

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंको शुभ नाम के हो?

श्रीया: श्रीया।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि कति वर्ष हो अहिले?

श्रीया: अहिले म, nine...उन्नाइस वर्ष।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि के गरिराख्नु भएको¹ छ?

श्रीया: अहिले त त्यतिकै college जानको लागी preparation।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए, अनि college चाहिँ कता जान लाग्नु भएको¹ नी?

श्रीया: Mount Holyoke नै हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए, अनि अब, college, college... अब त्यो बाहेक, होइन? अरु यहाँ के गरिराख्नु भएको थियो?

श्रीया: मैले चाहिँ एक वर्ष एउटा break जस्तो लिएको थिएँ। अनि त्यति बेला चाहिँ मैले ECS media भन्ने एउटा magazineहरु publish गर्ने एउटा organization छ। अनि त्यसमा चाहिँ मैले एक वर्ष जति काम गरें। त्यहाँ चाहिँ मैले एउटा Friday भन्ने publication छ त्यसको editorial assistant भएर काम गरें। Articlesहरु लेखें...अनि... English newspaper हो, weekly हो, अनि...साप्ताहिक। अनि त्यसमै काम गरें। अनि, त्यसमा काम गर्दा खेरि चाहिँ मैले एकदमै धेरै मान्छेहरुलाई भेटें, अनि धेरै बाहिर गएर exposure पाएँ, अनि एकदमै मज्जा थियो जे होस्। Experience भयो, work experience।

श्रीया: अनि break चाहिँ खास गरि किन लिनु भएको?

¹ Here, the speaker pronounces the word 'भएको / bhayeko' as 'bha'. This is done often while speaking quickly. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English.

श्रीया: Break चाहिँ मैले... college जान... collegeको लागि apply गरेको थिएँ, होइन? तर मैले Mount Holyokeमा पाइँन। पाइँन भन्नाले waitlisted भएँ म। अनि मलाई Mount Holyokeमा एकदमै जान मन थियो। अनि अरु collegeहरुमा पाएको थिएँ तर मैले सोचें कि अब बरु 1 year wait गरेर year break नै लिन्छु, यहाँ निर यसो कामको experience हेर्दा खेरि नी, कामको experience गर्दा खेरि नी अनि पछि त्यो अझै सिक्दा खेरि अलि धेरै कुराहरु सिकिन्छ अनि त्यसपछि भनेर मैले year break लिएँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अहिले अब, अब जानलाई होइन? America जानलाई कति धेरैको, कस्तो, कस्तो feel भइराखेको² छ?

श्रीया: अहिले त, राम्रै अनुभव भइराखेको छ। त्यस्तो डरलागेको पनि छैन, त्यस्तो... के भन्ने, excited पनि छुइन। तर त्यतिकै रमाइलो जस्तो... यसो साथीहरुलाई भेटेराखेको छुँ अहिले अनि परिवार सँग धेरै समय बितौना खोजेराखेको छुँ। अनि यहाँको नेपाली food, एकदमै धेरै खाइराखेको छुँ। अनि सबैजनाले खुवाउँछन् पनि। अनि... अहिले त त्यस्तै भइराखेको छ। Packingहरु चली राखेको छ।

English translation:

Interviewer: What is your *shubha*³ name?

Shreeya: Shreeya.

Interviewer: And how old are you now?

Shreeya: Right now, I'm nine... nineteen years.

Interviewer: And what have you been doing?

Shreeya: Right now, just preparing to go to college.

Interviewer: *Ae*⁴, where are you going for college?

² Here too, the speaker pronounces the word 'भइराखेको / bhairakheko' as 'bhaira'. This is done often while speaking quickly. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English.

³ The direct translation of '*shubha*' is 'auspicious' or 'good'; when people formally ask each other's name they say this as a sign of respect. It may also be because name choosing ceremonies in Nepal are usually very auspicious.

⁴ '*Ae*' is like an interjection. In this context it used to acknowledge someone's statement similar to using the word 'Oh' in English. It may also be used to express surprise and interest at learning about something you

Shreeya: Mount Holyoke.

Interviewer: *Ae*, and, now, college... college... now, besides that, *hoina*? What else are you doing?

Shreeya: I took a break for one year. And during that break, there's an organization called ECS Media which publishes magazines... And I worked there for about a year. The organization publishes a magazine called *Friday* and I worked as the editorial assistant for that magazine. I wrote articles... and... It's an English newspaper, weekly. It's a weekly. So I worked there. And when I worked there, I got to meet a lot of people, and because I had to go out a lot I got a lot of exposure too and it was a lot of fun. I got experience, work experience.

Interviewer: So why did you actually take a break?

Shreeya: I took a break... college... I applied for college, *hoina*⁵? But I didn't get into Mount Holyoke. By 'didn't get into,' I mean, I got waitlisted. And I really wanted to go to Mount Holyoke. And I had gotten into other colleges, but I thought maybe I'll wait and take a year break and see if I can find any work experiences, and maybe learn more, and so I took a year break.

Interviewer: And now, to go to America, *hoina*? How are you feeling about going to America?

Shreeya: Right now, I feel good. I'm not feeling that scared, or... what should I say... I'm not so excited as well. But it just feels fun. I'm meeting my friends, and I'm trying to spend time with my family. And I'm eating a lot of Nepali food. And everyone is feeding me a lot of it as well. That's all that's happening now. We've also started packing.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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did not know before. It can also be used to directly address someone, especially if you're trying to get their attention from afar.

⁵ the direct translation of *hoina* is no; in this context, it is used as a filler word. It may also be used to confirm a statement in the same way that the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something in English.