

British Council Japan

Teaching writing: online resources

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Introduction

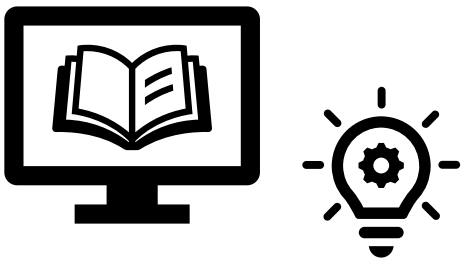
Welcome to Japan. On behalf of the Japanese The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the British Council has produced this short guide to resources for teaching writing at Junior and Senior High Schools. The resources are drawn from the British Council’s global website for English teachers, www.teachingenglish.org and our global website for teenage English learners, www.learnenglishteens.org. We have specifically chosen resources that link to the Japanese Course of Study for English, with themes and language points that are common in most Ministry-approved school textbooks.

We hope that you find this selection useful.




Teaching writing

Many students find writing the most difficult aspect of foreign language learning, but it's one that remains as important as ever in the digital age, with so much communication depending on written text. As an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT), your main role may be to assist in teaching speaking, but you can also have a very positive role in lessons which involve writing.

The list of resources in this document include articles about how to plan writing activities and free resources that you can use in the classroom. Note that in the Japanese school system, writing activities are fairly limited at Elementary school, but take on more significance as students progress through Junior and Senior High School.

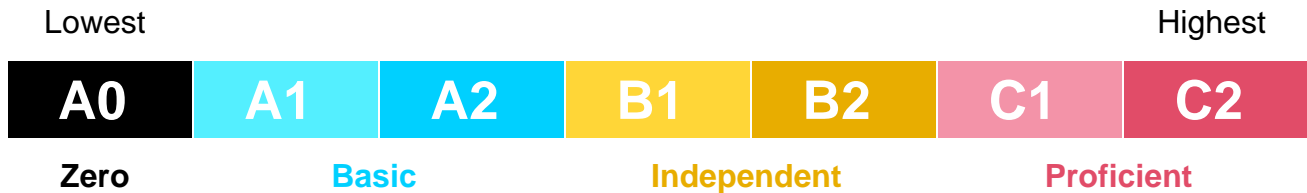


Lesson planning: ideas for writing lessons





<p>Planning a writing lesson This article from the British Council's global <i>TeachingEnglish</i> website gives you an overview of different elements to take into account when planning a writing lesson, including different text genres, the stages of a writing lesson and suggestions for peer working. It contains a link to a downloadable correction codes pdf file.</p>	
<p>Motivating writing activities This is a video presentation by Rachael Roberts, an experienced English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teacher and teacher-trainer. She suggests a variety of different teaching activities you can use in classes to motivate learners. As well as watching the video, you can download the presentation slides.</p>	
<p>Giving students feedback on writing This research-informed article by Larry Ferlazzo introduces four different methods for providing learners with feedback on their writing. As well as a description of each technique, the article provides links to relevant research and useful feedback rubrics.</p>	

Teaching resources for writing lessons




The resources below contain a variety of different writing genres that can be used in writing lessons with Junior High and Senior High School students. These resources are listed according to proficiency level, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages ([CEFR](#)). The proficiency levels are shown below.





Resources at A1 level

<p>A school timetable</p> <p>This writing activity helps students practise basic writing of school subjects, months, initials and days of the week. There are free downloadable worksheets, a model text and a blank school timetable for students to create themselves.</p>	
<p>A library card</p> <p>This writing activity gets students to complete their own library card. This helps them to practise writing their name in English. It can be extended to writing about library rules – the topic of rules is often covered in the second grade of Junior High School.</p>	
<p>An internet safety poster</p> <p>This poster helps students practise giving strong advice with imperative forms, something which is often covered in the first grade of Junior High School. Students can first read and discuss the advice on the model poster, before adding their own ideas to a blank poster template (downloadable from the website).</p>	
<p>My favourite meal</p> <p>This writing exercise prompts students to write about their daily routines and favourite foods – topics which are common from the upper grades of Elementary school and through Junior High School. It also allows an opportunity for cultural exchange where students read and discuss the different foods people eat for breakfast.</p>	


Resources at A2 level

<p>A film review</p> <p>This resource gives students tips for writing film reviews. After reading the model, students can choose a movie that they have seen to write their own personalised reviews. You can get students to read and comment on each other's reviews, once finished.</p>	
<p>Replying to an invitation</p> <p>Writing is always an interactive process between the writer and the reader. However, it becomes even more interactive when students practise responding to each other. This resource models how to respond to invitations.</p>	
<p>Writing a postcard</p> <p>Picture postcards are an example of a writing genre that will be new to Japanese learners, and a chance to teach cross-cultural understanding. This resource teaches some common conventions of postcard writing, such as appropriate openings and closings.</p>	

Resources at B1 level

<p>Writing a “for and against” essay</p> <p>At Senior High School, students learn how to write more academic and extended pieces of writing, such as for and against essays. This resource gives a model and some pointers about structuring essays. Students could write their own essay on a similar but different topic.</p>	
<p>Writing an opinion essay</p> <p>This resource shows a different style of essay with a different text structure. After reading and discussing the model, you could get students to write their own opinion essay on the question of allowing smartphone use in schools.</p>	

Resources at B2 level

<p>Writing about survey results</p> <p>As students prepare to move onto university, they may be asked to analyse and interpret data presented in tables, charts and graphs. If you conduct a class survey as a speaking activity, this resource may help students to write up the findings.</p>	
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