

10:00 - 10:45

Robert C. Ames

Using images to stimulate HS/university student output skills

7th Floor, Room 2-1

Build HS & university output skills with stimulating images. A create-as-you-go activity loosely based on the “picture--worth-1000-words” principle. Nice for group discussions, presentations, essay prompts, or even students creating their own images for further discussion/presentations. Good with exchange student groups from UK, USA, Japan, Italy.

Aimed at: University and higher-level high school

Materials promoted: None

Juanita Nagai

Happy teachers, happy kids: Empowering educators through self-care

7th Floor, Room 2-2

Teaching children can be an incredibly rewarding, but also stressful job, especially in an ESL setting. Happy teachers foster positive learning environments, maximizing the potential for young learners’ success and happiness. Explore practical strategies to enhance educator well-being, reduce burnout, and create a positive ripple effect in the classroom.

Aimed at: Young learners/children’s teachers

Materials promoted: None

Sheeba and Aimee

How about 1- Breaking barriers, building bridges: A foreigner’s tale of teaching English in Japan

7th Floor, Room 2-3

Join us as we navigate cultural nuances, overcome challenges, and leave a lasting impact in Japanese education. Uncover the essence of bridging divides and fostering connections in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Aimed at: Kindergarten, school and university teachers

Materials promoted: None

Kristine Valente

Making a picture book

8th Floor, Room 3-1

The goal of this presentation is to show teachers how they can create picture books in a simplified manner making it possible for putting their ideas together in paper creating stories that are useful in the classroom.

Aimed at: Elementary Teachers but not limited to

Materials promoted: None

David Paul

Using games effectively when teaching children

8th Floor, Room 3-2

This presentation will address key issues we face when using games with classes of Japanese children. How can we keep the children’s focus on learning? How can we maximize learning through games? What kinds of games are most effective? The presentation will look at games from the perspective of Self-Determination Theory and constructivist psychology.

Aimed at: Teachers of children

Materials promoted: New Finding Out (only briefly in passing)

Rica Narita and Megumi Kambara

Engage and motivate young learners with theme-based arts and crafts!

8th Floor, Room 3-3

In this workshop participants will have a chance to make a simple craft! We will provide many ideas and suggestions such as paper puppets, origami food, and toilet paper role animals. Also, we will suggest ways to engage and motivate your students through arts and crafts activities!

Aimed at: Kindergarten and elementary school teachers

Materials promoted: None

11:15 - 12:00

Scott Crowe

Get kids speaking naturally and behaving with kindy class management

7th Floor, Room 2-1

Learn how to set up games, songs and lesson routines so that kindergarten aged children are more focused and well-behaved. Keeping kindergarten children focused is challenging. Using Story Based Teaching to get them speaking naturally can be more challenging. Learn to focus kids imagination to help them behave.

Aimed at: Kindergarten level

Materials promoted: Magic House textbooks

Peter Lackner

How to hire more and better teachers

7th Floor, Room 2-2

No matter your preferred employment resource, learn how to attract and hire better teachers. The session will explain best practices in hiring foreign teachers and where good schools are losing quality job candidates. Find out if you are making these mistakes in your hiring activities.

Aimed at: School owners and hiring managers

Promoted: JobsinJapan.com and ETJ Job Service will be mentioned

Jon Nilsen

How does the language of instruction impact learning and retention of L2 Vocabulary?

7th Floor, Room 2-3

L1 use in L2 classrooms has long been a controversial subject. This presentation seeks to reveal and evaluate a more nuanced approach to the potential benefits of using learners’ L1 when teaching L2 vocabulary words in the classroom and building rapport with them outside of regular classtime.

Aimed at: All teachers (but particularly those with Japanese proficiency)

Materials promoted: None

Chris Howe

Playful learning: Keeping it focused on the target

7th Floor, Room 2-4

A few examples of how to use flashcards and TPR to put language to use and form a bridge to real communication.

Aimed at: Kindergarten English teachers

Materials promoted: None

Jeremy Lanig

How I teach my students to start reading in 3 months!

8th Floor, Room 3-1

Discover a revolutionary system that teaches kids to read and write in just a few months. Jeremy Lanig shares his journey and effective methods to rapidly boost literacy skills. Learn how to successfully get all aboard the reading train with proven, innovative strategies.

Aimed at: Eikaiwa (kids), kindergarten, international school

Materials promoted: EFL/ESL coursebooks plus supplementary resources, online resources, STEAM and programming resources

Kenny King**Encouraging output through natural conversations**

8th Floor, Room 3-2

Teachers want students to talk. Students want to talk, too. But sometimes they don't know how. Everyday Conversations will help both teachers and students connect and communicate with simple, topic-based dialogues that are relatable and easy-to-use.

Aimed at: Teachers of elementary, Junior high, high school, beginner adults.

Materials promoted: Everyday Conversation

David Lisgo**Card and board games: Exciting tools for phonics and language learning**

8th Floor, Room 3-3

Explore the 'Read! Spell! Do!' board game, 'Switchit' card games and other engaging options. These games aid students in learning phonics, reading basics and communication skills. They are rich in vocabulary and sentences for effective language learning. Join our demos for innovative English teaching strategies.

Aimed at: Private Language School Teachers

Materials promoted: David Lisgo's materials

12:30 - 1:15

Nate Gildart**Storytelling with original teacher or student-made videos**

7th Floor, Room 2-1

Bring authenticity to teaching and learning. In this session, you will be introduced to a dynamic yet user-friendly video-creation tool for your teaching craft (student-friendly as well). Digital storytelling will be an anchor for this session with recommendations for and examples of student projects and teacher-made videos.

Aimed at: Upper-ES, MS, HS

Promoted: Edpuzzle

Leon Butchers**Trying out the new AGO games: QnA Yellow, Phonics Zero & Phonics Black**

7th Floor, Room 2-2

In this workshop, we will play some games with the cards, discuss classroom techniques and tips on how use the cards well!

Aimed at: Eikaiwa, K-12

Materials promoted: AGO games

Junko Yamanaka**Motivating Japanese students to speak up - A content-based approach**

7th Floor, Room 2-3

Natural and enjoyable communication situations can be created in EFL classrooms by students exchanging their points of view. This is a type of Content-Based Approach, which can help students, even lower-levels, acquire language with high engagement and low resistance. Try this and see your students speak up!

Aimed at: Highschool teachers, university teachers, language school teachers

Materials promoted: Impact Issues

Marc Baquero**Teaching more by talking less: Effective modeling**

7th Floor, Room 2-4

Remember that time you came up with the best game ever and tried to do it in class and it flopped? Modeling your activities for your students can help minimize confusion and maximize student output and overall fun in the classroom.

Aimed at: Teachers of Children ages 4-10

Materials promoted: None

Amy Long**How to open and run your own English School**

8th Floor, Room 3-1

Whether you're only dreaming of opening a school or a seasoned veteran, you can take away something from this seminar. From location, to advertising, to moneymaking ideas, we'll hit on many topics that make for a winning school. We'll share what worked / didn't work for us and what we plan to do in the future.

Aimed at: School owners / potential school owners

Promoted: Dave and Amy Long

Adam Kardos**Turn homework into fun work with Gamerize**

8th Floor, Room 3-2

A solid homework routine is essential for young learners to make progress in English. On the other hand, it can make learning feel like just another chore. How effective is homework if kids aren't engaged anyway? Come find out how you can get your kids hooked on homework with Gamerize Dictionary.

Aimed at: Teachers of Young Learners.

Materials promoted: The Gamerize Dictionary

Ryan Hagglund**Building phonics skills through Minicards and MY English Pal**

8th Floor, Room 3-3

Increased skill-building practice at home can help students more quickly become proficient learners and users of English. This presentation demonstrates ways MY English School uses phonics Minicards and MY English Pal to reinforce and strengthen the phonics and word-building skills our students learn through Finding Out.

Aimed at: Teachers of elementary school students

Materials promoted: MY English Pal, MY Minicards

2:15 - 3:00

Steven Clancy**25 easy eikaiwa website Upgrades to attract more students in 45 min**

7th Floor, Room 2-1

Learn 25 quick and effective Eikaiwa website upgrades to attract more students. After making over 50 websites across Canada and Japan, This talk is about the best & worst practices, offering actionable advice on setting your website up for the best chance to get more students taking action on your website.

Aimed at: School Owners

Promoted: Ad Ronin

Timothy Hill**Come play! Ways to use READY, SET, EIGO! in the classroom**

7th Floor, Room 2-2

A short recap of this game's history, then we'll dive deep into the methodology and practical ways to use READY, SET, EIGO! This presentation will be hands-on so come ready to play, share, and discuss! Throwing the rulebook out the window and getting creative. You may get some free merch!

Aimed at: Elementary to Adult teachers, school owners, parents, and game enthusiasts.

Materials promoted: Ready, Set, Eigo!

Peter Lutes

**Unlocking the power of AI for teachers:
Understanding AI and practical applications of ChatGPT
for individual teachers**

7th Floor, Room 2-3

Peter will give a brief overview of AI outlining common misconceptions about what AI can and cannot do. He will explain how teachers can use ChatGPT for lesson preparation and to guide students' learning. This talk is suitable for the teachers new to AI – no technical background is needed.

Aimed at: All levels, particularly teachers that do not have institutional resources for AI.

Materials promoted: None

Rob Peacock

Bring English to life with animated stories

7th Floor, Room 2-4

Children love stories, and short animations help them to learn language, values, life lessons, and much more. Join us to enjoy some entertaining video material from our brand new courses, Shine On! Plus and Buzz, and some classroom activities to get the most out of storytelling in the primary classroom.

Aimed at: Teachers of young learners

Materials promoted: 2 new primary courses from Oxford University Press: Shine On! Plus & Buzz

Scott Crowe

Fill phonics games and project based learning with natural speaking

8th Floor, Room 3-1

No need to sacrifice speaking ability to have in-class writing time. This presentation demonstrates how to connect project based learning, songs, writing and phonics games to the target language from stories which can get young learners confidently using high frequency language in a natural way.

Aimed at: Elementary school age

Materials promoted: Magic Pad

Tim Henderson

Lexis in context - A narrative Experiment

8th Floor, Room 3-2

This is a very simple idea at its core - using a story to introduce your lesson's vocabulary. The standard practice seems to be using flashcards, or even pointing to words and/or pictures in a textbook. Weaving vocabulary into a tale instead is more engaging and provides useful context.

Aimed at: Those who have younger, but higher-level, students (International School teachers perhaps being the easiest example)

Materials promoted: None

Paul Bennett

Using songs with preschoolers - more than just singing!

8th Floor, Room 3-3

Singing with small children can be a joy. Their enthusiasm and participation feed off each other and contribute to motivating them to want to learn more. Tips and ideas for teachers with little experience of, or confidence in using songs.

Aimed at: Conversation school, kindergarten, elementary school

Materials promoted: JobsinJapan.com and ETJ Job Service will be mentioned

3:30 - 4:15

Amy Long

Easy, effective, elementary school lesson plan

7th Floor, Room 2-1

Do you struggle to plan lessons? Do you wonder why your students aren't progressing? After more than 28 years teaching children in Japan, we have an easy to follow, student centered lesson plan that works with all levels of elementary students. Students practice the 4 skills in fun, effective, student - led lessons.

Aimed at: Elementary teachers

Materials promoted: My English Book and Me / Dave and Amy Games

Rhema Baquero

Incorporating diversity in the classroom

7th Floor, Room 2-2

The resources in our textbooks are limited, and often, what students see in the media can be stereotypical and incomplete. In this workshop we will look at methods to plan lessons and activities that reflect the real world through race, gender, sexuality and ability.

Aimed at: Elementary to high school teachers

Materials promoted: None

William Brooks

Useful TBL and PBL ideas for business English, writing and communication classes!

7th Floor, Room 2-3

William will explain how he uses TBL and PBL exercises in his business English, writing, and communication classes. He will offer some useful, fun, and practical ideas for conducting business-related TBL exercises such as job interviews, surveys, and presenting on research data about selected companies or researching and writing about social issues, etc.

Aimed at: All levels, particularly teachers who teach business

English and writing courses

Promoted: None

Peter Lackner

Get a (better) teaching job now!

7th Floor, Room 2-4

Learn best practices for finding a job online, resume and cover letter tips, interviewing and follow-up, etc. Implementing the advice at this session could make the difference in getting your next job.

Aimed at: Teachers interested in changing jobs or being prepared for in case there is a need to change jobs.

Promoted: JobsinJapan.com and ETJ Job Service will be mentioned

Eric Kane

Communicative Umami: The forgotten skill

8th Floor, Room 3-1

Spoken and written language are very different. In speech, HOW we say something often carries more meaning than WHAT we say. Right? Right?! ;)

In this presentation we will explore the key elements of prosody (how we speak), learn and practice a few classroom activities, and hopefully have a little fun. :)

Aimed at: All

Promoted: Representing ELF learning

David Paul

Teaching phonics effectively to Japanese children

8th Floor, Room 3-2

This presentation will address key issues we face when teaching phonics to Japanese children. What techniques are effective? How can we motivate children to learn? How can we use phonics to improve the children's pronunciation? How can the children move from phonics to reading stories?

Aimed at: Teachers of children

Materials promoted: New Finding Out

Jeff Hodsdon

The more you play the more you learn. Learning games for the EFL classroom

8th Floor, Room 3-3

Games are an indispensable part of any EFL classroom and we've got some games that every classroom needs. Come and see what all the FUN is about. Join us for a hands on gaming workshop and learn how to get the most out of these valuable resources for your classroom.

Aimed at: Kids Grade 1-6

Materials promoted: Easy Fun Learning games

4:45 - 5:30

Ron Vanden

Teacher follows student instructions

7th Floor, Room 2-1

Teaching writing via iterative drafts is illustrated by a 25 minute video. A final draft is reached once the teacher is able to successfully follow the student-written instructions for how to make a peanut butter and jam sandwich. Works best for small class sizes.

Aimed at: University teachers

Materials promoted: None

Samia Haseeb Khan

Fun and interactive games

7th Floor, Room 2-2

Interactive games for students are engaging tasks and activities in which learners team up to collaborate and learn. These games also provide a pleasant hands-on educational experience.

Aimed at: Everyone

Materials promoted: None

David Wybenga

Teaching With picture books

7th Floor, Room 2-3

This presentation will introduce a number of unique picture books and picture resources, useful for teaching speaking and vocabulary, with some exercises and activities for using them. Though the target is kindergarten and elementary school age, there will be some resources applicable to older age groups.

Aimed at: Teachers of kindergarten and elementary

Materials promoted: None

Jason Henwood

Making an effective syllabus

7th Floor, Room 2-4

A syllabus is one of the first things a student will see in your courses. A good syllabus supports students when they have problems at any time in the course. This presentation will focus on a university English course syllabus, but the general ideas work for any kind of course syllabus.

Aimed at: University teachers and those interested in becoming university teachers

Promoted: None

MY Learning / Language Teaching Professionals School Owners and Independent Teachers Forum Chaired by Ryan Hagglund

8th Floor, Room 3-1

A chance for school owners and independent teachers to share and discuss issues.

Jim Jensen

The Importance of phonemic awareness for young learners

8th Floor, Room 3-2

This presentation will discuss the importance of enhancing phonemic awareness. It will make two points. Phonemic awareness, which is the ability to distinguish the sounds of a language, is essential. Also, it gets more difficult to acquire with time. For these reasons, it is critical to start young.

Aimed at: Teachers of children

Materials promoted: New Finding Out

David Booton

Creating a task based learning curriculum for elementary school students

8th Floor, Room 3-3

I will look at the difficulties in creating and implementing and possible solutions for creating a Task Based Learning Curriculum for lower level elementary/junior high school students

Aimed at: Elementary and Junior High School students

Materials promoted: None

Presenters

Adam Kardos

Adam Kardos is the founder of AAS press and author of textbooks and award winning readers. He is also the creator of The Gamerize Dictionary, a gamified learner dictionary app.

Amy Long

Dave and Amy have taught children since 1996 at their 4 schools in Saitama City. They are always improving their lessons, texts and accompanying games to ensure students learn well.

Chris Howe

Taught a wide variety of children's classes in variety of situations—some good, some not. His approach grew out of coping with bad situations.

David Booton

Has been teaching English in Japan for 20 years and young learnings almost exclusively for 15 of those.

David Lisgo

Language educator specializing in game-based learning. Developer of 'Read! Spell! Do!', 'Switchit' and other games for young students, promoting interactive language acquisition. Passionate about innovative teaching methodologies.

David Paul

Built up a successful chain of schools in East Asia, and used this success as a platform to support the professional development of teachers. He has written many best-selling books.

David Wybenga

David Wybenga has a Master's degree in Social Work. He has taught English in Japan for more than 20 years. He founded The Picture Book Group on Facebook.

Jason Henwood

After starting on the JET Program, he worked for a private high school while working on a master's degree. Has been teaching at universities in Kansai area for 17 years.

Eric Kane

Eric is a teacher, school owner, independent publisher, and educational YouTuber who has lived and worked in Japan for long enough to remember Namie Amuro's solo debut.

Jeremy Lanig

Founder of BINGOBONGO Learning and the Step by Step Education Group. He is currently focused on developing student-centric STEAM and programming resources for kids in Japan (BBbots.com).

Jim Jensen

Has been teaching English for over 30 years. He has taught all ages and in five different countries. He has spent the last 20 years in Japan.

Juanita Nagai

Has twenty years experience teaching young children in Japan. She now helps teachers develop resilience, self-reliance, and learn stress-management through mindfulness and self-compassion techniques.

Junko Yamanaka

Co-author of Impact Issues and other EFL materials, and has given numerous presentations and workshops for language teachers and learners. She currently teaches at Aichi Gakuin University.

Kenny King

Kenny has been teaching for over 23 years and owns two language schools in Gifu. He also runs a YouTube channel for kids.

Kristine Valente

As a high school teacher in the Philippines, she was involved in developing curriculum and video lessons aired on national television during COVID. Currently teaching children at 2b English School.

Leon Butchers

Leon Butchers is the creator of the AGO card games. From Auckland New Zealand, he has lived in Kansai for over 15 years.

Marc Baquero

Marc has been a trainer for a number of years and specializes in creating a fun, positive, student-centered environment where the instructor is a facilitator rather than an active participant.

Nate Gildart

A 27-year veteran History Teacher / Department Head at Nagoya International School and an edtech consultant with a range of edtech certifications. www.socialstudiessamurai.com | @nathangildart

Paul Bennett

Children's English School owner and kindergarten teacher for the last 20 years. Enjoys those particularly challenging students.

Peter Lackner

Peter Lackner operates the ETJ Job Service and president of the JobsinJapan.com employment website. He works with hiring managers in Japan on a daily basis and will be sharing his insight.

Peter Lutes

Dr. Peter Lutes is passionate about contributing to the academic and professional growth of students and educators. He has conducted teacher training throughout Asia.

Rhema Baquero

A teacher of nine years with four in America and five in Japan. Passionate about diversity and inclusion, she seamlessly integrates these values into her language and global studies classes.

Rica Narita and Megumi Kambara

Have worked at the YMCA Language Center in Tennoji, Osaka together for over five years. They work with kindergarten students and elementary school students.

Rob Peacock

Currently works at Oxford University Press as an Educational Services Consultant. He has spent over 20 years in Japan teaching students of all ages as well as providing teacher support and workshops.

Robert C. Ames

Has given numerous Kansai ETJ Presentations and many at other ed-conferences including National Geographic, Oxford University Press, Foreign Study Exchange Groups, and Osaka Global Schools.

Ron Vanden

Lecturer at Kobe Women's University and Osaka University of Commerce

Samia Haseeb Khan

Raised in Oman and India. Samia has been teaching learners of various ages in Kansai for over 15 years. Recently, she has been working at translation projects along with personal research.

Ryan Hagglund

Owner of MY English School, located in Yamagata and Hyogo. He first came to Japan in 1998, has 2 MAs in education, and is a certified teacher.

Scott Crowe

Co-founder of a successful chain of English schools in Japan and now founder of a new brand of schools, Scott Crowe is an innovator in language teaching and the author of 17 textbooks.

Sheema and Aimee

Amiee: Teacher at YMCA International Kindergarten & Osaka YMCA Language Center. Sheeba: Works for ECC and teaches English at Hannan University + Osaka YMCA Language center

Steven Clancy

Steve Clancy is a school owning Welshman with an inconsistent accent. In Japan since 2003, he co-created Easy ESL Games that became the digital marketing company Ad Ronin.

Tim Henderson

Australian/British ESL teacher with some freelance writing experience on the side and just over a decade's worth of experience teaching English as a second language in Japan and Korea

Timothy Hill

Timothy Hill is a father, school owner, avid gamer, and an unofficial member of the "Too Tall club".

William Brooks

An associate professor that teaches socioeconomic, business English, academic writing and culture classes. He is also passionate about TBL, PBL, critical thinking and career development.