

## Lesson 12: Breaking the Ice

By Xandra

### 1. Dialogue

*First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.*

Makoto works on the night shift at Ample Computers. As he enters the office to start work, he notices a new employee.

Makoto: Hello. Are you new to the night shift?

George: Yes. It's my first day. Or in this case, it's my first night.

Makoto: (Smiles). How long have you been with Ample Computers?

George: Less than a month. I've been in training for the past couple of weeks. (Yawning).

Makoto: Help yourself to some coffee. (Pointing to the coffee pot). It's free. My name's Makoto.

George: I'm George. I've already had three cups. I don't know why the caffeine's not kicking in. (Yawning again).

Makoto: You'll get used to it **sooner or later**. Let me introduce you to the graveyard guys.

George: Thank you. That's very nice of you.

### 2. Today's Phrase

*First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.*

1. **Sooner or later** China will have to deal with its escalating environmental problems.
2. A: It's been raining for four days straight. B: Don't worry. It's bound to stop raining **sooner or later**.
3. Mr. Anderson has not responded to our request. **Sooner or later** he'll have to make a decision.

\* **sooner or later** / 遅かれ早かれ

### 3. Your Task

*You don't know a lot of people in your company. You've decided to throw a party in your house. You invite co-worker A (= your tutor) who says she can't go. Give an appropriate response. You also invite co-worker B (= your tutor) who's really excited about the party. Again, respond appropriately to co-worker B.*

### 4. Let's Talk

*Talk about how you break the ice with your co-workers.*

*What would you do if your ice breaker was ignored?*

*Do you greet or smile at people you don't know at your workplace? Why or why not?*

### 5. Today's photo

*Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.*



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