

Junior High School Activities

Legend:



speaking



listening



writing



reading

Warm-Up – mostly speaking and listening (5 – 10 minutes)

Criss Cross



*Good for big classes

Have a row of students stand up. Ask a question in English.

The first person to raise their hand will answer in English.

If the answer is correct, the student can sit down.

If the answer is incorrect, they stand until they answer a question correctly.

The row with the last standing student must stand up. (Make sure this student still answers a question!)

Relay/Race



*Good for big classes

Teacher vs. Teacher

Split the class in half. Have the students stand.

Each teacher will ask each student on their team a question. (The question will be the same question. An example is “How are you?”)

The student will answer the question and sit down.

The teacher who finishes asking all of their team questions wins.

Row vs. Row

Each row will be a team. The teacher will ask a question.

The first person to raise their hand will answer.

The row with the most points wins.

Questions



*Good for small classes

Put students in a circle and use 1 to 2 minutes to ask simple questions to each student.

Hot Potato



*Good for big classes

Bring a small (harmless) ball, like a bean bag or foam ball, to class.

The students will toss the ball to another student for 10 or 15 seconds.

The student holding the ball when the time is up will have to answer a simple question. If a student throws the ball or beams another student with the ball, have the student answer a question.

Pass the Parcel 🏀 👂

Preparation: Wrap a small, inexpensive gift in a box. Wrap the box with several different layers of wrapping paper.

Have the students pass the present around for several seconds. When time is up, the student must answer a question. If they answer the question correctly, they can unwrap a layer.

The game goes on until the present fully unwrapped. (The last student can keep the present.)

Eraserman 🏀 👂 👁

*Good for small or big classes

This activity has the same rules as Hangman, but this is more appropriate for class.

Each row is a team. Draw a person (or if it's the holidays, use snowmen, gingerbread men, wrapped presents, monsters, or stars) on the blackboard for each team.

Each row will have a chance to pick a letter to fill in the target word.

If the row picks a letter that isn't part of the target word, erase a line from that row's person.

If the row picks a letter that is part of the target word, they gain an erased line for the row's person.

The row to fully spell and say the word correctly wins.

Listening Pyramids 👂 👁 🖐

*Good for phonics and for big or small classes.

The ALT will pick one word out of the two.

The students will circle the word.

After the last word is said, the students will arrive at a number.

If the students circled the correct word, the number will be correct.

Reinforcement & Grammar Activities – mostly listening and writing (15 – 20 minutes)

Sentence Assembly 🏀 👁

*Good for big classes.

Preparation: Make target sentences. Split the target sentences. (If more than 3 classes

will re-use the same activity, laminate the target sentences). Put the split target sentences into separate envelopes, one per group.

Split the class into groups (4-6 people is best).

Each group will put sentences together correctly and take the completed sentences to the ALT. They will read the sentence to the ALT.

The ALT will make sure it's correct.

The student will take the sentence to the JTE and say the sentence in Japanese.

If everything is correct, the group will get a point. The group can return the finished sentence and get a new unfinished sentence.

Writing Manga



*Good for big or small classes.

Preparation: Get or make a comic strip. Delete or white-out the text in the word bubbles. For a challenge, cut each panel.

Split the class into groups (pairs are also good).

Each group will write in the empty bubbles a new script in English.

To motivate the students, give each grammar some points.

For example, any *be* verbs (i.e. is, am, are) get 1 point, verbs (i.e. play, do, say) get 2 points, and a new grammar point gets 3 points.

When the students are finished with their comic strip, the ALT will check the English and award each correct usage of English grammar with points.

BINGO



*Good for big or small classes.

This activity can be used for grammar or vocabulary.

Preparation: Make a BINGO sheet (4x4 or 5x5 boxes). Use pictures for each box.

If it's a grammar BINGO sheet, the students will practice the grammar with other students. They will sign their names in the boxes. For example, Student A asks, "Are you Japanese?" Student B says, "Yes, I am." Student B will sign Student A's box.

If it's a vocabulary BINGO sheet, the students will pick words from a vocabulary list and write the words in the boxes. The ALT will pick and call out vocabulary words. The students will cross out the boxes with the said vocabulary words.

Karuta



*Good for big classes.

Preparation: Make sets of cards expressing a picture for target vocabulary or grammar.

Split the class into groups.

Give each group a set of cards (each group receives the same set of cards).

The students will spread them on the table.

The ALT will say the target vocabulary word or grammar.

The students must grab the card showing the correct meaning of the target word or grammar.

The student(s) with the most cards wins.

Fruits Basket 🍌 👂

*Good for big classes.

The students will sit in a big circle. One chair will be removed, so one person will stand in the middle.

The student in the middle will ask a question or say the target grammar. Students who have done what the question asks will stand up and run to a different chair.

Circling in Pairs Activity ✍️ 👂

*Good for big classes.

Preparation: Make worksheets that have pictures or words in various directions.

Put the students into pairs. (Groups of 3 are also ok).

Each student will have a different color pen.

The ALT will say a target word, and the students must circle the word.

The student(s) with the most circled words is the winner.

Best Dialogue 🍌 👁️

*Good for big classes.

This activity is best for textbook reading and dialogues.

Put students into groups.

Each student will be a character from the reading.

The students will practice the dialogue with each other for about 10-20 minutes. The ALT and JTE will help with pronunciation and intonation of the reading.

Each group will go up and perform the dialogue.

The best group performance is the winner.

Review and Fun Activities – mostly speaking, listening, and writing (20 – 50 minutes)

Jeopardy 🍌 👂 👁️

*Good for big classes.

Preparation: Make questions for each level. Make point cards (10, 20, 30, 40, 50) for each category.

Split the class into groups.

Each group will have a chance to pick a category and points. The group that picks the category and points has a chance to answer first, but they must answer within a set time frame (i.e. 20 seconds, 30 seconds).

If the group doesn't answer within the time frame, or they give a wrong answer, any other group has a chance to answer.

If the group gets the answer correct, they get the points.

The Hot Seat / Taboo



*Good for big classes.

Split the class into teams.

Each team will pick a new "hot seat" person.

The "hot seat" person will sit in a chair facing their team. The "hot seat" person cannot see the blackboard.

The team will pick a category (ex: food). They can read the words that fall into that category. You can use up to 10 words in a category. (ex: bread, rice, milk, hamburgers, fries, cola, pizza, pasta, oranges, edamame).

The team will have 1 minute to tell clues to the "hot seat" person without using the words on the blackboard. Other teams cannot say the category words. (A point can be deducted from the other team or their turn can be skipped if the other team says a category word.)

When the 1 minute is up, award the team points for each word the "hot seat" person said correctly.

English Shiritori



*Good for big or small classes.

Split the class into groups (the bigger, the better).

One person from each group will go to the blackboard and write a word starting with the prior word's last letter.

For example, if one student writes "year", the next student must write a word starting with the letter r.

The students will have a time frame to write as many words as possible.

Once time is up, the ALT will go through each group's words to check spelling. If a word is spelled incorrectly or too sloppy to be understood, the word will not count towards

their total words.

For round two, institute a rule of only 4 letter words or bigger they must write.

For a challenge, each group can't have the same word as another group. Eliminate the same word(s) from each group.

Charades

*Good for big classes.

Split the class into groups (by rows is better).

The ALT will tell one volunteer a target vocabulary word.

The student will act out the vocabulary word with gestures.

The group member who guesses the word gets their team a point.

Pictionary

*Good for big classes.

Split the class into groups (by rows is better).

The ALT will tell one volunteer a target vocabulary word.

The student will draw pictures as hints for the vocabulary word.

The group member who guesses the word gets their team a point.

BINGO **Fruits Basket** **Karuta** **Eraserman**

English Websites

<http://www.eslgamesworld.com>

Printable games, grammar, revised childhood games

<http://www.barryfunenglish.com>

Good for online English games

<http://www.eslkidsstuff.com/Classroomgamesframe.htm>

List of activities by alphabetical order

<http://www.esl-lounge.com>

ESL lesson plans, materials, board games, quizzes, song lyrics, books

[http://www.iteslj.org/links/TESL/Handouts for Classroom Use](http://www.iteslj.org/links/TESL/Handouts_for_Classroom_Use)

Handouts, certificates, and worksheets