# High School Self-Introduction Lessons

Presented by Jenny Stein and Sean Callahan

# A Bit About Us...



2<sup>nd</sup> Year ALT

Originally from New Zealand

Currently lives in Joetsu

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4th Year ALT

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Currently lives in Yoshida

Teaches at Yoshida, Maki, Sanjo Higashi, and Bunsui High Schools



# Let's get to know each other...



# Overview

Today we will talk about...

- PRIMARY OBJECTIVES—what are your main goals when giving a self-introduction lesson?
- CONSIDERATIONS—what other things do you need to consider when planning your lesson?
- EXAMPLES—what have we done in our self-introduction classes?
- SUMMARY—Dos and Don'ts for your self-introduction lesson
- QUESTIONS

# **Primary Objectives**



# **Primary Objectives**

- OBVIOUS? Teach the students about you and your country right?
- Make a good first impression.
- Set up your expectations of the students for your lessons.
- Involve the students in the lesson.
- Determine the language and confidence level of your students.
- Start building a good relationship with your JTE.
- Make English fresh, exciting and fun!

# Prioritized Primary Objectives

- i. Start building a good relationship with your JTE. BEFORE the lesson
- 1. Make a good first impression. Future classes will be WAY easier.
- 2. Involve the students in the lesson. Get them USING English.
- 3. Make English fresh, exciting and fun! Get 1 & 2 right and 3 & 4 will happen.
- 4. Set up your expectations of the students for your lessons.
- 5. Determine the language and confidence level of your students.
- 6. Teach the students about you and your country. VERY helpful for future
  This will happen anyway! lesson planning

# Other Things To Consider

- The JTE may have too high or too low expectations of the class—be prepared to adapt!
- There will be a range of language abilities in your class.
   Make your activities flexible if you can!
- Students may not understand your accent at first, and you may not understand theirs! Speak very <u>SLOWLY</u> and <u>CLEARLY</u>.
- High language level does not equal high confidence level, and vice versa. This is FRUSTRATING, but persevere!

# Examples

# What did we do?

# Some intro activities...

- Find the sheet titled "Hammer Time"
- Please stay safe!



# For The Next Activity...

- Make teams of about 4-5
- Each team has 500 points
- Wager your points on an answer!

# What state is Sean from?

- A. California
- B. Oregon
- C. Nevada

# How long has Sean been in Japan?

- A. 1 year
- B. 2 years
- C. 3 years

# Let's Get to Know Each Other

- Make a line in order of your birthdays. Make sure to ask in English
- Introduce yourself to the people next to you. Say your name, where you are from, and where you are living now

- Now...
- What is your favorite Japanese word or phrase?

# Hello! I'm Jenny. I am from New Zealand.

# Today, we will:

Practice self-introductions

Learn about New Zealand

Get to know each other!

# But first... Class Rules!

- 1 Have fund
- 2 Don't be quiet.
- 3 Mistakes are
- a EEEE EEE each other.
- 5 Always TRY!

Also...

# Today you can win a prize!

Just <u>volunteer</u> and win points for your group!

And now...

# Self Introductions

# **Self-Introductions**

Your students will already know each other, but...

- Self-Introductions are simple, easy and not too intimidating.
- Good chance to get the JTE involved.
- Students are writing, speaking, listening, moving AND reviewing!

Hello! My name is	
I'm from	·
I like	and
I don't like	

 You can see who are the fast workers and who are the slow ones. You can start to tell who lacks confidence and who is just lazy.

# Then I Tell Them About New Zealand...

# But I don't just lecture them!

- I show them videos, use lots of pictures, animated slides etc.
- I compare New Zealand culture to Japan:
  - Makes new information relatable.
  - > Covers a range of topics to cater to different interests.
  - ➤ You can fire questions at the class to get them participating. (Remember, every volunteer wins points!)



Let's compare!







# Let's compare!

# Nature

**New Zealand** 



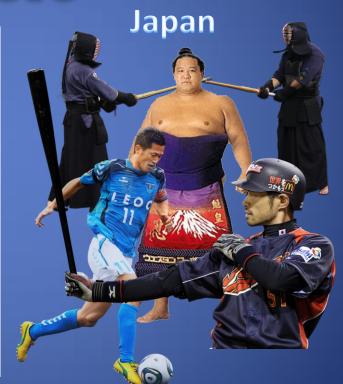
Japan



# Let's compare!

Sport





# Hot Potato The game we made you play (Thanks Nick!)

This game is great because:

ALL STUDENTS have to participate!

They all have to:

- Listen to each other.
- Come up with an original idea (or help each other).
- Speak English!
- It's flexible for language level and confidence.
- It gets students moving...and they are excited to hold the Kiwi.

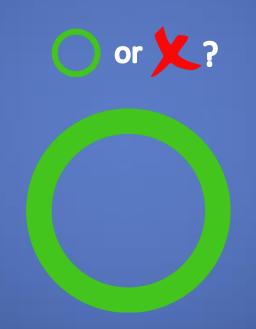
# Maru /Batsu True or False questions (about me).

This game is great because:

- The instructions are simple.
- You can make the students move around the classroom to vote.
- They learn about you through a game instead of a lecture.
- You can make questions harder and harder, but the element of chance means even low language level students can still win.
- You can blow their minds with weird facts about yourself and leave a good impression!

# **Statement 1:**

My name is Jenny.



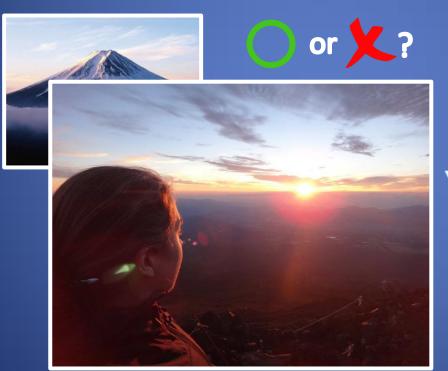
# **Statement 2:**

I am from Australia.



# **Statement 7:**

I have climbed Mt Fuji.



Yes, last year, on my birthday.

# Questions? Leave time for this! (And use to fill in extra time)

- Gives one last opportunity for students to use English creatively and communicatively.
- Can be a speaking and/or writing exercise.
- Very flexible activity!

# Summary

# DOs and DON'Ts

# Dos and Don'ts

## Do

- Make English EXCITING!
   Or at least interesting...
- Encourage students to speak and give their ideas/opinions.
- Get students involved in the lesson as much as possible.
- Be respectful of Japanese culture.

## Don't

Give a lecture.

Expect too much right away.

- Focus on just one topic or just one skill.
- Make your lesson all about you (topic or approach).

# Dos and Don'ts

## Do

- Be flexible and creative.
- Listen to and always check your ideas with your JTE!
- Be patient AND proactive.
- Make a good first impression on your students if you can.

# Don't

- Try to do too much in one lesson (things take longer than you think!)
- Be disappointed if your JTE doesn't like your ideas.
- Don't give up!
- Don't worry! You got this.

# That's all folks!

# Questions?