

CLASS ACTS

Have you visited us at home - <http://www.intercompress.com>

FISH out of WATER.

Last month and earlier this month saw me in quite a few places: Korea, Hamamatsu, Shiga, Kyoto and Sapporo. In two of those places I was standing around without any materials. In fact, in Sapporo they didn't arrive and I did the dirty and hopped on the plane back to Fukuoka. Not without parting with a considerable lump of bullion

in the airport. The famous 'White Lover Chocolate' and loads of smoked salmon took the major part of it. Anyway Sapporians, please accept my apologies for letting you down and also sorry to all those people in Korea who patiently waited for our materials to arrive. And thanks to all those people who came and did get to see us and our material.

Paul Shimizu

Fukuoka JALT Bookfair

Mark Your Calendars!

This year's featured speaker, flying in from Philadelphia, is the world-famous Rod Ellis. That, plus a wealth of resources for English teachers provided, makes this event too good to miss.

*** Free Advice: Get top-quality assistance from ELT consultants in choosing the text that suits your needs and your classes.

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Date Sunday, Jan 25, 1998

Time 10:00 to 5:00

Place Fukuoka International School

18-50 Momochi 3-chome

Sawara-ku Fukuoka-shi

Nearest tube station: Fujisaki

Fee Free! Everybody welcome.

Info Internet: <kyushu.com/jalt/bookfair98/>

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Kevin O'Leary, tel: (0942)32-0101, fax: 31-0372

Bill Pellowe, e-mail: <billp@gol.com>

THIS ISSUE'S CENTREFOLD IS DESCRIBING PEOPLE



This issue's centrefold is based on an extension idea for *Natural Speaking* Unit 9. Describing People. There are eight caricatures of famous characters. There are a variety of ways of doing this activity. One is to copy the centrefold, cut it into the eight separate characters and give one to each student. If you like mask out the names before you make copies. Have your students go around the class, or sat down in pairs or small groups and read the descriptions to other students to see if they can guess who it is. Of course they must not show their picture to their partner. Some lines have been left for students to add their own physical descriptions. After students have finished reading their descriptions, they should then ask "Who do you think it is?" The answer that students are most likely to give is "I don't know, give me some more clues." At this point the describer may now start giving clues about their character's nationality, talent etc. For me the issue was to get students to say and listen to the language of physically describing someone, NOT getting a correct answer. So the final clues are simply a way for students to think up their own clues so their partners can get to the right answer.

Now Available in Japan

abc with KC and At Home with KC

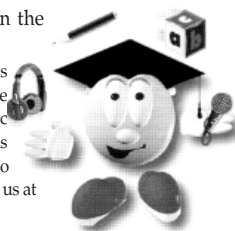
These two CD-ROM products from Quest Multimedia in England are now available in Japan, directly from Intercom Press. These programs have received excellent reviews in Europe, and are ideal for teaching the alphabet, letter writing and word recognition to English beginners of any nationality, aged 3 to 12 years old.

Level one, abc with KC, features the playful character KC and short, colorful animations to teach the letters, writing, and word recognition. The software enables students to record their own voice to check pronunciation of the 72 vocabulary words introduced, as well as having letters or entire words rewritten, and spoken as many times as needed. This BBC English CD-ROM offers a minimum of 40 hours of entertaining education.

Level two, At Home with KC, advances the student to learning useful household vocabulary in a contextual usage, and joined-up handwriting. The student's objective is to rescue KC from the basement storeroom of his house where aliens have imprisoned him. In order to rescue KC, the student must travel through 5 rooms of a typical house, learn the associated vocabulary and complete a series of spelling, reading and listening games. This CD-ROM offers a minimum of 40 hours of entertaining education.

Neither program has Japanese language support, but the software is very easy to understand and has a simple non-cluttered interface which keeps the student focused on the tasks.

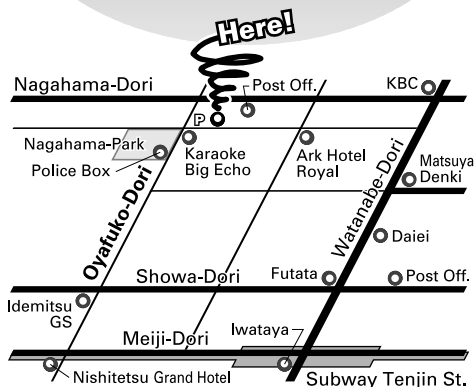
The price for each CD-ROM is ¥5,500 (tax not included). These are hybrid CDs that run on both Mac and Windows 95 (Japanese systems OK). For more information or to order, see our web page or contact us at your convenience.



POP IN

If you're in the area please feel free to pop in on us. We have back issues of our newsletters, sample texts, tea, coffee, and talk.

We have Japanese and English speaking staff.



POSH! Oops sorry.

Our last newsletter carried an article about the word POSH.

Two people have informed me that while POSH does indeed mean port out starboard home the direction in which people were going was not The USA but India. And they wanted to be on the port side going out and the starboard side coming back not because they wanted to catch the sun but because they wanted to AVOID the sun. So sorry to all those people who told that story to their students.

Thanks Nick Marshall of Chiba for enlightening this poor ignorant POM.

Nick also has heard of two possibilities for the word POM. POM is a slightly derogatory term for the English. Possibility number one is P.O.M.E. (prisoner of mother England). A term given to early 'convicts' sent to Australia and which is now applied to all English. And the second possibility is that the English had red faces (like pomegranates when they came off the ships in Melbourne/Sydney/Adelaide/Perth/Brisbane, after a good cooking on the voyage over. Thanks for your response Nick.

Describing People... 'Who do you think it is?'

She has big brown eyes. / Her mouth is large.
/ Her teeth are beautiful and very white . / She

has long black curly hair. / Her eyelashes are long. / She has a slim waist and wide hips. / Her skin is black. / She sings very well.



DIANA ROSS

Student

Guess

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

He has a large head. / His hair is white, quite frizzy and long. / He has large white eyebrows.

/ He is short and has a small build. / His nose is big. / He discovered a very important rule in physics.



ALBERT EINSTEIN

Student

Guess

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

She has a long thin face. / She usually wears a shawl over her head. / Her skin is brown and

has many wrinkles. / She wears sandals and a white sari. / She is very small and thin.



MOTHER THERESA

Student

Guess

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

He has black hair which is quite long and straight. / He has a well-built and strong body.

/ His eyes are very small. / He is quite short. / His nose is kind of round and quite big. He is oriental.



JACKIE CHAN

Student

Guess

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

'I don't know, give me some more clues.'

He has short curly white hair. / His face is square shaped. / His skin is black. / His eyes are small. / He usually wears a suit. / He was in a prison for many years.



NELSON MANDELA

Student

Guess

- 1) -----
- 2) -----
- 3) -----

He is a little plump. / He has a small black nose. / His face is very long. / His arms and legs are very short. / His ears are very long and black. / He lives in a very small house. / His best friend is a little yellow bird.



SNOOPY

Student

Guess

- 1) -----
- 2) -----
- 3) -----

She has long blonde wavy hair. / Her face is oval shaped. / She is very sexy. / Her legs are long and slim. / She has a very narrow waist. / Her voice is high. / She married and divorced three times.



MARILYN MONROE

Student

Guess

- 1) -----
- 2) -----
- 3) -----

He has big brown eyes. / His skin is very brown. / His mouth is wide. / His lips are thick. / He is slender. / He always wears a cap. / His mother's family came from the Philippines.



TIGER WOODS

Student

Guess

- 1) -----
- 2) -----
- 3) -----

“Whispers”



This is the second article for teachers who have large classes of young pupils. These articles are all centred around the team competition theme, by having your class split into four teams. To give the teams a little more language call the teams “yellow”, “blue”, “red”, and “green”.

Use the actual colour cards from the box and put the cards in front of each team so as to give the teams a constant reminder of who they are. Using a scoring system whereby the team who came 1st got four points, 2nd three points, 3rd two points and 4th one point means that all teams could increase their score every time no matter how well or badly they do. A point to remember is that you, the teacher, are trying to get your students to respond to English words or phrases. i.e. Tune your students’ ears to the English language. Your students however, are intent upon playing the game and they get an immense amount of pleasure from just playing the game.

Before embarking on the activities split your class into four equal groups/teams and tell each team what colour they are. Now check that the teams know their colour. Have all the children sit down and play this game. “Stand up ‘red’ team”, “Stand up ‘blue’ team”, “Stand up ‘yellow’ team”, “Sit down ‘blue’ team”, and so on until you are confident that your students will remember what colour they are. You have by this

process also, using TPR methodology, taught your students. “Stand up.” and Sit down.” as well as the colours.

The second game in the series is:-

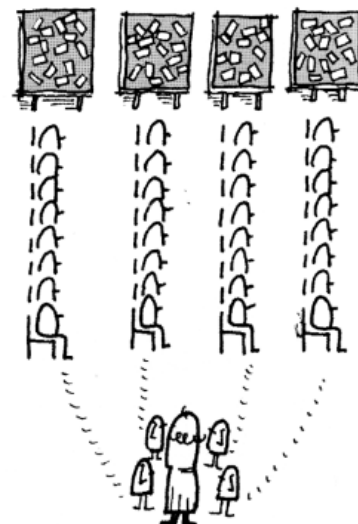
“Whispers”

Write the four team colours up on the blackboard (use coloured chalk if you have it, that way everyone knows the score.)

Firstly select about six to ten nouns, adjectives, verbs or prepositions you want to teach. (anymore cards usually creates too many mistakes and slows the game down). This game is best played in a large room or hall with no desks. Having chairs could possibly make the game run more smoothly because it fixes the students positions. Teach the whole class the cards you have selected by flashing and naming; asking them “What’s this?”; using the ‘Quick and Slow flash’ techniques. This should take about five to ten minutes at most. You are now ready to start the game. So if you have chairs put the chairs in four lines all facing the same way (side by side. Try to keep the lines as far away from each other as possible. The students should be sitting with one of their ears pointing in your direction. At the other end of **each** line of chairs place the set of cards you are using. Now have the first student of each team come to you. You should be a long way from the students who are sitting because you don’t want to be overheard. Whisper the word you want the students to bring to you. And, if you have it show them the card so that there is no mistake. Also have the four students repeat back the word. If their pronunciation is not good have them keep repeating after you until your satisfied. Send the students back their places and have them **whisper** the word into their neighbours ear. That student then whispers into the ear of her neighbour. Students continue whispers into their neighbours ear until they reach the end of the line. The last person then rushes to the cards which are spread out at the end of their line, chooses the card, and rushes to the teacher.

Award 4 points to the 1st in line, 3 points to the second in line, 2 to the 3rd and 1 to the 4th. Please note that students will

make a lot of mistakes, it’s quite hilarious really, so send them back to get the right card by telling them the correct word. Now have all the students move one place along, so that the students who rushed the cards to you will now be the students to whom you whisper the next word. Whisper the next word and send them back to the beginning of the line and off you go again . In the meantime you or your assistant, if you have one, replaces the cards at the end of each line of chairs.



COME & SEE US

- **Nov 15 (Sat) 2:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M.**
Korea TESOL Chapter, **Seoul**
- **Nov 16 (Sun) 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**
JALT Chapter, **Takamatsu**
- **Dec 7 (Sun) 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**
JALT Chapter, **Fukuoka**

Should you require further information on our materials please give us a call. We would be happy to come to your school, college or university if you would like a presentation or workshop.

CLASS ACTS Issue No.11

Sample Request Form

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