

8th Immediate Method Autumn Workshop

Teaching Conversation in Japan

What is the Immediate Method?

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 free flowing conversations.

Born in the context of university-level French conversation classes, it has been successfully applied to English and Japanese conversation teaching.



Kobe University
November 23rd, 2008

Organized by
**The School of Languages
and Communication,
Kobe University**
and
**The Research Group for
Teaching Conversation
in Japan**

What is the IM Autumn Workshop?

The **Immediate Method (IM) Autumn Workshop** is an annual event that brings together foreign language teachers from all over Japan to learn and exchange ideas about conversation teaching.

TRAINING

■ Culture and conversation

Japanese culture is not conducive to free, spontaneous expression in conversation classes. In this introductory lecture we will cover:

- 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).



■ Introduction to the Immediate Method

For the duration of a short simulation class, participants will take on the role of learners of a language other than English (Russian this year). This is an efficient and fun way to experience all the components of the IM, from the inside. We will then discuss a few key elements of this approach, focusing on testing and group management techniques.

SHARING

■ The Immediate Method applied to different teaching contexts

Teachers using the IM in various contexts (class size, students’ levels, JHS or university, etc.) share their experiences and invite questions and discussion. This is always a much-appreciated part of the Autumn Workshop, and is the reason we call this a workshop; the idea is that there is not one set way to do things. Presentations are practical and discussions are friendly.

■ Roundtable

IM teachers often go through “honeymoon” and “post-honeymoon” stages, experiencing bursts of energy, followed by fatigue, stress or uncertainty, the process of experimenting with or settling into routines, and reviving their creativity. We will share our experiences and ideas.

Presenters



Jean-Luc AZRA

Seinan Gakuin
University



Pierre
BABINEAU

Poole Gakuin
University



Bill PERRY

Kobe University



Stephen
RICHMOND

Shiga Kenritsu
University



Kathleen RILEY

Tamagawa
University



Marc SHEFFNER

Tezukayama
University



Bruno VANNIEU

Kobe University



Workshop Program -----

TRAINING	
The pragmatics of conversation Break the barrier of silence	10:00 – 10:45
Simulation class: Basic Russian Discover the Immediate Method as a student.	10:45 – 12:00
Testing Different types of in-class tests / Grading tests	12:10 – 12:35
Group management Techniques for pair work and group work	12:35 – 13:00
SHARING	
The IM in different contexts ● Poole Gakuin University ● Tezukayama University ● Kobe University	14:00 – 15:30
Round table discussion The stages IM teachers go through	16:00 – 17:00
Dinner party	17:30 – 19:00

◆ Access Map ◆

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- ◆ From Rokko station (Hankyu) to Kobe University:
10 minutes by bus or 5 minutes by taxi (about ¥600)
 · Osaka (Umeda) — Rokko: 30 minutes by train
 · Sannomiya — Rokko: 10 minutes by train
- ◆ From Shinkobe station (JR) to Kobe University:
10 – 15 minutes by taxi
- ◆ This workshop is free of charge. Participants are welcome to attend the post-workshop dinner (¥3000).
- ◆ If you need information on hotels or a detailed access map, please contact us!

Workshop Registration -----

1	Name	
2	School (s)	
3	E-mail	
4	Telephone Number	
5	Address	〒
6	Average size of your class(es)	
7	How many years have you been teaching English in Japan?	
8	What is your Japanese language level?	Non-existent / poor / basic / intermediate / fluent
9	How did you hear about this workshop?	direct mailing / friend or colleague / other:

For more information or to register:

FAX: 078-803-7559 / E-mail: