

Ideas

Introductions

Students from different grades probably won't know each other well. Encourage the students to do simple self-introductions; name, hobby, I like... Form a circle and throw something soft to a student who will then make a self-introduction. After each student has introduced themselves, you can see how well you remember them by throwing something again and describing the person who catches it, "Your name is..., you like..."

Posters

If the club is always held in the same room, get the students to make posters for the walls. These could include pictures of clothes, fruits, vegetables, rooms of the house, flowers, animals, seasons, weather etc. The students could make their time-tables in English and label different objects in the room.

Bulletin Boards

These can display maps, school activity reports, stories, pictures, cartoons, or anything the students are interested in.

English language games

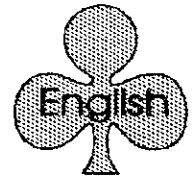
Students could make picture cards for *karuta*-type games, or board games with English instructions.

Cooking

If possible, take the students with you to the supermarket to buy Western-style ingredients (depending on your location). In any case, your English club students will be interested to know what you do and don't have in supermarkets back home. Use the school cooking room to make easy Western-style food and help the students write out the recipes in English.

Songs

Ask the students what kind of songs they are interested in. Many Japanese songs contain English lyrics too, and the students often want to know what they are and what they mean—if anything. You could also teach old favorites like the Beatles—the students are quite familiar with these tunes. Ask the students to bring in tapes or CDs of their favorite Western songs and work out the lyrics together.



Ideas

Dancing

Folk dancing of any kind would be popular. If the students know any traditional Japanese dances such as *bon-odori*, get them to teach you.

Videos

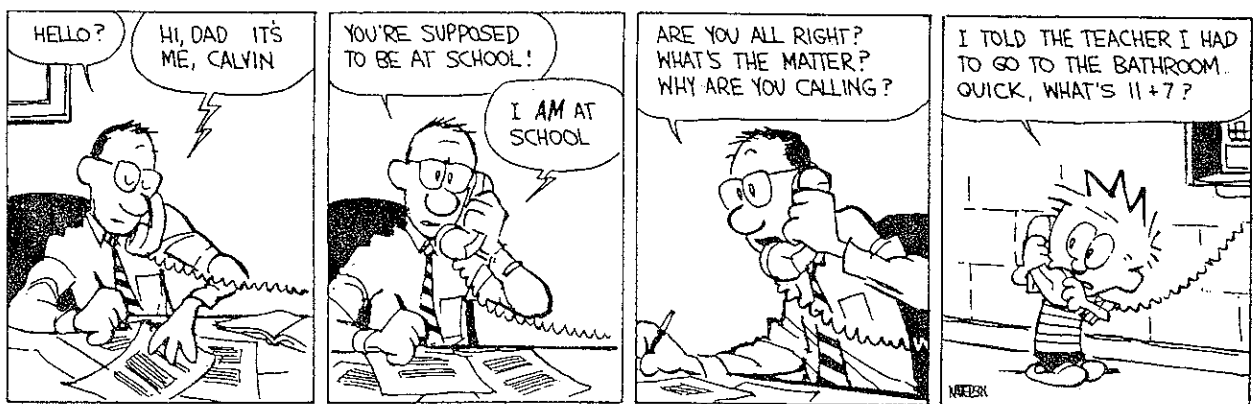
Most English language videos have Japanese sub-titles, so the students will be able to understand them. Watching a video is relaxing for everyone, but try to ensure that the students aren't just reading the subtitles all the time. After watching the video, you could replay a certain scene, maybe giving them a transcript with blanks to fill in, or give them a quiz on the video in English.

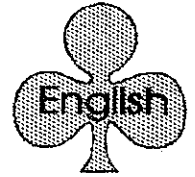
Special Events

English club time is a good opportunity to talk about Western holidays and have activities based around the event. See the Western holidays section for more details.

Cartoons

Find some easy Western cartoon strips, and see if the students can understand them. Have them try to translate cartoons from the newspaper into English. *Mangajin* magazine has cartoons translated into both languages, and it's available at Kinokuniya bookstore. For more advanced students, try giving them a cartoon with blanks, and have them make their own script.





Ideas

If you attend English club every day, or have a base school, you may be able to give your English club a more long term project.

Drama

The English club sometimes performs a short play or puppet drama at the annual cultural festival. This could be a performance in the gym, or a smaller event held several times in a class room. Allow plenty of time for making costumes, props, and lots of practice.

Story Books

Help the students to translate a simple children's story book from English to Japanese or vice-versa. They then draw pictures and make their own book.

Projects on English-Speaking Countries

Embassies and consulates here can send lots of colorful information, often written in both English and Japanese. Students can use this information to make posters or presentations on different countries which could be displayed at the culture festival. Addresses can be found in the JET Program(me) Resource Materials Handbook.

Twinning Projects/Pen Pals

English club students are often very keen to find pen pals and organizing links like this can be of long-lasting benefit. Try writing to your own old school and see if any teachers there would be interested in setting up correspondence. For UK ALTs the Japan Festival Education Trust will help with twinning projects between Japanese and British schools and can provide information in both languages.

Write to: The Japan Festival Education Trust
6th Floor Morley House
314 Regent Street
London W1R 5AH