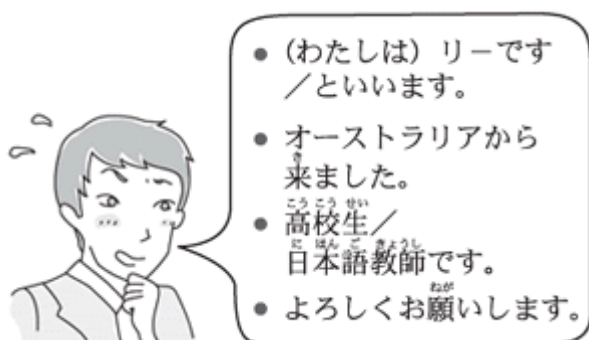


■ **自己紹介の言葉** Self introductions

Whether student or teacher, when meeting Japanese you will be called upon to make a

自己紹介. Don't be at a loss for words! Here are some basic expressions. Students can impress with a simple version, and teachers can use the opportunity to try some honorific language. Use the chart to change from simple to honorific expressions.



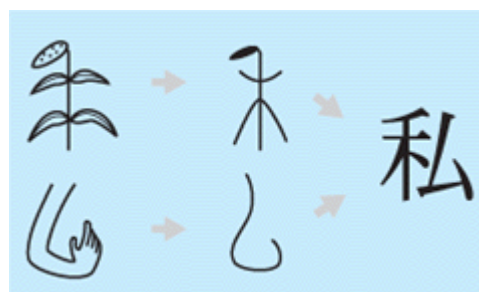
ふつう い かた 普通の言い方 simple expression	けい ご 敬語 honorific expression
~といたします	~と申します
~から来ました	~から参りました
~します	~いたします

Note that you need not say わたしは, and you NEVER use さん after your own name!

■ **漢字** All about me

You have probably seen the word わたし written in kanji.

「私」 is made up of two components, each with a different function: one component that hints at the meaning, and one that gives the pronunciation of the kanji. The second, phonetic component imparts its meaning to the kanji as



well. These kinds of kanji, called 形成文字, make up the majority of kanji.

The component on the left of 私 comes from the picture of a rice plant and means 'crop', which in ancient times would have been shared among individuals who harvested it. The component on the right gives the pronunciation (which had the meaning 'private' in ancient Chinese), as well as the meaning of 'hold in your arms' from the picture of a bent arm. So this kanji, meaning 'private', came to Japan where it is now used in various compound words eg. ^{しりつがっこう}私立学校 (private school), as well as 私 (I, me). What an amazing story kanji have to tell!

Created by Cathy Jonak