

# EHS and JHS Education

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# What we'll be covering:

- Overview of Expectations
- Your Role in the Classroom
- Creating the Job You Want
- Questions

# What to Expect from Your Work

- **ESID** - Every Situation is Different
- In some schools, the ALT role will **primarily be as a support**
  - This means little to no lesson planning, and spending most time in the classroom reading vocab and dialogue from the textbook
- In some schools you'll be expected to **run the classroom**
  - Your JTE will likely sit on the sidelines while you execute a lesson you've prepared

# What to Expect as a Supporting Role

- You'll mostly be free outside of class except to correct papers and tests or create and prepare materials for your JTE
- In class, the JTE will run their lesson plan and do most of the talking
- You will assist them by providing natural pronunciation for vocabulary and dialogue
  - The Human Tape Recorder
- You may need to execute activities and games on short notice to fill gaps in class time
- Prepare short presentations related to textbook material
- Around 4-6 classes a day

# What to Do as a Supporting Role

- While you may not get the most opportunities to teach students independently, this is still an important role!
- **Use the opportunities you're given**
- Your English textbook may have a shocking lack of information about the culture of English speaking countries
  - Whenever possible, do your best to introduce them to ideas that aren't focused on Japan
- You get to take the lead for pronunciation. Make the most of your time in front of the class by preparing for those moments, and your kids will be better off.
- Take advantage of your free time and study or prepare a lesson plan and present it to your teachers

# How to Thrive as a Supporting Role

- If you are someone who thrives on keeping busy or feeling in control, you may find this role difficult.
- Try:
  - Scheduling a meeting with your teachers at the beginning of the week to discuss the lesson plans
  - Preparing a lesson you'd like to teach and showing it to your teachers
  - Taking initiative with preparing interesting materials for class
- Once your teachers get to know you and your capabilities, you'll find yourself falling into the job you want.
- The more often you show your teachers your capability of leadership, the more opportunities you'll be given.
- If you're someone who thrives in a support position:
  - You're in luck!
  - Keep up with your teachers by asking what they need from you in your down time
  - Use your free time at school wisely for things like Japanese study

# What to Expect as a Leading Role

- Talk with teachers in advance about what they want to focus on in your lesson plans
- Write down a plan, and give it to them a few days early for suggestions
  - Always make sure your JTE is well aware and ready for the lesson
- **Be a cultural ambassador.** One of your main tasks here is to share your culture. Teachers will expect you to give ideas related to how you can enlighten the students' minds on what it's like in your respective countries from a cultural point of view.
  - As an ALT, students may look up to you in ways they don't other teachers. You have an incredible opportunity to shape the way they view the world around them. Show them why English is more than just a class - explain how it can provide them with the opportunity to interact with the world on a larger scale and WHY they should want to!

# What to Do as a Leading Role

- Inside the classroom, your job will obviously be to teach about language and culture. Outside the classroom, you can do the same!
- If your school has an English room, you may be able to decorate it!
  - You can find lots of inspiration online for what a good English bulletin board might look like. Ultimately, try to find or make posters that highlight fun things like slang words from your country, unique foods, or interesting cultural facts. Also, a personal touch will definitely draw them in! They want to get to know you!
- Create weekly/monthly flyers that highlight a specific topic about your culture or language
- Create posters that can be displayed all around the school

NB: Remember to always seek approval before going ahead with your ideas. The respect for the chain of command is greatly admired here.



# How to Thrive as a Leading Role

- To be an efficient leader within the Japanese school system, you have to commit and give it your 100% especially in regards to time
  - However, make sure to set boundaries between your work life and personal life. In Japan, it's viewed as a positive to stay late every day and put in extra hours. But it's okay to pull out your contract and be clear about when you work and when you don't. If you're accomplishing all your tasks, don't feel obligated to work overtime just to look good.
- Follow up with your JTE on tasks you wish to execute because they tend to be very “busy” and forget sometimes.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. They are willing to help...most times.
- Work with your teachers and respect their decisions, but don't be afraid to break away from textbook learning and create lessons for things YOU think are important
  - If you make your case to your JTE well, they'll often be happy to let you take control and provide unique learning opportunities

# Kindergarten

- So, so fun and so, so cute!!!!
- Most kindergarten teachers don't speak any English - it's not part of kindergarten curriculum
- You'll likely be expected to prepare a lesson plan independently with only vague guidelines regarding a topic (*ex: colors, weather, animals*)
- **Play games!** You absolutely can't go wrong with fruits basket or karuta
  - Fruits Basket - Yep, just like the anime. Students sit in chairs in a circle while one student stands in the center. The student in the center calls out a fruit, and the kids who were assigned that fruit have to jump up and switch chairs. The last kid standing calls out the next fruit. Pretty simple!
  - Karuta - Shortened from "card touch" this game is exactly what it sounds like. You say a word, they grab a corresponding card!
- Kids aren't really going to learn much English here. The focus should be some fun vocab or easy phrases. The most important thing is having fun with them and getting them interested in people from outside of Japan!

# What to Expect from Your Students

- You may have to adjust your English to a lower level than you're expecting. First year JHS students are just learning to say their names
- Depending on the class and age, some students may hesitate more to use English.
  - Younger students will be excited and willing to try most things, but as students get older (and a little more self conscious) they might need encouragement!
- If you're at multiple schools, students don't see you much! They'll be excited to have you around the classroom (*and that can be a big advantage when motivating them!!*)
- At the same time, some students simply won't like English. It's just another class for them. I'm sure we can all relate. Do your best to motivate everyone, and try not to take it personally if you can't!

# What to Expect from Your Students

- **Some advice:**
  - You're working with **kids!** They respond positively to **high energy activities**. Some classes might be shy, but if you're encouraging and create a fun environment, they'll be more excited to learn.
  - Students benefit from **demonstrations**. They won't necessarily understand instructions easily, so showing them what to do with your JTE will help them get to activities quicker.
  - At a lot of schools, English is taught with entrance exams in mind rather than communication being the main goal. Try to use **speaking activities** whenever possible!
- Ultimately, do your best to be a fun, engaging presence in the classroom. Students in Japan work so hard, and adding something special to their day can make a huge difference in their motivation!

# What to expect from your coworkers

- You may have teachers who don't speak English to the degree you're expecting.
  - If you see a teacher make a mistake in class, it's important not to blatantly tell them they're wrong. This is embarrassing and can make them lose credibility with their students. If you want to correct something before students learn it wrong, jumping in to add another "natural" phrasing will usually go over fine without discrediting anyone. Or, just wait until after class to explain a better way to teach something.
- Hierarchy is important
  - As has been mentioned, respecting the chain of command is important in any employment situation, but especially in Japan.
- Coworkers might be nervous to talk to you because they worry their English won't be great. Try to be friendly and outgoing, and you'll have no problems!

# Be flexible

- Teachers may not always tell you what is happening in class before you get there.
  - Familiarizing yourself with the textbook is a great way to make sure you're not caught off guard by the material. This is also helpful so that you can be familiar with what grammar points students know or don't know so that you can speak to them at a level they understand.
- Take an interest in observing the teaching style of your JTEs because that will tremendously help you go with the flow when you have no clue what's next.
  - If you can recognize transitions and jump in to help hand out papers, or recognize your cue to start reading without your teacher needing to ask, you can build their confidence in your abilities.
- Don't worry!
  - As you gain experience and confidence, your job will get easier. The more flexible and prepared you are, the easier it will be to adapt to unexpected scenarios.

# Question

# Answer