

Background

Working in schools, many teachers do not get the opportunity to maintain and practice their English skills especially speaking. To respond to this need, the British Council is offering a series of English refresher lessons specifically for English teachers. Each lesson will give teachers the opportunity to discuss a topic in English with a British Council trainer and other teachers from across Japan.

Language proficiency

This series of lessons will teachers the opportunity to return to the classroom as language learners.

Features of the lessons include:

- authentic samples of spoken and written English
- discussion activities with an *information gap* (participants communicate new information and ideas to each other)
- the opportunity to share your own experience and opinions
- the integration of speaking, listening, reading and writing
- grammar and vocabulary as tools for communication.

Language level

The materials in these lessons are aimed at learners between B1-B2 levels on the CEFR. There will be no level-checking assessment to join these lessons, so you may find them relatively easy or quite challenging, depending on your own language level. We hope that all participants will learn some new words and phrases however, and will enjoy the opportunity to brush up their skills through discussions with other English teachers from across Japan.

CEFR scale



Note that it takes roughly 120 hours of study to significantly improve your English proficiency enough to move up one level on the CEFR.

Target audience

These lessons are targeted at English teachers at Junior and Senior High schools, though Elementary school English teachers at A2+ level on the CEFR are very welcome to join. The topics chosen are ones that regularly occur in MEXT-approved secondary school textbooks.

Date and Time: 29th January, 10:30-12:00

Session: Attitudes to leisure time

Aimed at: English teachers at B1-B2 levels on the CEFR

Learning aims: Teachers will:

- read and discuss a text about leisure activities
- have an interactive discussion about a memory that is important to them

TIME	SESSION	CONTENT
90 minutes	Attitudes to leisure time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Become aware of different cultural assumptions about leisure time• Learn vocabulary for describing places• Look at referencing conventions in English texts• Practise asking and responding to questions about childhood memories

Date and Time: 5th February, 10:30-12:00

Session: Talking about festivals

Aimed at: English teachers at B1-B2 levels on the CEFR

Learning aims: Teachers will:

- listen to and discuss an audio about an important childhood memory
- have an interactive discussion about a festival that they have experienced

TIME	SESSION	CONTENT
90 minutes	Talking about festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about similarities and differences between festivals in different countries around the world• Learn vocabulary connected with traditional festivals• Improve your ability to catch function words in connected speech• Practise comparing and discussing the features of different festivals

Date and Time: 19th February, 10:30-12:00

Session: Talking about an important life experience

Aimed at: English teachers at B1-B2 levels on the CEFR

Learning aims: Teachers will:

- listen to and discuss an audio about someone's foreign exchange experience
- have an interactive discussion about an important life experience of your own

TIME	SESSION	CONTENT
90 minutes	Talking about an important life experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hear about the benefits and challenges of studying and living in a foreign country• Learn vocabulary related to studying abroad• Practice listening to a speaker of "World English"• Practice discussing an important life experience