

Conversation Time!

Teaching Online

Due to the severity of Covid-19 millions of classes around the world are being taught from home. If this is the situation that you find yourself in, do not panic. The lessons in Conversation Time are easily transferable to a virtual setting.

You should train yourself to become efficient with whatever format you will be using ahead of time. Take the time to learn how to use breakout rooms, virtual backgrounds, and sharing your screen. The games and dialogs can still be played in the separate rooms. The lessons will still be a highly interactive and enjoyable experience for all the students. Stress to the students that there is still no Japanese to be used, even though they are at home!

Warm Up Time

These can all be done in their books and usually are about five to ten minutes at length. The teacher will then share their screen and ask a few students the answers. The teacher can complete the warm up time using the student's answers.

Game Time

These games can all be played easily from the comforts of the students' homes. Simply ask them to get out some coins and play the games in twos or threes. If it is a paper, scissors, stone game they can play as well. These games require the teacher to break the students in to separate rooms.

Speaking Time

The students will be required to be in separate rooms for these sections as well. The teacher can also have students speaking in front of the whole class in pairs.

Writing Time

The students can complete the Writing Time sections in their books. After a few minutes the teacher can share their screen and have students read their sentences.

Drawing Time

The students can complete the Drawing Time activities from home quite easily. They can show their partner their finished work and discuss their drawings. The teacher can constantly change their partners with different pairs each time. This gets students talking to various classmates and they will not feel isolated. They will feel connected to their friends and see English class as a bonding experience.

Quiz Time

The students can complete the quizzes/trivia in pairs or in threes. They can check their answers when they have completed all the questions and write down their scores. The teacher can then share their screen and ask how many correct answers each team got right. The pair with the highest score is the winner!

I personally have been teaching on-line for many months because of Covid-19. It has been a challenging but still a rewarding teaching experience. It does test your patience at times because students can get too relaxed and distracted. There are also students with older computers, poor internet service, and students who only use their phones. It always seems to work out eventually. I would suggest making the rules on the first day of class and stick with them. No Japanese in class. Turn your camera on. Do not be late and do not eat or drink during class. It is still school and even though English class and Conversation Time are wonderful we are still engaging in a professional learning experience.

Craig Noels

