

4. Culture Notes



Read the following passage and answer the questions.

Just as in Japan, native English speakers do not talk to their friends the same way they talk to their teachers. There are levels of formality depending on the situation and the status of the people involved. In the U.S., your professors or your friends' parents might ask you to call them by their first names. They may say, "Please call me Mary," or "Just call me Bob." Although it may feel uncomfortable for you to address them by their first names, Americans see this as a sign of friendliness.

In a formal situation, when meeting someone for the first time, we usually shake hands, smile, and look directly at the other person while exchanging greetings. A smile is a way of showing someone that you want to be friendly, and looking directly into someone's eyes is seen as a sign of honesty. When you shake someone's hand, your hand should clasp the other person's hand firmly, but be careful not to hurt them! Don't shake too long; two or three shakes is enough. Younger people don't usually shake hands when they are meeting someone their own age.

1. If you are meeting the Prime Minister of Canada for the first time, should you say "Hi"? Why or why not?

2. If you are meeting someone for the first time, should you smile when you are introduced? Why or why not?

3. If your friend's mother asks you to call her "Mary" instead of "Mrs. Jones", should you? Why or why not?

4. When you shake hands with someone, should you make sure to shake as hard as possible to show you are friendly? Why or why not?

5. When you meet someone for the first time, should you look down at the ground to show you respect them? Why or why not?

Vocabulary _____

formality 「丁寧さ、形式」 **depending on** 「～したい、～できる」 **status** 「地位」 **uncomfortable** 「不愉快に思う」 **address them** 「名前を呼ぶ」 **formal** 「あらたまった、形式ばった」 **shake hands** 「握手する」 **greetings** 「挨拶」 **clasp** 「ぎゅっと握りしめる」 **firm** 「しっかり」

5. Fill in the Blanks



Choose from the following list to complete the sentences below. Then, listen to the tape and check your answers.

you	how's	to	come	introduced
chance	welcome	call	yet	met
meet	colleague	had	allow	foreign

- Geoffrey: Have you _____ any of the Japanese students _____?
Sue: No, I haven't _____ the _____.
Geoffrey: Well, _____ over here and _____ Kazuhiro and Mariko.
- Prof. Oshiro: _____ me to introduce my _____, Professor Wellington.
Prof. Kent: Brian Kent. How do _____ do, Professor Wellington.
Prof. Wellington: Pleasure _____ meet you. Please, _____ me Mary.
- Ed: Have you two been _____?
Geoffrey: No, can't say we have.
Ed: Well, Geoffrey this is Kazuhiro. Kazuhiro, Geoffrey.
Kazuhiro: Hey. _____ it going?
- Prof. Oshiro: James! I'd like you to meet another professor. Professor Wellington, this is one of our new _____ students, James Windsor.
James: Nice to meet you, Professor Wellington.
Prof. Wellington: _____ to the university, James.