

GLOBAL TALK

Serving James English School
and our clients
since 2005

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Topic of this month: Making conversation

- First impressions ■ お薦め書籍 ~クラシック音楽と英語を身近に~
- Watch out! ~こんな場合に要注意~
- 会話のスパイス一言表現

初対面での会話は誰しも緊張するもの... 初対面での第一印象を良くするちょっとしたコツを、郡山校のLisaが伝授します。

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reeting someone for the first time can be **tricky** in any language.

Often we say, "You never get a second chance to make a **first impression**". Whether you are at a party, on a business trip or simply in line at a shop, first impressions are important. In Japan, the first thing we say to people we have never met before is the **equivalent** to, "Nice to meet you." However, in most English cultures the phrase, "Nice to meet you" happens later in the conversation. So what should we say first? Well, it all depends on the situation we are in.

First, let's take a look at a casual situation. Let's imagine you are in a public place or at a friend's party. There is someone across the room that you want to meet. If the first thing you say is "Nice to meet you", you may **catch the person a little off-guard**. A good **rule of thumb** is to **save** "Nice to meet you" until after both names have been spoken out loud. Another way to start a conversation with this person might be, "I don't think we've met. My name is ____". Usually, that is enough to **get the ball rolling**. The other person will tell you their name and will then probably say "Nice to meet you." Congratulations!! You have just made your first impression! Next, ask a question relevant to your **surroundings**. For example, it's common to ask how the person knows a **mutual friend**, perhaps the host of the party. Or, if you are in a public space, a more general question may be appropriate like, "What do you do?" Offer information about yourself that relates to what they have just told you. Find some things in common and you'll be off to a good start.

Now, we all know that the business world is changing rapidly all over the world. More and more people are corresponding via email than ever before. However, there are times when we still need to meet in person. How do we **interact with** someone we have "met" on the Internet, but are going to be seeing **face to face** for the first time?

- cont. on the right

-- cont. from the left

Well, when someone visits your company, it's polite to greet them with "Oh, you must be _(their name)_, I'm _(your name)_. Nice to meet you". This makes the person feel expected and welcomed. Another phrase often used after a good, strong handshake is, "It's nice to put a face to a name!" Continue the small talk with "How was your flight?" Begin a tour by saying, "Follow me, I'll show you around." And off you go!

Small talk is important in every culture, but the most important thing is to relax and to be yourself. The more things you find in common, the easier the conversation will flow, so don't be afraid to ask questions! It's polite to show interest in the person you are talking to. The more new people you meet, the easier small talk will become. So, **take a deep breath** and start a conversation with someone new! You might be surprised at just how fun it can be.



読み解きのヒント

tricky	油断のならない	get the ball rolling	
first impression	第一印象	(話などで) 口火を切る	
equivalent	同等の	surrounding	環境・周囲の状況
to catch someone off guard		mutual friend	共通の友人
	不意をつく	interact with	ふれあう
save	とっておく	face to face	向かい合って
Rule of thumb		take a deep breath	
	手っ取り早い指針		深呼吸をする

First Impressions

Lisa Sandrock / James English School Koriyama

Watch Out !

~こんな場合に要注意~

ネイティブスピーカーにとって誤解とまではいかなくとも、混乱のもとになってしまういくつかのケースをご紹介します。

Case 1 : あいづち

会話の中でつい日本語であいづちをはさんでしまいがちですが、「そう」というあいづちは“So” - だから(何)?という挑戦的な返答という印象を受けてしまう可能性があります。“ya” “really?” “right”等に置き替えてみましょう。



Case 2 : 質問の返答

質問をされた際、「はい」と相手の質問を受け取りましたよ。という意思表示をすることが多々ありますが、英語ではYes か No の答えを求められている時以外では、奇妙な返答となってしまいます。

Where do you live ?

× Yes, I live in Kitakami

I live in Kitakami

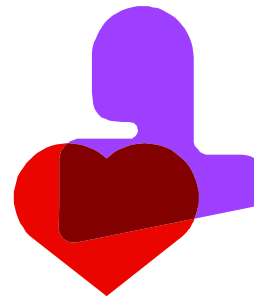
Case 3 : 呼びかけ

話をしている時等、輪の中にいる人物に話の流れのなかで自然に話を振る傾向が見られますが、特に西洋の文化では、相手の名前を呼び、相手の注意を引いてから話を振るという流れが一般的です。名前を呼び掛けないと、誰に話を振っているのかわからないこともあるようです。

会話のスパイス一言表現

会話に一言添えて、ちょっとした気持ちを伝えてみませんか？

Thank you in advance	よろしくおねがいします	
I'll cross my fingers	うまくいきますように	1
You saved the day	今日は助かりました	
Don't stay here too long	無理しないで	2
Don't hold back	遠慮なさらないで	3
You made my day	おかげさまで	4
It's all yours	どうぞお使いください	



Are you done with the scissors? Yes, *it's all yours.*

お薦め書籍

~ クラシック音楽と英語を身近に ~



のだめカンタービレ # 1

バイリンガル版

- 講談社インターナショナル
二ノ宮知子(著), 玉置百合子(翻訳)

不思議な少女野田恵(のだめ)を中心に音大を舞台に繰り広げられるコメディ。とっつきにくい印象があるクラシック音楽だけでなく、英語もぐっと身近に感じられます。英語と日本語のバイリンガル表記なので、作品中に登場する独特の擬音語がどのように訳されているのか、読み進めながら比べてみるのも面白いですよ！

For Your Information

- 1 人差し指と中指を交差させることで幸運を祈るという意味を表すことから
- 2 あまり長居しないでね、という意味合いで仕事に残っている人へ向けて。
- 3 “make one's day” (事・人が)人を幸せな(楽しい)気持ちにするという意味
- 4 “hold back” ~を躊躇する、ためらう

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