

IM Autumn Workshop 2007

Teaching conversation to low-level Japanese students

Kyoto University – November 3rd, 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.

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. Over the past seven years, we have held the Workshop at venues such as Osaka University, Kyoto University and Rikkyo University, and introduced many teachers to the IM and its possibilities.

The 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

➤ **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).

➤ **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.).

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, and that we benefit from sharing our experience and ideas. Presentations are practical and discussions are friendly.

➤ **Dinner party**

Those who would like to are welcome to join us for an early dinner party (set course for about 3,000 yen, reservations must be made in advance). We can also provide information about reasonably-priced accommodation for participants arriving on Friday night or extending their stay until Sunday for a little sightseeing. Hotel reservations should be made as early as possible, this being the most visited city in Japan. Kyoto University is located in one of the most scenic parts of Kyoto, with many beautiful and famous spots a stone's throw away from our venue.

2007 IM Autumn Workshop

第7回 会話教育研究会

Laboratoire d'automne MI 2007

Saturday, November 3rd, 2007

Samedi 3 novembre 2007

TRAINING / FORMATION	
English	Français
<p>10:00 – 10:45</p> <p>Cultural codes and silence in class</p>	<p>10:00 – 11:00</p> <p>Introduction à la <i>Méthode Immédiate</i> (immersion)</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:45</p> <p>Introduction to the <i>Immediate Method</i> (immersion)</p>	<p>11:15 – 12:00</p> <p>Gestion de la classe: Q&R</p>
<p>11:45 – 12:30</p> <p>Q&A: class management</p>	<p>12:00 – 12:30</p> <p>Les codes culturels et le silence en classe</p>
Lunch / Déjeuner	
DEBATES, CASE STUDIES / DÉBATS, ÉTUDES DE CAS	
<p>14:00 – 14:45</p> <p>David Latz</p> <p>Testing and the IM</p>	<p>14:00 – 14:30</p> <p>Izumi Mizuno</p> <p>初級第二外国語の授業におけるフランス語の会話指導 - <i>Conversation et Grammaire</i> を用いて -</p>
<p>14:45 – 15:30</p> <p>Stephen Richmond</p> <p>Teaching using Grammar Toolboxes</p>	<p>14:30 – 15:15</p> <p>Jean-Luc Azra</p> <p>Tests oraux et ... tests écrits</p>
<p>15:45 – 16:30</p> <p>Kathleen Riley</p> <p>Beginnings in the IM</p>	<p>15:45 – 16:30</p> <p>Table ronde</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:15</p> <p>Gary Brockett</p> <p>Time management in high school</p>	<p>16:30 – 17:00</p> <p>Bruno Vannieu</p> <p>Deux contextes très différents</p>

Kyoto University, Yoshida campus, Yoshida Minami 1 gou-kan Building (吉田南1号館), Rooms 204, 205 and 206.

Université de Kyoto, Yoshida campus, Yoshida Minami 1 gou-kan Building (吉田南1号館), Salles 204, 205 et 206.

IM Autumn Workshop 2007 - Registration

7th *Immediate Method* Autumn Workshop
for conversation teaching in Japan
Kyoto University, November 3rd, 2007

Mr / Mrs / Ms

Name : _____

Tel / fax : _____

E-mail : _____

Postal address: _____

School: _____

I register for:

The workshop

The dinner party

I teach:

English

another language: -----

at

a junior high-school: -----

a senior high-school: -----

a college / university: -----

a language school / company: -----

My personal challenge as a teacher is:

How did you hear about the IM Autumn Workshop?

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 informations
requested in this form)

Admission: 1000 yen

Dinner party (optional); 3500 yen

Participation fees are to be paid on the day
of the IM Autumn Workshop.

Location:

Kyoto University, Yoshida campus

Yoshida Minami 1 gou-kan Building

吉田南 1 号館

Rooms 204, 205 and 206.

Kyoto University is located in central Kyoto,
a 15 min walk from the Keihan line
Demachiyanaagi station or the subway
Tozai line **Higashiyama station**.

The venue for our Autumn Workshop is 100
m from Kyoto University "**clock tower**".

Registered participants will receive a
detailed map (and some sightseeing
information!).

If you are planning to stay in Kyoto for the
night, it is advisable to make reservations in
advance. Please contact us for information
on cheap hotels.

It is OK to come on that day without registering first, but we can't guarantee there will be space.
Please try to register in advance, so that things will go smoothly.

If you know anyone who might be interested in this Workshop, please let them know!