

Examples of Ways to Describe Your JET Experience

When you are finishing JET, one of the big things that you will have to do is start looking for a job (unless you are going back to school!). Here are a few ideas on how you can use the JET experience to update your resume and help you at writing cover letters, doing well in job interviews and perhaps, even graduate school applications!

You were:

- Selected in a rigorous screening process from thousands of candidates worldwide, because of your excellent command of the English language, your cultural awareness and your ability to work in a demanding and sometimes stressful environment

You might be able to claim:

(In School)

- Established and implemented the oral communication/English language curriculum
- Conceptualized and developed original teaching materials
- Promoted and facilitated the development of English language courses to Japanese students, including demonstration classes, speaking at training seminars and open days
- Taught using the Team Teaching approach, working with a number of different teachers, and having to quickly form relationships in order to effectively plan, teach and assess classes
- Persuaded the English department staff to increase weekly teaching hours to allow oral communication classes to be halved in size
- Established the English Speaking Society/English Club and organized a seminar/exhibitions/presentations to promote cross-cultural understanding cultures to students and local residents

(Outside of School):

- Coordinated/organized social and professional events for JETs
- Designed and presented workshops at professional development days to JETs and Japanese Teachers of English
- Selected as a local JET representative (Blockhead, TOA, AJET, Support System), responsible for organizing and managing meetings/events, liaising with local school administration and ensuring the welfare of JET participants
- Personally initiated regular English classes in the community (volunteering/tutoring, etc.)
- Attained Level __ of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test after just __ months/years of self-taught Japanese or introduction to the Japanese language

- Winner/Finalist of a speech contest, chosen to represent Okinawa for competition, entry into JET calendar, etc.
- During parents and friends visits, organized all accommodation and travel arrangements, as well as guiding visitors through an unfamiliar country where they did not speak the language
- Further expanded my skills through my experience as a contributor/editor of the prefectural JET Newsletter (YAK), administrator/team member for the prefectural JET website,

Transferrable Skills:

- Working alongside a Japanese teacher requires cooperation and mutual professional support in all aspects of teaching, from lesson planning to student assessment and discipline
- Acquired skills in leadership, delegation, organization and listening to problems
- Successfully adapted to Japanese working environment by maintaining outgoing, flexible and open attitude, freely offering assistance in duties outside teaching
- Hard work and enthusiasm to communicate has enabled me to cultivate an active and friendly relationship with colleagues, students and the local community.
- Have gained insight into Japanese customs and culture while striving to promote an understanding of my own culture
- Have come to appreciate the difficulties faced by those living and working in a foreign environment and have used this understanding to assist Japanese acquaintances considering studying/working abroad
- Creativity: created and implemented classroom activities and tests focusing on communicative English and cultural aspects
- Teamwork: successfully taught in tandem with many different Japanese teachers of English
- Time Management: in addition to teaching responsibilities, ran an English club, established 'pen-pal' exchanges, coached/supervised/participated in extra-curricular activities (clubs)
- Public speaking skills: Headed numerous workshops and gave numerous presentations on themes such as English teaching techniques, settling in Japan, etc.
- Adaptability and International Perspective: Became fully immersed in local community through learning Japanese and building relationships, joining/participating in classes/youth groups
- Communicated with patience across the language barrier and used my imagination to communicate non-verbally. With perseverance I was able to communicate clearly in a wide range of situations, using both Japanese and English, with non-native speakers

Taken and adapted from:

People First –Team Japan Recruitment News and Articles

Examples of Ways to Describe your JET Experience

**Note: No longer available online*