

Immediate Method Tokyo Workshop

Teaching conversation to low-level Japanese students

- ✦ Did you miss this year's *Immediate Method* Autumn Workshop in Kyoto ?
- ✦ Would you like to take part in a similar event ?

Here is your chance !

The 7th annual Autumn Workshop, held at Kyoto University on the 3rd of November, was a great success. Since the response we had from teachers was so good, and we understand that traveling to the Kansai area can be difficult for many Kanto-area teachers, we are organizing a half-day training workshop

in **Tokyo** on **December 9th**.

The number of participants is limited to 30. Please register early !

Registration

Mr / Mrs / Ms

Name : _____

Tel / fax : _____

E-mail : _____

Postal address: _____

Please fax this form to:

075-771-7039

(Mariko Ichikawa / Bruno Vannieu)

You can also register by
e-mail:

info@almalang.com

(please give us all the information
requested in this form)

I teach:

English another language: _____

at

a junior high-school

a college / university

a senior high-school

a language school / company

Name : _____

My personal challenge as a teacher is:

How did you hear about this workshop?

Admission: 1000 yen

**Location: Chiyoda Sogo Center,
7 min. walk from Iriya station
(one stop from Ueno station).**

Registered participants will receive a detailed map by e-mail. This map will be on our web site, www.almalang.com, from around November 28th.

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Teaching conversation to low-level Japanese students

Tokyo – December 9th, 2007

The **Immediate Method** is a simple and powerful conversation classroom management technique that was created in Japan in response to several challenging situations: (1) large classes; (2) low levels of language ability and motivation, and (3) the reticent classroom behavior of Japanese learners.

Its primary objective is to have the students learn to **speak in two-way, real-time communication**; in short, to take part in spontaneous, free flowing conversations. Born in the context of university-level French conversation classes, it has been successfully applied to conversation teaching in English, German and Japanese at various levels.

This workshop is organized by:

- **The Research Group for Teaching Conversation in Japan**, an informal group of teachers who have been conducting teacher training, writing articles about conversation teaching in Japan, and publishing research on the topic since 1999.
- **Alma Publisher**, a small publishing company specializing in IM-compatible conversation textbooks.



more information,
registrations:

info@almalang.com

tel / fax: 075-771-7039



TRAINING WORKSHOP

➤ 10:00 – 11:00 Introduction to the **Immediate Method**

We will explain the fundamentals of the method, show a class video, and proceed with a short simulation class in which participants will be asked to take on the role of learners of a language other than English. We will then discuss the different aspects of this approach, mostly from the practical side (issues of time management, marking, etc.).

☞ Teachers who have attended Bruno Vannieu's presentation at the international JALT conference on November 23rd can skip this presentation and come at 11:00.

➤ 11:00 – 12:00 The **Immediate Method** applied to different teaching contexts

The IM is used in various contexts: class size, students' levels, JHS or university, etc. It is basically a coherent set of classroom management choices: in that framework, teachers can make any choices they like to put it into effect in a given classroom context. We will cover this in a question-and-answer session.

➤ 13:00 – 14:00 Cultural codes: How to break the barrier of silence in class

We all know that Japanese culture is not conducive to free, spontaneous expression in conversation classes. While it is helpful to know that general cultural factors are at play, this doesn't help teachers when it comes to actually conducting a class. Action must be based on more precise descriptions of cultural processes and simple, easily executable guidelines. We will explain:

- how to break the "barrier of silence" in the classroom
- how to integrate pragmatic competence into our students' learning, helping them to sound "natural" in English (in effect, teaching them to respect the cultural codes that govern oral expression in English).

➤ 14:00 – 15:00 Introduction to IM-compatible teaching material

Those interested can stay a little longer for an introduction to Alma Publisher's original format and some explanation on how to use it in class. The IM can be used without a textbook, or by adapting traditional textbooks, but Alma's textbooks are 100% IM-compatible and we hope they help teachers in cutting out extra work, as well as getting better results in class. The levels covered are: beginner (junior high school) and low-intermediate (university, junior college).

The 7th annual IM Autumn Workshop, a one-day event, took place on November 3rd, 2007, at Kyoto University. Here are some excerpts from the feedback forms :

"Very practical suggestions for teaching in Japanese context, honest and candid presenters, affordable price for workshop".

"This method is excellent for conversation teaching where the aim is getting students to USE what is being taught".

"Interesting speakers, many good points to consider for class".

"Lots of original ideas, based on experience and a variety of classroom situations".