

**Growing Global Relationships:
A New Partnership between Korea TESOL and Mongolia TESOL**
By Candace Lake-Ejim



Transforming ELT in the Digital Era was the theme of The English Language Teacher's Association of Mongolia (ELTAM)/ 9th TESOL international conference. Recently partnered with KoTESOL, ELTAM/ Mongolia TESOL International hosted its annual conference September 27-29, 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. As the representative of Korea TESOL to this conference, I witnessed

first-hand the passion and efforts of the Mongolian instructors, in collaboration with the American Peace Corps, English Language Fellows (ELF), and Fullbright scholarship program members to increase not just English language, but general education standards in their country. This includes students in the main city of Ulaanbaatar, but most especially those that live in the rural areas of Mongolia, receiving non-traditional schooling.

During the opening ceremony, the leader and the head of the organizing committee, Mira Nasrai, spoke about how much the conference and the participants have increased over the years. The conference started with 40 presenters nine years ago, is proud to state that they had more than 160 presenters this year, and had keynote and plenary speakers from the United States and Malaysia, Drs. Diane

Freeman-Larsen and Cynthia Yolanda Doss. The field is growing with the help of several programs out of the United States, and the knowledge that English will help the citizens of the country in many ways.



Presenter's Reception Participants

The presentations that I was able to attend shared different approaches to using technology as a means to support the classroom and curriculum objectives, not to entertain or distract the students. There was such excitement in sharing different ideas that could be used for both traditional and non-traditional schools as well as classroom accounts from the students to get better insight into how

they felt about using the technology. There was a lot of positive feedback.

Global Collaboration from ELF

One of the programs aiding and educating many of the Mongolian instructors is the English Language Fellows (ELF) program. Many of the individuals working in rural parts of China traveled to Mongolia to be a part of the conference and to share ideas that have worked for them in their classrooms, many of which are similar to those that Mongolia is trying to establish.

Damien Shuck, an active member with the English Language Fellows program, is currently teaching in China. He has a background in creative writing, and uses this to teach technical writing, job application documents, as well as general English speaking and writing skills to Chinese university students. He enjoys using humor in his classroom and cannot stress how important it is to use

something his students would enjoy. He strongly believes that if you enjoy what and how you are teaching, the students will enjoy and participate in the class.

Damien Shuck, English Language Fellow, China

With this in mind, I wanted to share some



activities that he presented on during his conference presentation on September 28, 2019.

Reporter

Initially, I thought this was going to be the same as the go-to activity of “*Messenger*.” I was wrong, but it is a variation of the activity that uses online videos instead of an article to read. This was an activity to bring together writing, speaking, and listening skills while using any humorous or specific topic that students enjoy to help them to keep motivated and focused. The activity process is as follows:

1. Each student finds a partner to work with. Partner A stays in the room while partner B waits in the hallway.
2. The students (A) in the classroom watch a video with the sound off. This could be a short video of anything the instructor desires.
3. Once the video has been viewed, and it could be played multiple times depending on the level of the group, the students in the

- hallway (B) come in and sit with their partner.
- Partner B must act like a reporter and ask the witness (partner A) to retell the events that happened.
 - As partner A is speaking, partner B writes down the events.
 - They can work together to create a well-written account of the video.
 - The partners switch roles and a new video is played so each student experiences each role.

This activity encourages students to laugh, which lowers any worry about their speaking ability. It pushes students to use as much language as possible while growing their vocabulary and their understanding of word relationships. It also encourages collaboration and pair/group work, which as instructors we can all admit to having an issue with at some point in our teaching careers. The

writing can be collected and used as a grade, a homework assignment, or as an in-class task.

This is an activity that could be modified for any age or proficiency level. Activities like these are always great for instructors to have at their fingertips to add to their teaching toolboxes.

The Author

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Candace studied applied linguistics and second language acquisition in her master's degree program at The Pennsylvania State University. As a current member in professional organizations such as KoTESOL and TESOL International, Candace is continuing to support the industry

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