



With the previous issue, we began a regular column introducing the voices of *TJF Newsletter* readers. Here, we introduce interesting ideas from two teachers in the United States using the article on *keitai* (mobile phone) published in the *TJF Newsletter* No. 21 for a class project.

What is popular with teenagers in Japan today?



Guiding Principle: To create an authentic and active learning environment in which all students can excel. For example, I often use realia (such as real *shinkansen* schedules and food packages), rather than rely on pictures in the textbook alone. This helps to bring Japanese alive for the students, and makes it more than just a language they see in a textbook. I try to keep my classes student-centered and use an array of cooperative learning activities. This is especially useful in classes made up of students of different levels of ability.

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My students in Brookline always are asking me what is currently trendy or fashionable in Tokyo. One trend that fascinates them is the widespread use of cell phones, even among people their own age. They are amazed by the advanced technology, small size, and light weight of Japanese cell phones. The feature on “Keitai” in *TJF Newsletter* No. 21 is a great place to start in talking about current trends in Japan.

Students can begin by brainstorming among themselves about the cell phone culture at Brookline High School or in the Boston area. They can share their ideas with a partner, and then present them to the class. They can then read a copy of the *TJF* article on cell phones in Japan and discuss the differences between their own cell phone usage and that of teenagers in Japan. Using a prepared worksheet, students can try to figure out the meaning of messages commonly exchanged among friends. For example: They can also try to write their own messages using these codes for homework and have a classmate try to discover the meaning.

As an extension activity, students can look at the NTT DoCoMo web site (<http://www.nttdocomo.co.jp>) and the J-Phone web site (<http://www.j-phone.com>) to find out more information about cell phones in Japan. Using authentic teaching materials in the classroom connects the students to the target language and gives them a more global perspective.



Japanese Culture Now:
Keitai (No. 21)

Worksheet

どんなメッセージでしょう？

2 key	1 time
* key	1 time
0 key	3 times
6 key	1 time
* key	1 times
4 key	3 times
# key	1 time
4 key	4 times
5 key	4 times



Notes:

- (1) Refer to the *TJF Newsletter* No. 21 for the rules on inputting a hiragana message on a *keitai*
 - (2) The * key adds 「*」 to the previous letter
 - (3) The # key makes the character small (example:「っ」for「きって」)
- (Inputting procedures differ by type of mobile phone.)

Answer: がんばってね

Idea from another teacher

✉ I would have the students generate Japanese sentences about themselves, their interests, their families and friends, etc. for homework. In class the students would exchange papers and draw an appropriate “smiley” as a comment to each sentence.

[Suzanne Ishii, Ramsey High School, New Jersey, USA]

We invite readers to contribute their “Voices” to the *TJF Newsletter*. We hope readers will respond to articles printed in the *Newsletter* and reflect on their day-to-day endeavors in teaching Japanese in letters that we may share with readers. Especially welcome are accounts of using such articles as “Meeting People” and “Japanese Culture Now” as the basis for classroom study or projects.

Those whose contributions are published in the *Newsletter* will receive copies of “The Way We Are” and the most recent edition of “Opening the Minds and Hearts of Your Japanese-language Students to Culture.”

Please write e-mail to: forum@tjf.or.jp with the subject line: “Voices”