

Class Ideas

Part 1: Meeting Taka—An Activity

“A Virtual Interview with Taka: E-mail Exchange by Mobile Phone!”

Let’s exchange e-mail with Taka and ask him to tell us more about “the most unforgettable encounter in your life.”

いつ、どうしてアメフトをはじめたんですか。

アメフトにであってから、人生にどんなことが起きましたか。

Procedure

- 1) Put students in pairs and pass out to each pair either the “E-mail Exchange Samples” (see pp. 10-11) or Taka’s My Story passage (http://www.tjf.or.jp/deai/contents/chart/mystory/myst_yt.pdf).
- 2) Working in pairs (or groups), students should assume either the role of Taka or that of his interlocutor and write out an e-mail exchange.

Tips

- ❖ We recommend having a worksheet on which students can paste their messages and responses in the order the conversation takes place to simulate a real e-mail exchange. (If this activity is too difficult, try cutting up the “E-mail Exchange Samples” and doing a matching activity with the questions and replies, instead.)
- ❖ You might also consider incorporating an exchange of self-introductions by e-mail, uses for *kaomoji* (smileys; see the article on *keitai*, Japanese Culture Now, *TJF Newsletter* No. 21 <http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge16keitai.htm>), free conversation, and other activities depending on your students’ level. Or perhaps, reverse the activity after completing the first round of exchange and have the students playing Taka interview their partners, who should reply with information about themselves.

- 3) Each pair reads out its e-mail exchange and the entire class confirms the content of the conversation. In the process, students gain a deeper understanding of the significance of Taka’s encounter with football.



On a typical day Taka exchanges over fifty e-mail by *keitai* (mobile phone) with his football buddies or friends in his town.

YT-D09

Part 2: Looking Back on an Unforgettable Encounter—Exercise Ideas

Idea 1: 「わたしの大切なもの」 “Things I Treasure”

Create a collage with the title 「わたしの大切なもの」 “Things I Treasure.” Materials for the collage can include photos, clippings from magazines and newspapers, illustrations, etc. Students should write captions for their collages according to the level of their Japanese.

* As an introduction, have students check the captions for photo sheet YT-P08 “Things I Treasure.”



YT-P08

[Left] トロフィー: Among my trophies is one I won in third year of junior high, when I was chosen MVP of the Kyoto regional league. This trophy gave me the courage to go on playing football with confidence in high school. It’s my most cherished possession. [Top center] アメフト選手にもらったサイン: These are autographs I got from some of the professional football players I admire. My particular favorites are Sato Noriyuki of the Kajima Deers and Dion Sanders of the Washington Redskins (in the American NFL)—they both play cornerback (defensive back), the same position as I do. [Bottom center] アメフトのゲーム: My video games are almost all about American football. [Top right] スポーツのマンガ: When it comes to *manga* comics and video games, most of the ones I like are sport-related.

Idea 2: 「大切なことについて」 “An Unforgettable Encounter”

Following the pattern below, have students complete the sentences using information about themselves and write the sentences on note cards. As a class, have the students interview each other using the note cards they prepared.

Q1 (About something treasured): ○○さんの大切なものは何ですか。

わたし／ぼくの人生で、とても大切なものは○○です。
○○とであって、わたし／ぼくは変わりました。

Q2 (Looking back on changes brought about by an encounter): どんなふうになりましたか。

○○とであう・をはじめる前は、_____。
○○とであって・をはじめてから、_____。

Discussion Points

Have you ever found that you naturally acquired the ability to do something thanks to friendship? Discuss your experiences with your classmates.

「友だちとのかかわりを通じて、自然と身についたこと」を話しあってみよう。



When he was in preschool, Taka used to cry because of the strict pronunciation practice he had to do. But then he found American football at his elementary school, which had special classes for the hearing impaired. He says that in high school, thanks to the friendships he had made with his football teammates, he became pretty comfortable communicating with others. He picked up the Kansai dialect after he started playing football and talking more with his friends.