



## Eikaiwa Workshop Presented by Katie Young ALT Skill Development Conference Nov 29-30, 2012

**Workshop Objectives:** This Eikaiwa workshop will provide you with ideas and inspiration to make a productive and rewarding Eikaiwa that's fun for you and your students. We will...

- \* Determine your goals for Eikaiwa
- \* Introduce teaching methods to create your own teaching philosophy for your Eikaiwa
- \* Introduce activities to liven your Eikaiwa to make it more fun, engaging, and real
- \* Share our ideas with each other!

### **\* How to determine your goals for Eikaiwa\***

Having specific goals will focus Eikaiwa sessions towards a productive route and make lesson planning a heck lot easier! When making a goal, think of specific things your students want to achieve. For example, to increase vocabulary, to express themselves better, to read faster, etc. "Becoming better at English" is too broad.

### **\*Various teaching methods to create your "teaching philosophy" for Eikaiwa\***

You can figure out your own teaching philosophy based on your goals for Eikaiwa. Knowing your teaching philosophy will help you design satisfying lessons. If you're teaching something you like or believe in, your students will like it too.

Teaching methods: Interview, information grid, information gap, role-play simulation, Total Physical Response, Language Experience Approach, storyboard, jigsaw reading, project-based learning/mini projects, case studies, process writing, problem-solving activities, games, free style conversation, skits/drama, dialogue, debate, and creative writing. (Baez, and Speigl)  
See this link for more info under "ELT Methodology" <http://www.englishraven.com/open-downloads-access.html>

### Adults' learning styles

- \*Adults learn language and content in authentic, social contexts
  - \*Adults can integrate listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture in their lessons
  - \*Adults like to use real-life materials in their classes
  - \*Adults learn best using real-life, interesting, and relevant topics for their lessons
- (Baez, and Speigl)
- \*Language acquisition and development is based on personal experience.
  - \*Experience with language is important than learning about language.
  - \*Language can't be learned by analyzing sentence structures
- ("Advanced CertTEYL Online Course")



**Let's Discuss!** Think of 2 - 3 goals for your Eikaiwa and an activity or strategy to achieve this goal. Think about why your students are in Eikaiwa. What part of English learning is most important to them?

**What do I teach?** Eikaiwa should focus on practicing the language students already know, applying new language learned, and learning about foreign (your) culture. Choose topics or themes that are interesting to your students. Ask them what they want to talk about.

**Should I teach grammar?** Teach grammar that helps in conversation. According to research grammar can be learned naturally through practice of the target language. This has been somewhat proven in children.

### **Common Issues in Class**

\*Students write down everything constantly - Create activities that focus on language production by students so they can't take notes often. Teachers should only be talking 20% of the time.

\*Students rely on their dictionaries too much - Sometimes students use dictionaries as a defense or safety guard. Once they become comfortable they will stop relying on their dictionaries so much.

\*Students are too shy to speak English (or use too much Japanese). Language acquisition is prohibited through psychological barriers we develop. These barriers are driven by fear. ("Advanced CertTEYL Online Course") Removing fear will help your students to speak up. Make them feel comfortable. Icebreakers and mixers are useful. Start with small conversation groups (2-3 people) until students build confidence. Most importantly: Don't overcorrect!



**Let's Discuss!** What kinds of teaching style would you apply? You have a diverse group of students. Some retired adults who are learning English for fun, but are out of touch with it, a passionate college student who speaks great English because he wants to work abroad, and the quiet students who can barely get a word out. How would you make sure everyone is learning and enjoying your Eikaiwa? What kinds of activities would do?

### **\*Ideas Ideas Ideas!\***

Your classroom: Be creative with the space and seating. Avoid lecture style rows/columns. Organize the space for the students to easily interact and engage. Or get out of the classroom! Hanami at the park, nomikais and restaurants, cooking classes, even scavenger hunts at grocery stores. Use holidays in your home country and Japanese holidays to throw parties/potlucks. Parties are also a good way to connect with your students and practice English in casual way.



Speaking: free style conversation, improvisation activities, show & tell, dialog, role-play scenarios, skits/drama, interviews, and icebreaker games that force students to mingle.

Writing: Journal entries, skit writing, creative writing (short stories, poems, ad-libs, etc).

Games: pictionary, charades, scrabble, icebreakers, jeopardy, make sure they are adult appropriate and meaningful.

Reading: Storyboard, jigsaw reading, and problem solving activities. Have them read aloud! Storytelling helps them practice oral communication, expression, and gestures.

Other Ideas:

Magazine/Newspaper readings: can explain current events, culture, and even social issues.

Write a postcard: Start a postcard exchange between people at home and your students.

Cultural Lessons or Holiday Lessons: Valentine's Day card making, Jack-o-lantern carving, Easter egg dying, Christmas carol singing, Hawaiian hula dancing, arts & crafts, anything!

Use the TV: bring in a video clips or popular TV shows to introduce slang, humor, accents, etc.

Cooking classes: if a rental kitchen is available, everyone bonds with food!



**Let's Discuss!** What strategies and activities do you use often and what works best? Or what are some techniques you want to try, but don't know how?

**Fun Improvisation Activity: Emergency!** (Adapted from a previous Kumamoto JET lesson)

You are a tourist in Hawaii and before you know it an emergency strikes! You must find help fast! What do you do? What do you say?

Purpose: To communicate your point in English or with gestures to a passerby within 3 minutes. Practice the 5 W's. Say WHO you are. Say WHAT happened. Say WHEN the emergency happened. Say WHERE the emergency is taking place. Say WHY you are asking for help.

How to play: Depending on the size of your class, create a couple of emergency scenarios. Divide class into groups of 3-4 and choose one member to be the 'passerby' while the rest of the group are the 'tourists' in trouble. Give the 'tourists' the scenario, but don't show the 'passerby'. Then the 'tourists' must convey to the 'passerby' their plea for help within 3 minutes. If the 'passerby' can't figure out what you want him/her to do, then it's too late...



**How to find resources and ideas:** GOOGLE!!!! Using "ESL lesson plans" search term can be limiting. Search by topic, "Family traditions lesson plan" or "independence day lesson plan", etc. The handy dandy Kumamoto JET Collection books have plenty of ideas. Also can use textbooks to get inspiration.

## List of Resources:

### Grammar:

*English Grammar In Use* by Raymond Murphy ISBN: 9780521532891

Great textbook on English grammar used in conversation. Uses realistic language with plenty exercises and examples.

<http://www.eibunpou.net/index.html>

English grammar explanations in Japanese

### Games and Activities:

<http://www.thesource4ym.com/games/default.aspx?Search=Mixers>

A list of different mixer games and ice breakers

[http://insight.typepad.co.uk/40\\_icebreakers\\_for\\_small\\_groups.pdf](http://insight.typepad.co.uk/40_icebreakers_for_small_groups.pdf)

40 Icebreakers for small groups free e-book

<http://iteslj.org/games/>

A collection of games and activities that work well in ESL/EFL classroom

<http://www.englishcurrent.com/esl-murder-mystery-game-grims-mansion/>

Ideas & example of ESL murder mystery activity for class. Contains the Mystery at Mr. Grim's Mansion.

### Lesson Plans and Ideas:

<http://www.eslflow.com/index.html>

ESL/EFL teaching resources, game ideas, activities, and lesson plans

<http://eslus.com/eslcenter.htm>

ESL English as a second language resources and links

<http://www.teach-nology.com/>

FREE access to thousands of teacher resources, lesson plans, and rubrics

<http://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/>

worksheet generators and lesson plan ideas

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

English lesson plans for teaching current events

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/prompts.html>

Writing Prompts and journal topics

<http://www.toolsforeducators.com/>

Free worksheet makers and online templates for teachers to make worksheets, games, crosswords, word searches, and others.

<http://www.jhsenglipediaproject.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Englipedia. List of lesson plans for textbooks used in Japan

<http://miyagieikaiwa.pbworks.com/w/page/8544380/Lesson%20Ideas>

Miyagi JET website with a list of Eikaiwa ideas

### Speaking and Skits:

<http://iteslj.org/questions/>

Interesting questions for discussions in English lessons

<http://www.creativedrama.com/theatre.htm>

List of theatre games to practice improvisation and expression

<http://www.developingteachers.com/tips/pasttips19.htm>

Speaking activities and communicative drills

<http://www.literacyconnections.com/Storytelling.php>



Storytelling tips for oral language development.

<http://www.eslfast.com/robot/>

List of dialogues for role play. For beginner ESL/EFL

Reading Ideas:

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/esl/short-stories.html>

An overview on how to choose short stories for Adult ESL and suggestions

<http://www.manythings.org/voa/stories/>

List of American short fiction stories by author in easy English

<http://www.flashfictiononline.com/>

Flash Fiction Online is a free source of short fiction stories in 1000 words or less. Includes stories from award-winning authors as well as first-time publications.

<http://havefunteaching.com/worksheets/reading-worksheets/reading-comprehension-worksheets/>

Reading comprehension worksheets (story with supplemental worksheet) sorted by grade level (1st - 8th grade)

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/3479/>

Seven strategies to teach students text comprehension. Comprehension strategies are sets of steps that good readers use to make sense of text. Comprehension strategy instruction helps students become purposeful, active readers who are in control of their own reading comprehension. The seven strategies here appear to have a firm scientific basis for improving text comprehension.

Works Cited

. "Module 2, Section 3: Learning a Second Language." Advanced CertTEYL Online Course. Advanced Teacher Training. Web. 9 Nov 2012.

. "Module 3, Section 3: Classroom Atmosphere." Advanced CertTEYL Online Course. Advanced Teacher Training. Web. 9 Nov 2012.

Baez, Alex, and Carol Speigl. "Fun & Challenging Activities For Your ESL Classroom: A Creative Workshop!." EPALL IV Conference: Encouraging Persistence & Success. The Texas Professional Development Group. Texas, 2006. Lecture.

Lachman, Alice, and Ash Ruggiero. "Making Lemonade from Lemons." Interchanger Workshop. University of Hawaii New Intensive Courses in English. Honolulu, Hawaii. 02 2006.

Reading.

**Remember  
Your students are there for all different  
reasons. But all they want is to have fun and  
practice English. Make it fun for them and  
for you!**