repair it, we'll have to look for spare parts – which might be quite time-consuming. Luckily a lot of the parts should be available online.

Jessica: Actually, we were doing a similar project in our class back home. It was great fun!

Teacher: Really, how did you proceed on the technical part?

Jessica: In our case it was an old MAN truck. We started by checking the engine, the gear box and the cardan joint to decide if it was worthwhile overhauling them, or if we should go for new spare parts right away. We were lucky, I guess, because as things turned out, we could do the overhaul ourselves. Truly, it is the biggest learning experience I've had in my entire life. – I know that I'm only 16 – but anyway...

Olav: What about the brakes and the steering system? Did they require a lot of maintenance and repair?

Jessica: I have a few photos on my phone. Like to see them? The vehicle had approximately 500,000 km on the clock. Look, I have got shots of the complete suspension, steering and brake overhaul. If you look at the last picture you'll see the rear wheel hub bearings and the addition of fittings to provide greasing for them....*(interrupts herself)* Sorry, I get carried away. Well, anyway, we had to make a list of the parts that were changed, check their cost price and produce a work schedule. Our teacher was quite strict about documentation.

Teacher: Hm...a sensible teacher ... Documentation is essential. Seems that you have had a great experience, Jessica. What was the most demanding job, do you think?

Jessica: Well, the electronic components did not work properly, and we had to ask a workshop that specialized in heavy-duty transport vehicles to assist us. Too complicated for us and the teachers, I guess. And..... we did not have the proper equipment. However, the welders at our school did a wonderful job on

the bodywork, and the auto body painters gave it a specialised clear coat finish. Look, *(she shows them on her phone)* isn't she a beauty? And with a four-door crew cab, it's all you can ask for...

Olav: Let's see if we can do similar wonders with our Volvo. Look, NPRA offers vehicle information via SMS. It says here: *"Enter 'REGNR' (space) followed by the registration number of the vehicle you request information about, and send the message to 2282. You will promptly receive a text message with information about the vehicle in question, valid at the time of enquiry. "*

What are we waiting for?