

That's NEAT...Five Easy Activities for M2 NEAT Speaking Preparation

By Nico Lorenzutti

Although both its timeline for implementation and final format are matters of ongoing debate, without doubt the National English Ability Test (NEAT) is fast becoming a new trend in English education in South Korea. More universities will use NEAT scores as a key criterion when selecting new students for the 2013 academic year, and as a result many public and private institutions are offering courses designed to help students master the questions for the exam. Consequently, teachers in classrooms across Korea are under increasing pressure to provide test preparation for the current format. This workshop is a practical “how to” for teachers grappling with the challenges of the NEAT test, or concerned they will be doing so in the future.

Can test preparation be fun? Can you teach NEAT questions communicatively? Absolutely! This is a hands-on, how-to presentation which provides teachers with teaching strategies for five NEAT speaking tasks and clear, ready-to-go classroom activities designed to prepare their students for the test. The tasks discussed will comprise:

- Describing a picture
- Telling a story
- Describing a graph
- Describing characteristics: WH questions
- Giving advice

Model answers will be analyzed before a dynamic, easy-to-implement activity is demonstrated for

practicing the language needed to complete each task. Teachers gearing up for NEAT preparation will walk away with five activity procedures adaptable for both public and private education contexts. (“M2” refers to Level 2, the test for examining students’ ability to use the basic academic English needed for university studies, and “M” is for “middle school.”)

THE PRESENTER

Nico Lorenzutti has taught and trained teachers in Japan, Canada, and South Korea for over 15 years. He teaches



in the Intensive Teacher Training Program at Chonnam National University, where he has worked since 2008. He designed and teaches the speaking component of CNU’s two-week intensive NEAT Teacher Training Course. He holds a CELTA and is currently a candidate

for an MA in Applied Linguistics at the University of Nottingham. His main research interests are the use of popular culture products in the language classroom. Email: zutti25@hotmail.com

(Mr. Lorenzutti is presenting on NEAT speaking activities at the January 19th Gwangju-Jeonnang KOTESOL Chapter meeting at Chosun University. This popular presentation was selected to be given at the 2012 KOTESOL International Conference in Seoul.)

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■ 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?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership** (40,000 won).
- **Lifetime Membership** (400,000 won). Student and International Membership options also available.

How to Join: Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on "Join KOTESOL" in the menu, and follow the directions.

Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

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

Drawing Blanks I: Five Activities for When You Have Nothing or the Technology Fails

By Julien McNulty

It's your first day of classes, and you've been given no syllabus, no textbook, no attendance sheet, no nothing. What can you do to save the day? You've planned an entire lesson on PowerPoint and YouTube videos, but the computer in your classroom has crashed? How can you save face your class and still provide something engaging, entertaining, and educative? Have no fear! A simple blank sheet of paper is near!

This presentation is part 1 of a two-part workshop; it will model five of ten activities that can be used with any class of any age – all with just a simple sheet of A4 paper. These activities range from vocabulary exercises, to story-writing boards; from listening games, to pronunciation drills. If you need a few quick tricks for your teacher toolbox, this workshop will fill the bill.

THE PRESENTER

Julien McNulty has been teaching, training, facilitating, or instructing in some form for 20 years.

He has taught French, Spanish, History, and Special Education in British Columbia, Canada. He has also worked as a corporate trainer, then as a bilingual



training consultant in Toronto, developing an accent optimization program for India. Teaching English in Korea since 2008, Julien is a language skills instructor at Chosun University and was the 2011 Chair of the 19th Korea TESOL International Conference.

Most recently, he is the co-founder of EFL ProDev, a consulting company specializing in teacher training, camp creation, and executive presentation skills. Email: julien@eflpd.com

(Mr. McNulty is presenting on save-the-day activities that can be called upon when your well-laid plans fly out the window, on January 19th at the Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter meeting at Chosun University.)

Chapter Members in the News

The annual KOTESOL Leadership Retreat is being held this year at the Korea National University of Education, located outside of Cheongju in Chungcheongbuk-do. The weekend event will be held on January 12-13. Attending this year will be Chapter President **David Shaffer**, Vice-President **Ynell Lumantao**, Treasurer **Lindsay Herron**, and Membership Coordinator **Jocelyn Wright**. One of the many facets of the Leadership Retreat will be a training session for chapter webmasters. The weekend will end with the first National Council Meeting of 2013.

Chapter Conference Preview

The 2013 Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Conference is scheduled for March 9 this year at Chosun University. Based on past attendance, we are expecting attendance in excess of 150 EFL educators. This year, the Chapter is cooperating with KOTESOL's Reflective Practice Special Interest Group (RP-SIG) to emphasize the importance of reflection in professional development. Hence, the conference theme is "Reflecting on Practice; Projecting on the Future." The Conference will feature a co-plenary session, *Becoming a Better Teacher Through Reflective Practice*, presented by Michael Griffin and Manpal Sahota, the co-facilitators of the KOTESOL Reflective Practice SIG. One strand of the concurrent sessions will be a set of three RP presentations by RP-SIG members. Also in the planning is a morning preconference RP workshop aiming to introduce RP practices and RP-SIG activities in the hopes of establishing a KOTESOL RP-SIG group meeting regularly in the Gwangju area.

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL January Meeting

- Time: Saturday, January 19, 2013, 1:30 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University (Gwangju), Main Building (본관), Room 5210.

■ Schedule

- 1:30 pm:** Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free. Membership is encouraged.)
- 2:00 pm:** PRESENTATION 1
That's NEAT... Five Easy Activities for M2 NEAT Speaking Preparation
 Nico Lorenzutti (Chonnam National University)
- 2:45 pm:** Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm:** PRESENTATION 2
Drawing Blanks I: Five Activities for When You Have Nothing or Technology Fails
 Julien McNulty (Chosun University)
- 4:00 pm: Swap-Shop Session**
 Share your Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, and Language Games.
 (Open to All Attendees. Handouts welcomed.)
- 4:30 pm:** Announcements / Drawing for Prizes / Closing

Upcoming Chapter Events

February 16, 2013. Chapter Meeting (3rd Sat.)

- *Error Correction Techniques & Activities*
Catherine Peck (Chonnam Natl. University)
- *Classroom Activities for Young Learners*
Jacob Boers (Gwangju EPIK Program)

March 9, 2013. Annual Chapter Conference

With the KOTESOL Reflective Practice SIG

- Plenary Session: *Becoming a Better Teacher Through Reflective Practice*
Michael Griffin & Manpal Sahota
(Reflective Practice SIG Co-Facilitators)

- RP Session: *Explore Your Teaching Through Self-Observation* (Gemma Lunn)
- RP Session: *Making Reflection Your Own* (Alex Walsh)
- RP Session: *The Challenge of Description: Strategies for Seeing Through the Cloud of Emotion* (John Pfordresher)
- ELT General Presentations
- Young Learner & Teen Presentations
- Pecha Kucha Presentations
- Pre-Conference Morning Workshop on Reflective Practice
- Much Much More

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

January 12-13, 2013

KOTESOL Leadership Retreat
Daejeon

January 13, 2013

National Council Meeting
Daejeon

March 30, 2013

Seoul KOTESOL Chapter Conference
Preparing for Tomorrow: Real Ideas for Real Classrooms
Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul

April 27, 2013

KOTESOL Chapter Leaders Meeting

Upcoming Korea ELT Events

KATE 2013 SIG Conference

Back to the Basics in ELT
Jan. 12, 2013; Kyungpook Natl. Univ., Daegu

KAPEE 2013 International Conference

Promoting Creativity in Primary English Ed.
January 19, 2013; Seoul Natl. Univ. of Ed.