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CHAPTER 4

Host families



参加するホームステイのプログラムにより、出発前にホストファミリーに手紙を出す余裕がある場合とない場合があります。余裕がなければしかたがありませんが、なるべく自己紹介と相手の家族に関する問い合わせをかねた短い手紙を書きましょう。「おみやげ」を考えるのにとっても役立ちます。

Exercise 1

Depending on the type of program you are going on you may or may not have time to write to your host family before you leave. If you don't, that's too bad. But if there is time to write a letter, send a brief polite letter introducing yourself and ask about the family. This is important to plan your gift giving. Here is an example:

June 5, 1996

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

Hello, my name is and the homestay program informed me that I will be staying with you. I amyears old and a year student at I am very excited about this opportunity. I know I will make mistakes, so please teach me what to do and what not to do.

Please write and tell me about your family. I am looking forward to this adventure very much.

Sincerely yours,

(Name)

Exercise 2

BEING MET AT THE AIRPORT

You have cleared immigration and customs, walk into the terminal and are confronted by a sea of faces and signs. You find the sign with your name on it and approach the smiling person holding the sign.

入国審査、税関審査を終え、ターミナルに入ると人の顔と看板の洪水に出くわします。自分の名前が書かれている看板を見つけ、それを持っているにこやかな人に近づきましょう。

You: Hello, I'm

Mr. Smith: Hello, I'm Robert Smith. Please call me Bob.
Welcome to (city).

You: I'm glad to be here. Thank you for meeting me.

Mr. Smith: This is my wife Maryann.

You: How do you do, Mrs. Smith?

Mrs. Smith: Hello, It's nice to meet you. I'm sure we'll have a wonderful time.

Mr. Smith: You must be tired after your long flight, so let's get your stuff in the car and go home. The children were busy with activities after school, but they'll be home when we get there.

NOTE

Mr. Smith said to call him Bob, but his wife made no such comment. So, until told otherwise, address her as "Mrs. Smith."

(See page 48)

Exercise 3

Norio visits Greg's home and meets his mother and his 5-year-old sister.

Greg: Here we are. This is our house.

Norio: It looks nice.

Greg: Thanks. Dad's not home yet, but I'll introduce you to my mother. Mom! I'm home! Mom, this is my friend Norio. Norio, this is my mom.

Mrs. W: Nice to meet you, Norio.

Norio: How do you do, Mrs. Webster.

Greg: And that's my sister, Monica.

Norio: Hello, Monica.

Mrs. W: Say hello to Norio, Monica.

Greg: Not yet, I guess. She's a little shy, at first.

Norio: Yes, I see. Oh, this is for your mother, Greg.

Greg: Well, there she is.

Norio: Mrs. Webster, this is from Japan.

Mrs. W: Oh! That was very thoughtful, Norio. Thank you.



MEETING THE HOST FAMILY AT THE AIRPORT

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Exercise 4

Now create your own host family and practice the greeting at their home!

With your classmates, decide the number in the family and their ages and gender. Introduce yourself and don't be shy.

さて、自分自身のホストファミリーを作って、彼らの家でのあいさつを練習します。

家族の構成（人数、年齢、性別）を友人と相談してください。自己紹介を恥ずかしがらないでしましょう。

HINTS FOR CREATING YOUR OWN HOST FAMILY

Imagine the host family you would like to live with for a while. How many are there? How many children are there? What is the age of each person in the family? What sports, hobbies or games do they like? What kind(s) of music do they listen to? Be as creative as you can.

(See page 48)

Host families come in all sizes. Some are retired couples with a spare bedroom or two. Some have families of varying sizes and children of various ages. But they share a common trait: they are friendly or they wouldn't volunteer to be a host!

ホストファミリーは様々です。客用寝室を1つか2つ備えた家を持つ定年退職後の夫婦もいます。家族によって構成やサイズは千差万別でしょう。しかし、好意的であるにせよ進んでホストを引き受けたのではないにせよ、共通の性質をもっています。

6 Going somewhere?