

Lesson 12: Breaking the Ice

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

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

It's lunch hour at Ample Computers. Neo Anderson is in the cafeteria carrying his lunch tray with a tablet tucked under his arm. A seat at Kaori's table is available. He walks over and asks if she can share a seat.

Neo: Do you mind if I sit here?

Kaori: Not at all. (After a while...) Cool gadget you've got there.

Neo: Oh, this? It's not mine. It's the company's latest product. I have to test it and write a review.

Kaori: You must be one of the tech writers for the Online Merchandise Division.

Neo: That's right. What about you? What do you do?

Kaori: I'm one of the programmers. I help write the programs but I never get to play with the hardware.

Neo: You're welcome to check it out if you want. (Handing the tablet to Kaori) Just don't break it.

Kaori: Really? It's so nice of you.

Neo: Tell me what you think about the build. Is it too thick? Too heavy?

Kaori: Honestly, I just want to see if the programs are functioning well.

2. Today's Phrase

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

1. If you have any questions, you're welcome to ask.
2. Mr. Anderson is welcome to inspect the premises anytime.
3. You're welcome to join the meeting.

* be welcome to do / 自由に(遠慮なく)～してよい

3. Your Task

You are fairly new in the company and you'd like to make friends. One of your co-workers (your tutor) always dresses well, with matching shoes and bags. Give her a compliment and start a conversation. Another co-worker (=your tutor) has a picture of a child on his/her desk. Ask about the photo and start a conversation.

4. Let's Talk

*What's a common ice breaker in a Japanese workplace?
Are Japanese people responsive to ice breakers? Explain your answer.
What are the advantages of being friendly?*

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.

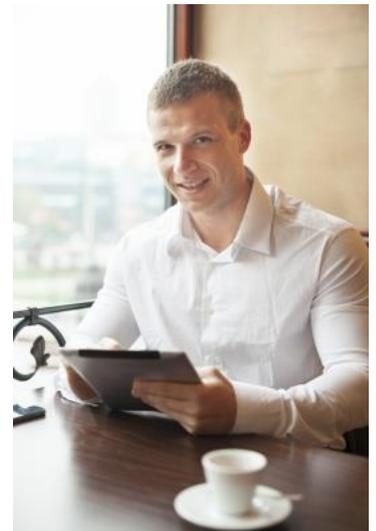


Image courtesy of adamr / FreeDigitalPhotos.net