

Preface

Greetings & Some Expectations for NSETs

Greetings to you all, the Native Speaking English Teachers (NSETs) who are committing yourselves to help improve elementary and secondary school English education in Seoul. English has grown in importance in Korea in recent years. Being the language for education and commerce throughout many developed countries, Korean people have realized the importance of having a command of the language. According to a study conducted by Newsweek magazine, three quarters of the world's top 100 universities are in countries where English is the first language of communication. Thus, English plays a pivotal role in acquiring and spreading knowledge. It is estimated that about 70% of Internet-based information is in English; and English is the predominant language used in writing intellectual and scientific journals.

In order not to stagnate in the face of global development, Korean students spend a huge amount of time and energy learning English. According to Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation(MBC), a Korean student spends an average of 15,548 hours learning English from middle school through college. If you take into account the amount of preschoolers learning English, it can be concluded that Korea spends an enormous amount of time and money on English education.

Thanks to the amount of time and effort spent on English education, most Korean students achieve a high level proficiency in English, mainly in reading, by the 11th or 12th grade. They retain quite extensive vocabulary as well. Regardless of their reading proficiency, many students still find it difficult to express themselves comfortably in English. In response, Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education (SMOE) introduced a new English program in 2005. This program enabled the government to invite Native Speaking English Teachers

to work in schools throughout Seoul. Your presence and commitment symbolize the paradigm shift of public school English education here in Korea.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the expectations toward you not only from SMOE but also from students, the real beneficiaries of your teaching.

You as NSETs are expected to:

1. focus on the development of students' oral communication skills.

Your teaching methods should be designed to give students the opportunity to communicate in English as much as possible. This will ensure their communicative competence can emerge naturally. This does not mean that your lessons should be limited to fostering only oral communication skills. Focusing on one aspect of language teaching can be detrimental to the other areas. As well as communicative lessons teachers are encouraged to integrate other language skills such as reading and writing into their lessons.

2. design your lesson according to student's English proficiency level.

Because of the diversity of students English ability teachers should plan adaptable lessons according to individual classes. Every class will be different and teachers should plan accordingly. Each school will have differently styled English classes. Some schools may separate students according to their English proficiency level while others will have mixed ability classes. To prepare for this, teachers should attempt to customize lessons for each level. This will ensure higher level students are challenged and lower levels are not overwhelmed. For your benefit, this guide book introduces a couple of sample lesson plans designed in different levels.

3. plan your lesson based on the authorized textbooks.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology ensures that school textbooks follow the national curriculum. As a teacher it is your job to provide lessons that adhere to the goals and major themes of the national school curriculum. You are strongly advised to plan your lessons based on the

authorized textbooks. The purpose of this guide book is to help you become more familiar with the approved lessons. This does not mean that your teaching materials should be limited to your school's authorized textbooks. Use the textbooks as a starting point to develop lessons around the topics provided.

4. develop a co-teaching plan through collaboration with co-teacher(s).

For a successful co-teaching lesson, both NSET(s) and KET(s) have to work together to create a weekly, monthly and yearly co-teaching plan in advance. Oftentimes, your school affairs may prevent you from having the chance to discuss a lesson plan. Setting aside a certain time each week is one way to ensure regular meetings. When it comes to developing a weekly plan, a three step collaboration is suggested: pre-class collaboration, in-class collaboration and after-class collaboration. For more details regarding co-teaching, you can refer to the *CO-TEACHING GUIDELINES* in this book.

5. have a strong sense of creativity and motivation.

The motto of school education of Seoul is to 'produce people of integrity coupled with creativity and competence.' With this motto in mind, you are advised to come up with motivating lesson plans conducive to building students' creativity and competence. There are several teaching techniques utilized by teachers in Korean classrooms. Some of them are: peer competitions, relatable topics, activities requiring students to move about the classroom, telling stories about yourself and the inclusion of diverse materials, etc.

6. simplify your spoken English.

While Korean students excel in reading, they are much weaker in listening. Some of your students may not be accustomed to communicating with a native English speaker and may not understand you. Therefore, you should try to simplify your spoken English to give students the chance to understand you. Of course when dealing with higher level students you may choose not to simplify or adapt your language.

7. educate yourself about the Korean culture.

Koreans' way of thinking and behaving may confuse and possibly aggravate even the most cultured westerners. The best way to reduce any possible problems is to attempt to understand the differences and similarities between Korean culture and your own. Why not try to familiarize yourselves with Korean culture? This would benefit not only your lives in Korea but the knowledge you acquire could be utilized into your teaching.

8. try to learn more about your school's vision and philosophy.

Every school has its own vision and philosophy. You are one of the faculty members of the school and have a responsibility to share its vision and philosophy. You should encourage students to achieve and embrace your school's vision and philosophy. In this area your Korean co-teacher(s) will certainly be a big help to you.

Dear all, you are here with us to help provide quality English education to Korean students. You are not here as token foreigners promoting a Korean English education policy. As mentioned earlier, your presence and commitment symbolize the paradigm shift of school English education in Korea. Remember that some of your pupils may play a crucial role in the international community in the future. You are the ones that can help them overcome their language barrier and build confidence in themselves. Your encouragement and teaching could help them become valuable members of the global community. In this sense, I hope that each and every one of you will motivate yourself to be more proactive in your schools and classes. Please try your utmost to meet the expectations SMOE and also students have for you. On behalf of the English education policy department of SMOE, I would like to express our appreciation for your dedication in improving the English education system in Seoul and wish you a very memorable time in Korea.