

The interviewer (Mr. Nakayama) is a member of a consumer electronics company. Mr. Nakayama is acting as an impartial interviewer to maintain a social distance from Mr. Harris, a college student. Note that both parties are outsiders to one another, so they use polite expressions to refer to one another.

### Conversation 1A: Mr. Harris goes to a job interview. (1)

<p>1. 中山: つぎの方、どうぞ。  <small>なかやま かた</small></p> <p>2. ハリス: はい。</p> <p>3. 中: どうぞ、そちらへ。(pointing to a chair)</p> <p>4. ハ: 失礼します。  <small>しつれい</small></p> <p>5. 中: それでは簡単に自己紹介をして下さい。  <small>かんたん じ こしょうかい くだ</small></p> <p>6. ハ: はい。私はアメリカ工科大学のハリスと申します。  <small>こう か だいがく もう</small>          大学ではコンピュータサイエンスを専攻しております。  <small>せんこう</small>          よろしくお願いいいたします。  <small>ねが</small></p> <p>7. 中: ああ、そうですか。コンピュータサイエンスのどの分野  <small>ぶん や</small>          が専門ですか。  <small>せんもん</small></p> <p>8. ハ: 特にデータコンプレッションについて勉強しています。  <small>とく べんきょう</small></p> <p>9. 中: あ、そうですか。わかりました。</p>	<p>1. N: The next person, please [come in].</p> <p>2. H: Yes, sir.</p> <p>3. N: Please (sit down) there.</p> <p>4. H: Thank you. (Lit. "Excuse me.")</p> <p>5. N: Well, then. Please introduce yourself briefly.</p> <p>6. H: Certainly. I am Harris of America Institute of Technology. I'm majoring in computer science. Nice to meet you.</p> <p>7. N: I see. What area of computer science is your specialty?</p> <p>8. H: I'm especially studying data compression.</p> <p>9. N: Oh, is that right? I see.</p>	
<p>セン 専 exclusive</p>	<p>コウ 攻 attack</p>	<p>シャ 社 company, society</p>

### Vocabulary 1A

かた  
 方 (n) [honorific] person  
 そちらへ (phr) there [A verb like "sit down" is deleted after it.]  
 それでは (=それじゃ) (n) well then [では is used more often than じゃ in formal situations.]  
かんたん  
 簡単 (な-adj) simple, easy [簡単にいう say [it] simply; 簡単なスピーチ a simple speech]  
じ こしょうかい  
 自己紹介する (n/v) to introduce oneself  
こう か だいがく  
 アメリカ工科大学 (n) America Institute of Technology  
もう  
 申します ↓ (cv: mous) [humble style of いう] to say, tell  
 コンピュータサイエンス (n) computer science.  
せんこう  
 専攻 (n) major. 専攻しております ↓ (n/v) is majoring  
 おります ↓ (cv: or) [▲います] to be, stay

よろしく (a) [よろしい] is good, fine  
ねが  
 お願いいいたします ↓ (n/v) [polite style of お願いする ↓ "to make a request, wish"] Nice to meet you.  
ぶん や  
 分野 (n) field, realm  
せんもん  
 専門 (n) specialty  
とく  
 特に (adv) especially  
 データコンプレッション (n) data compression  
 ~について (phr) [Xについて "about X, regarding X"]  
べんきょう  
 勉強して (n/v) [て-form of 勉強する] to study  
 ● 面接 (n) interview [面接する to introduce]  
しょうかい  
 ● 紹介 (n) introduction [紹介する to introduce]  
しゅうしょく  
 ● 就職 (n) employment [就職する to be employed]

## Structures 1A

### 1A.1. Humble forms (もうします／(V て) おります) ↓

Japanese verbs, adjectives, and the copula can be plain or polite. Plain forms are typically used within a sentence (e.g., きのう行ったとおもいます。 or おもしろかったでしょう?) or they can be used in casual speech among family members and friends (e.g., ピザ、食べた? →うん、おいしかった。). However, in business situations, conversations are dominated by polite forms of speech, and in-group and out group are distinguished explicitly by the use of humble vs. honorific forms. Honorific forms are used to refer to actions of members of an out-group and humble forms are used to refer to actions of our own in-group, including the speaker.<sup>1</sup> In this section, humble forms will be introduced.

Respect can be expressed by exalting out-group members or by lowering in-group members. The notion of lowering in-group to show respect to out-group is seen most clearly in personal address terms. When we refer to an in-group member, the title (さん) is dropped as shown below (田中は). Verbs can also be in humble forms as shown below.

Neutral	Humble ↓	
いいます (いう)	もうします	私はスミスともうします。 I am called Smith.
います (いる)	おります	田中はニューヨークにおります。 Mr. Tanaka is in New York.

The humble forms of いいます and 専攻しています are 申します↓ and 専攻しております↓, respectively. The humble form おります can also be used in the V ている construction.

Neutral	Humble ↓	
<sup>べんきょう</sup> 勉強しています	勉強しております	うちのたろうは英語を勉強しております。 My (son), Taro is studying English. [on-going action]
でかけています	でかけております	田中はでかけております。 Tanaka (in-group, superior) has gone out. [resultant state]

Ranking within an organization also affects the use of honorific and humble forms. In general, honorific forms are used to refer to actions of our superiors while humble forms are used to talk about the speaker. When we must refer to actions of our superiors (in-group) in the conversation involving an outsider, in-group/out-group distinction overrides the rank differences within the same organization, as in the last example shown above.

### 1A.2. N について

N について means “about N” or “regarding N.” It is used to introduce the topic of what you will say next, or the topic of the project someone is involved in.

今、日米貿易<sup>にちべいぼうえき</sup>について勉強<sup>べんきょう</sup>しています。  
Right now, I am studying Japan-U.S. trade.

今度のミーティング<sup>こんど</sup>ではインターネットについて話します。  
We'll talk about the Internet at the next meeting.

<sup>1</sup> **文化ノート** An in-group consists of all the members of the same organization as the speaker. The smallest form of an in-group is the family. Anyone outside of one's family is a member of an out-group. However, the notion of an in-group can be flexibly expanded to include members of other social organizations such as one's own class, club, school, company, or any other groups the speaker is affiliated with.