

What do you identify as the major reasons for Japanese students achieving low levels of English communicative ability?

- I'd mostly attribute poor English levels in young Japanese students to ineffective teaching methods.
- Japanese teachers who are not necessarily fluent in English are teaching primarily in Japanese and may occasionally use incorrect grammar etc.
- The issue is not only within the school system, English is not commonly used outside of the classroom so students are not necessarily interested in learning it.

What solutions have you seen attempted or attempted yourself to fix this problem? (Don't worry if you haven't seen any attempts or had opportunities yourself)

Why do you think these attempts were effective/ineffective?

- In some classes, JTEs have tried to utilize the ALT more by giving ALTs the freedom to lead lessons only taught in English. This has been a greater challenge for the students who will try to guess collaboratively with each other to understand the ALTs lesson. This type of lesson creates a more active learning environment, in my opinion, as the students are engaged and curious to learn what the ALT is saying. This method is likely only effective if the ALT is well-liked and interesting to the students.
- In terms of ineffectiveness, I have seen JTEs try to speak to students in English, but if the student dislikes the JTE then they'll just say 'I don't understand' and dismiss whatever is being said.

Do you have any ideas about potential initiatives that could help resolve this problem?

What problems do you foresee being encountered if your suggestion were attempted?

- More collaboration with the ALT will ensure that lessons are taught with correct grammar. This will work if the JTE has a lot of access to the ALT which is not always the case.
- Reel in student interest with western media and pop culture. I think students enjoy learning and singing English songs.