

<Japanese Words and Phrases>

Nyugakushiki/Nyushashiki (School Entrance Ceremony/Company Initiation Ceremony)

In Japan, April is the beginning of the year for schools and companies.

Schools hold *nyugakushiki* (school entrance ceremonies) for their new first-year students. Most elementary schools will hold their *nyugakushiki* on April 6 this year. This will be a perfect time, because the cherry blossoms will be in full bloom, cheering on the students as they enter new schools.

Companies also hold *nyushashiki* (company initiation ceremonies) for their *shinnyu shain* (new recruits). At these ceremonies the new recruits are officially recognized as employees, and from the president and others, they receive words of encouragement that are meant to instill in them a sense of belonging. This custom, based around the mass hiring of recent graduates, is unique to Japanese companies.

<日本のことば> 一入学式・入社式一

日本では4月が、学校や会社等の一年間の区切りの始まりとなります。

学校では、新一年生の「入学式」が行われます。全国のほとんどの小学校の入学式は今年4月6日に行われます。ちょうどサクラの花も満開になり、門出に希望を添えてくれる演出は最高です。

会社でもその年の「新入社員」に入社を許可し、会社の一員としての自覚を持たせるために、社長等が激励を行う「入社式」を行います。新卒一括採用を基本とする、日本企業独特の風習です。