

JHS English Club: Success is Doing

What are the steps for a successful English club to have in a Japanese junior high school? Does your school have an English club? Simply having one for sake of it and without a realistic goal may not work as effectively in motivating the interest of Japanese students. These are the challenges that face Japanese Teachers of English (JTEs) and Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs).

The key to overcome these challenges is for us to think forward, be innovatively productive, and believe in the potential benefits. Anything is possible if you are willing to take the action to success. You will need a positive attitude and confidence. Don't be afraid, just believe! Get the support to begin the inspiring journey, work as a team, and encourage each other.

Many schools are already fortunate to have JTEs and an ALT. So, wouldn't you think about having at least one JTE and an ALT who can coach the English club members? It may not be necessary to assign all JTEs to non-English related clubs. But, if you have a JTE and an ALT cooperatively working together as English club teachers, it will strengthen the club for parents to opt-in their child into an after school government English program and potentially have a positive educational impact. Not just English club teachers dedicating what they do beyond the usual English classroom teaching, lesson planning, and administrative duties, but it also reflects the English club members, and others in the school.

The English club members also have roles that will be similar to their English club teachers. They learn to be responsible, develop a proactive role of being independent, and expand their English communicative skills. The setting of club rules is essential as well. But, tailor them with flexibilities towards an educational goal. Embrace both the positive points of Japan and the positive points of other countries. Build a bridge, not a fence! This enables learning a foreign language that includes the enrichment of another culture/custom. Then, when the club members become *senpai*, they need to effectively teach these skills to their *kohai* members.

There are transitional steps you can take. From an old-school English club into a modern and trendier English club. It could even be establishing an English club from scratch. Obviously, the lessons you start with are easy and safe, but eventually as each level increase in difficulty and you experience obstacles (which are bound to happen), just do your best to keep on moving forward.

Below, was a published teaching lesson report about an English club. During that time, these club members were using traditional methods to work on their group cultural exchange project, but this lead to the immersion of integrating video media technology, such as green screen effects, for educational purposes and much more!

English Club Activity

1. Lesson objectives

Cultural and Language Exchange video with the established schools from abroad

2. Target language

English & Japanese

3. Type of a test

Local School News: news coverage, weather forecast, and sport news

Cast Roles: news casters, news reporters, weather reporters, and sport reporters

4. Test procedure

Club members interviewed people around the school. Topics: New teachers, school lunch, Japanese culture, and two sports' clubs. After the interviews, club members were selected to be news casters, weather forecasters, and sport news reporters. The news video comes in two versions, one in English and the other in Japanese. The setting is just like any news on TV. There were two news casters in front of the desk counter. Then, there were video links that transitioned to the interviews. It also included BREAKING NEWS coverage! For the weather forecast, there was a large background screen of a map of Japan with weather animations. The weather reporter stood in front of the background screen, pointed to the cities, and reported the weather forecast. The sport news covered the interviews between two popular school's sport clubs and made comparisons between them. Then, the news ended with a good-bye.

5. Evaluation

While this project was a lot of work for the club members, their accomplishments were what counted the most.

When you read this lesson report, what do you see? Notice that these club members had the opportunity to leave their club room once in a while to do their assignment. They were communicating in English to their teachers, their classmates, and other club members. Thus, everyone in the school could benefit in learning English with the English club members - in helping, motivating one another, and sharing their own Japanese culture to the students abroad.

Remember all clubs, including the English club, are an important essence of the students' school life. We want them to enjoy learning and have fun in club as much as possible. Take new challenges, just as these club members did. And, taste victory!

For more English club lessons, they can be found on EigoGanbare.com.

クラブのモットーは

“全員参加で楽しくガンバロウ”



NetのAnnette先生に指導を受けています。

アメリカの高校との交流（文通やビデオレター等）

海外について調べたり、日本の文化を英語で表現したりしています。

また、海外の習字（カリグラフィ）にもチャレンジしています。

活動日は、月曜日、火曜日と木曜日または金曜日の週3日



Eigo Ganbare

