

Let's Play: Games and Activities for the Language Learning Classroom

By Billie Kang

In every English class I teach at my school, I say to my students "It's time to...", and they always respond loudly, "...play games!" even before I finish the sentence. Before the lesson ever begins, they even ask whether we will be playing a game or not in class. Games and activities surely seem to be the most fascinating part of English class for my students. Well-designed games and activities are believed to be the key-factor for successful English lessons. A well-designed language game or activity should: (1) be at the students' level of English proficiency, (2) arouse and sustain the students' interest, (3) be within the teacher's capacities to present to the class and lead them in the game or activity, (4) have a good plan of instruction prepared for it. In this presentation, I will be sharing a variety of game and activity ideas. These will include vocabulary and grammar games and song activities. Though originally designed for young learners, these activities can be modified for older and higher-level learners.

Recent Developments

In recent years language researchers and practitioners have shifted their focus from developing individual linguistic skills to the use of language to achieve the speaker's objectives. This new area of focus, known as communicative competence, leads language teachers to seek task-oriented activities that engage their students in creative language use. Games that are task-based and have a purpose beyond the production of correct speech serve as excellent communicative activities. They do this by creating a meaningful context for language use.

Benefits of Games

The benefits of using games in language-learning include the following: (a) They are learner centered. (b) They promote communicative competence. (c) They create a meaningful context for language use. (d) They increase learning motivation. (e) They reduce learning anxiety. (f) They integrate various linguistic skills. (g) They encourage creative and spontaneous use of language. (h) They construct a cooperative learning environment. (i) They foster participatory attitudes of the students.



THE PRESENTER

With a BA in Elementary Education and an MA in TESOL, Billie Kang currently teaches at Taebong Elementary School in Gwangju. She has served the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL as vice-president in 2006-07. With her experience in inter-cultural exchange projects, including ePals (<http://www.epals.com/>) and the TCCC school-to-school project, she presented at the Smart School International Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2007; and at Intel Japan Teacher's Forum in Tokyo, Japan. This year, Ms. Kang presented at the 9th Annual Asia TEFL International Conference, held in Seoul. She has also worked as a teacher trainer for various training courses.

■ Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Officers: 2011-12

President

Dr. David E. Shaffer

Chosun University
English Language Department
Email: disin@chosun.ac.kr



Membership Coordinator

Kristine Dona

Nongseong Elementary School
Email: chris.tan92@yahoo.com



Vice-President

Maria Neliza Lumantao

Chonnam National University
Dept. of English Lang. & Literature
Email: ynell_alpha@yahoo.com



Membership Coordinator

Viva May Cabreros

Honam Sahmyook Middle School
Email: vinachelcabrereros@ymail.com



Treasurer

Vivien Slezak

Chosun University
Language Education Institute
Email: vivienslezak@gmail.com



Chapter Email Address

gwangju_kotesol@yahoo.com

Facebook: Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL

Chapter Website

<http://www.koreatesol.org/GwangjuJeonnam>



■ Joining Korea TESOL

Who May Join

English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join KOTESOL. We welcome native and non-native speakers teaching at primary schools, secondary schools, language institutes, colleges and universities and other organizations. University students may join as student members.

What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Individual 1-Year Membership** (40,000 won)
- **International 1-Year Membership** (60,000 won / US\$60.00)
- **Undergraduate Student 1-Year Membership** (20,000 won, Documentation required)
- **Lifetime Membership** (400,000 won)

How to Join

Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on the tab "Membership Information Update (Step 1)" and follow the directions.

Paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application.

Membership payment may be made by:

- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL**, Korea Exchange Bank account number: 630-006952-841
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Activities

October 1. Chapter Outreach Workshop

This autumn the Chapter once again traveled to Sunchon National University to hold its outreach workshop aimed at teachers in the Suncheon area. The event attracted 30 attendees, two thirds of them were from the Suncheon area and over half the participants were non-members. The event featured four presentations and workshops. Phil Owen presented on how to design and use a vocabulary activity, Maria Lisak presented on new media and storytelling, Ji-Myoung Park introduced community-building activities, and Dr. David Shaffer compared aspects of English education in Korea today with that of 40 years ago.

October 16. Chapter Room at International Conference

The Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Room was again open this year to introduce the Chapter to Conference attendees. Dr. Yeon-seong Park and Sumi Kim greeted visitors to the room over the Saturday lunch hour.

October 29. Chapter Booth at GIC Day

Gwangju International Center (GIC) Day was held at the Kim Daejung Convention Center plaza this year, and GIC provided the Chapter with booth and display table use for the entire day. From the booth the Chapter introduced Korea TESOL and the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter to visitors to the booth with published materials, fliers, and a digital slide presentation. Two new members joined the Chapter that day. The booth was staffed by Vivien Slezak, Gene Shaffer, and Dr. David Shaffer.

Chapter Members in the News

October 15-16. KOTESOL International Conference Presenters

Dr. Yeon-seong Park presented on *Creative Grammar Instruction Techniques*.

Dr. David Shaffer gave two presentations: *Challenging Popular Opinions on Language Learning and Teaching*, and *Content-Based Instruction Considerations for Tertiary-Level Instruction*.

Julien McNulty gave a pecha kucha presentation on *The History of English in Verse*.

October 16. Dr. David Shaffer was presented with the first-ever Korea TESOL Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2011 KOTESOL Annual Business Meeting by outgoing President Capriles.

November 12. Dr. David Shaffer presented on *Learner Attitudes on English Grammar and Error Correction* at the ALAK 2011 Annual Conference in Seoul.

November 18-21. Julien McNulty presented his pecha kucha, *The History of English in Verse*, at JALT 2011 in Tokyo, Japan.

November 26. Dr. David Shaffer presented on *Tertiary English Learners' Beliefs on TELL (Technology-Enhanced Language Learning)* at the GETA 2011 Annual Conference in Gwangju.

About Korea TESOL and the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter

Korea TESOL, also known as KOTESOL, is a professional association of teachers of English to speakers of other languages. The nationwide organization has been serving English teachers, administrators, and interested individuals in the field of English education since 1992. KOTESOL has ten active chapters across the nation and holds annual national and international conferences. The Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter has monthly meetings, usually the second Saturday of the month, which contain two one-hour presentations or hands-on workshops on topics related to English language teaching, such as classroom methodology, activities, and management. Meetings are presently being held at Chosun University in Gwangju. Admission to Chapter meetings is free, but we encourage your participation as a full member. (Membership information on page 2.)

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL December Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, December 10, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University, Main Building (본관), Room 5210. In Gwangju

Schedule

- 1:30 pm:** Registration and Welcome
- 2:00 pm:** FEATURED PRESENTATION:
Let's Play: Games and Activities for the Language Learning Classroom
 Billie Kang (Chapter Member; Taebong Elementary School Teacher)
- 2:50 pm:** Refreshment Break
- 3:10 pm:** PECHA KUCHA PRESENTATION: ***The History of English in Verse***
 Julien McNulty (Chapter Member; 2011 Intl. Conference Committee Chair)
- 3:20 pm: Swap-Shop Hour:** Share your Teaching Ideas and Classroom Games and Activities
 (Open to All. Handouts welcomed.)
- 4:30 pm:** Announcements
 Drawing for Prizes
 Closing
- (Admission is free. Membership is encouraged.)

Upcoming Chapter Events

January 14, 2012. Chapter Meeting

- Presentation: TBA
- Intro to Language Acquisition for Teaching
 Dr. David Shaffer (Chosun University)

February 11, 2012. Chapter Meeting

- Presentation: TBA
- Intro to Teaching Methodology

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

December 17-18, 2011.

KOTESOL Annual Leadership Retreat
 Sookmyung Women's University
 Injae-gwon, Seoul

December 18, 2011.

KOTESOL National Council Meeting
 Sookmyung Women's University
 Injae-gwon, Seoul

March 31, 2012.

Seoul Chapter Conference
Students Finding Their Voices
 Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul
 Call for Proposals: January 6, 2012
 Web: <http://www.seoulkotesol.org/>

May 26, 2012; Busan

The 2012 KOTESOL National Conference
Drive: Putting Students Behind the Wheel
 Call for Proposals: January 15, 2011
 Web: <http://koreatesol.org/node/1201>

Upcoming Korea ELT Events

2012 KATE SIG Winter Conference

Interface Between ELT Theory and Practice
 January 7, 2012; Cheju University, Sara Campus

KAPEE 2012 International Conference

Get Back to Literacy: Literacy-Based Primary English Education
 January 14, 2012; Busan National University of Education, Busan

WCSEL-1: The 1st World Congress of Scholars of English Linguistics

Issues in English Linguistics
 June 26-30, 2012; Hanyang University, Seoul

2012 KATE International Conference

English Proficiency for All: Narrowing English Gap
 July 6-7, 2012; Sookmyung Women's Univ., Seoul

For Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Events:

Facebook: Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL