

Honorifics used to keep

a distance

←-----→
(The emotional distance gets larger.)



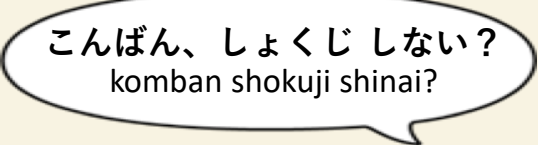
You learned honorifics as expressions to show respect to others including seniors.
Of course, we use honorifics as expressions of respect for others.
But, in daily life, we sometimes use honorifics for different purposes.
Let me introduce one of them to you.

Honorifics are “**magical words**”, so to speak.
You can them to close or keep the distance between you and others.
The more you use honorifics, the more distance you can place from one another.

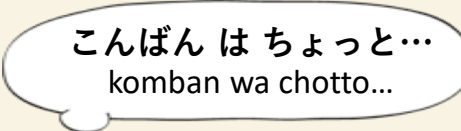
Casual style

If you respond in casual expressions, the person wouldn't stop inviting you.

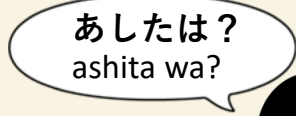
① Would you have dinner this evening?



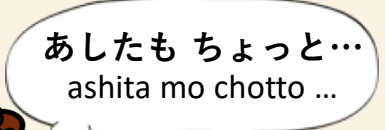
② I'm kind of busy this evening.



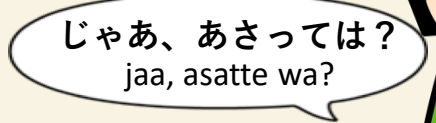
③ How about tomorrow?



④ Tomorrow's not good for me either.



⑤ Then, how about the day after tomorrow?



しつこい！ (shitsukoi!)

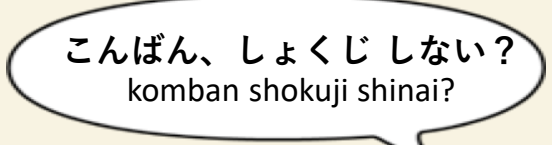
(So annoying.)



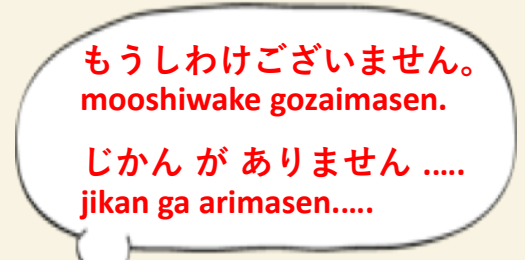
Polite style

Responding in polite expressions like honorifics shows that you would like to “keep a distance from the person, which let him/her clearly know you mean to turn down.

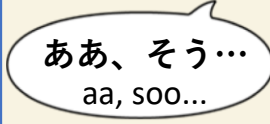
① Would you have dinner this evening?



② I am really sorry but I don't have time this evening.

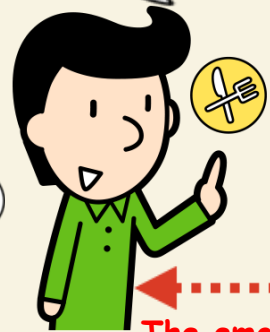


③ Oh, I see.



あきらめてくれた！ (akirametekureta!)

(Good. He gave up!)



The emotional distance gets larger.