

NUFS Workshop 2008

*Newsletter No. 11***Workshop in December****<Part 1>****Date:** January 17, 2009, 10:30-14:30**Venue:** NSC College, Bld. IIS, Room 51**Instructor:** Brian Cullen (Nagoya Institute of Technology)**Title:** "Ireland: Land of Song and Story"**The number of participants:** 23

Abstract: In this session, you will learn about the history, culture and music of Ireland. From leprechauns to Guinness to Angela's Ashes, we'll cover a lot of ground in the two parts of the workshop. Be sure to be ready to join in the Irish songs that you will be learning, and there might be even be a chance for you to try out a few dance steps!

**1. Interesting activities you might want to use in your class. Why?**

- The true and false quiz at the end of class was a lot of fun. I think students in my class would enjoy my “Americanized” version.
- I was quite impressed by Brian’s teaching style. It was an art of a master. A lot of activities were woven seamlessly: graphs, statistics, history, music, etc. I was able to sit back and at the same time learned a lot. His teaching style is hard to copy for me but it is my ideal. I wish I could teach like him.
- If I have a chance to teach Japanese culture to the people from different countries, I’d like to use songs, pictures, graphics and quizzes as Brian did today. I think AETs we are working with should learn how to teach culture in the class from him.
- I want to use “three wishes” because it makes the students think what they want in their lives and it is fun to exchange ideas with the partner.
- Story telling – I’ve never done this activity before, but I’d like to use it in my class because I felt so comfortable and tried to get information and guessed the following story. I think this activity will be a good practice of listening and predicting for my students.
- Listening to music and sing together was very interesting. I want to use this in my class, because students can memorize sentences with melody and rhythm. It must be interesting for them.
- Prediction and sharing in pairs – most of my students are so shy that they hesitate to speak in class. This activity helps them to talk more.



- I thought the idea of setting up “anchors” in the classroom is a very good idea. For example, when telling a story we could sit in a chair or when we’re getting ready to proctor a test, we could stand in the front of the classroom. These movements or actions themselves tell the students what the next activity will be.



2. What you learned from today’s workshop.

- I learned a lot about Ireland. Especially, I learned history through songs. “Danny Boy” was so moving. I really enjoyed his live performance.
- I learned that it’s important to compare the new information with the knowledge we already have. Personalizing works well for teaching.
- I enjoyed all the songs and stories Brian performed today. I wish I could create such relaxing atmosphere in classrooms.
- A lot of things about Ireland. Sometimes we tend to think that Britain and Ireland are quite similar in everything. Now I learned the similarities and differences between them.
- I didn’t know Ireland has such a long history of oppression and hardship. I suppose this is why many songs with such beautiful melodies were created. Modern Western songs and music popular all over the world seem to have been deeply rooted in Ireland music.

3. Questions and Answers

Q (1): Do you have any ideas about writing and speaking activities good for high school students using such information as I learned today?

A: A lot of the same activities can also be used with high school students. Depending on the level, it would be necessary to simplify the language or to pre-teach the vocabulary, but the quizzes, matching activities, short readings, stories, and songs should all be usable. You could also break students into groups and have them present little snippets of information about the target culture to the other students.

Q (2): How would you teach this to elementary school kids?

A: Good question. For younger students, you’d need to use a lot more pictures. It also depends on whether your objective is culture learning or language learning, though of course both are possible at the same time. There are lots of great colouring and fun activities at:

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/ireland/index.htm>

Q (3): I couldn’t understand the last part of the movies. Why was it funny and what did you suggest?

A: It was funny because he hadn’t really won the lottery - he just wanted his wife to get excited and bring him in his apple pie! In Ireland, apple pie is called apple tart.



<Part 2>

Date: January 17, 2009, 14:30-17:00

Venue: NSC College, Bld. IIS, Room 51

Advisors: Kazuyoshi Sato, Nancy Mutoh, Paul Crane (Nagoya University of Foreign Studies)

The number of participants: 18

Abstract: Group discussion



Workshop in February (Schedule)

Date: February 28, 2009, 10:30-14:30 (Part 1), 14:30-17:00 (Part 2)

Venue: Nagoya NSC College, Room 51

Instructor: Brad Deacon (Nanzan University)

Title: "Teaching Listening Skills: D'ya Hear Me?"

Please email Chihaya(chiha143(at-mark)nufs.ac.jp) if you can attend this workshop.