

English Outside the Classroom

- ◇ Inviting students to use and explore English *outside of the classroom* can enhance their interest, participation, and performance *in the classroom*.
- ◇ It gives them a greater degree of **ownership** of what they are learning and how they use it.
- ◇ You can learn about them and establish a **rapport** that extends to your shared time in the classroom.
- ◇ You can contribute to a view of English as something **interesting, personal, and expressive** :) rather than rote, difficult, and required :(.

General Advice

1. Be **patient** with your students and yourself as you navigate how to relate to each other.
2. Balance proactively and persistently **engaging** your students with **respecting** their space and their time.
3. Be **flexible**, but recognize your own limits, and **establish boundaries** you think appropriate.
4. Incorporate **rewards** (stickers, stamps, raffle tickets, etc.), **but** aim some things at being rewarding in themselves.

Examples

Conversation: Simply talking to students during downtime (between classes, during the afternoon break) in an informal, relaxed fashion can make English more engaging and interesting for them. You'll get a feel for their abilities and can always incorporate grammar and vocabulary from recent classes. (ES, JHS, SHS)

English Camps: These are usually held over summer break, and encourage students to use English and learn about other countries while having fun with ALT's they may never meet otherwise. (ES, JHS)

Lunchtime Visits: Having lunch with your students may or may not seem like a hit with them when you first arrive, but if you are engaged with them in other ways, they will gradually come to covet this time. This might be arranged for you in some cases, or you might have to seek it out proactively. (ES, JHS, SHS)

(More) Examples

English Club: Many JHS and SHS will have English clubs and expect you to participate after school. This can include culture and language lessons, English conversation, and games for practicing vocabulary and grammar. (JHS, SHS)

English Board: You can use these to start conversations, introduce different cultures and events, and find common ground with students and staff alike. They can be based on monthly themes or events, life in your country, travel, etc. Use a lot of pictures and English at or just above your students' levels. This might mean curating different parts of your board with different grade levels in mind. (JHS, SHS)

Pen pals: This can be a way to connect students to other native English speakers, or even just a fun writing exercise. Celebrities may have posted mailing addresses, and if you can collaborate with a school abroad you might send all the letters together. Your school might cover expenses, or you might have to. (JHS, SHS)

Rewards:

Stickers
Stamps
Stationery
Raffle Tickets
Candy/Snacks
(ask your school)

Letters to the ALT: Use some current grammar to ask your students questions and suggest question patterns for them to ask in return. This can be a great way to get to know your students and find common ground. (JHS, SHS)

Speech Competitions: You will likely have at least one annual English speech competition. As the resident native English speaker, you will probably be expected to help with memorizing scripts and polishing pronunciation. You get to go with them for the big event in the end too! (JHS, SHS)

Eiken: This is a series of optional standardized tests for English, progressing in difficulty from level 5 to level 1. It consists of a written portion and an interview. You may be asked to help students prepare during or outside of school hours, or you might offer if you see them with study books aimed at the tests. (JHS, SHS)

English outside the School: You might join an English conversation group (*eikaiwa*), or even make one. You will likely be invited to internationalization events. These are great ways to connect and contribute to your community. (usu. Adults)