

Tips & Tricks to be a Top ALT !

by Richard Graham (www.GenkiEnglish.com)

Hello,

I hope you are enjoying the Summer! And to all the newcomers “Welcome to Shimane”. Each month in this column I’ll give out a few hints and tips to help your teaching.

This month’s game:

“Maru Batsu” self introductions

You’ve probably heard a million and one ways of doing self intros, but here’s a simple and effective 1,000,002nd way to do it!

All you basically do is say some phrases about yourself and the kids have to guess if it’s true or not. First of all ask the Japanese teacher, who’ll answer, and the kids should get the meaning. Then the Japanese teacher asks you.

For example “What’s your name?” and the JTE answers with their real name, then they ask you and you answer something like “Darth Vader”, and the kids guess if it’s true or not! You can have lots of fun with giving lots of silly answers before the real one! (e.g.. “I’m 3 years old” or “My favourite food is penguin”.)

The kids can either shout out “True” or “False” or they can have a piece of paper with a cross on one side (“batsu” in Japanese) and a tick on the other side. In Japan a tick also means “wrong” so it’s good to show them what it means to us! Here they usually use a circle to mean “true” which in Japanese is “maru”.

Warm up word of the month:

Doing a command and response type warm up is a great way to start an elementary school lesson. Start off with “Stand up, sit down” etc. then add in new words each time. So for this month try:

“Wiggle”

and get the kids to wiggle their hands, their fingers, or feet or anything really!

Japanese Phrase of the Month:

しつれい “失礼”

“Shi tsu re i” means “rude”. But “Shi tsu re i shimasu” is what you say when you leave school on an evening i.e. “sorry for being so rude and leaving before you all”. For the girls it’s also really useful for fending off guys at parties who are being a bit too friendly. Simply say “Shitsurei!” and he’ll get the message!

As usual this month there are lots of cool new ideas on the website (with Japanese explanations to show your JTEs!) at www.GenkiEnglish.com

Be genki,

Richard