# Final Q15 Do you enjoy team teaching? 1 = Yes, very much. 5 = No, not at all.

1. I am going neutral on this one because I've never really done it. 1/22/2015 5:17 PM
2. But it can be hard to stay awake when I am asked to come in to the class and then essentially do nothing but call the Bingo game and stand there. I want to demonstrate respect for the JTE by looking attentive.1/15/2015 7:50 AM
3. I do when the teachers are actually involved in team teaching; there are others who walk out, some who stand in the corner, and one who pays no attention whatsoever as I give lessons even though they're physically present. 1/12/2015 10:35 PM
4. I'd much rather solo-teach. As an ALT I teach only oral communication classes, which focus on listening and speaking skills. So I don't teach any reading or writing classes, and I do minimal teaching of systems (grammar, phonology, discourse, or lexis). Consequently my teaching experience is very repetitive and my professional development suffers. Also, as an ALT I am limited in what I can teach, and in how I teach. 1/10/2015 11:30 PM
5. Depends on the lesson and how much coordination there is beforehand. Honestly, it has a lot to do with how much autonomy I have in the lesson planning as well 1/8/2015 3:41 PM
6. ES so solo teaching mostly. 1/8/2015 3:08 PM
7. …when I am team-teaching, I think that I am usually not utilized effectively. For team-teaching to work properly, there are 3 crucial factors. First, the ALT and JTE must have a good relationship, and understand how the other person communicates and their sense of humor. Second, their must be some time used for pre-lesson meetings, so that both the ALT and JTE know the content of the lesson and what is expected of them. Finally, the JTE must have some interest in English as a language, and not only as a subject. Without these criteria, the team-teaching system cannot function properly, and it will be awkward and ineffective. 1/8/2015 2:57 PM
8. Since this is in confidence, I will be honest. Most of my team teaching experiences are like trying to lift weights with a baby for a spotter - there's the pretense of team teaching, but I'm mostly on my own and any 'team' aspect simply consists of taking turns teaching, i.e. 'You play a grammar game for 25 minutes, then I will do the rest'. That said, I have a few classes which I am allowed to plan solo and am able to bring the teacher in on the teaching, if not the planning itself... 1/8/2015 10:38 AM
9. A very broad question. I enjoy the collaboration when it happens in class or with lesson planning. I don't know Japanese so when the class is struggling I think it helps calm nerves to have some Japanese in the class. All of the teachers (except for another newbie) are more experienced and when they choose to (which is rare) they can provide valuable feedback. I wish that they had clear expectations of me in class, of what they want in the lesson, maybe even helped with lesson planning, and I certainly wish they would give feedback. 1/8/2015 9:27 AM
10. Yes and no. The styles of each teacher vary and some are resistant/reluctant to change. I feel the students rely heavily on the homeroom teacher to translate and it is a crutch. 1/8/2015 9:02 AM
11. It depends on my relationship with the teacher. 1/7/2015 7:13 PM
12. Team-teaching is very case-dependant. 1/7/2015 2:58 PM
13. am teaching, I feel, always puts the ALT in a subordinate role. Luckily, my Japanese teachers in the elementary school and high school allow me to plan and teach as I see fit. I can see why the ALT position is what it is though. Many of the teachers supplied to the local Boards of Education are not teachers and/or have never taught before. I have heard some Japanese English teachers complain about having to also teach the ALT how to teach. Not all ALTs are the same however. I have been teaching ESL/EFL for ten years, in Japan and in Taiwan. Before coming to Hokkaido, I was a regular subject teacher in an Elementary school for three years. I have no problem being a solo teacher and feel like I am using only 1/4 of my potential as an ALT. 1/7/2015 9:52 AM
14. don't often enjoy team-teaching because I usually find that Japanese teachers are not trained well enough to understand the kind of cooperation necessary to make team teaching work. I enjoy team-teaching when the partner teacher I am working with is also trained, and have done so on a number of occasions in the U.S. when team-teaching has been highly enjoyable. However, I do not enjoy it in Japan for the most part. 1/7/2015 9:33 AM
15. When it is real team teaching with a skilled teacher who is following a well-designed lesson plan I enjoy it. This is a rare case. 1/7/2015 8:09 AM
16. enjoyed team-teaching greatly when I was a younger ALT and had just arrived in Japan. Now that I'm older and have more experience in teaching and can assess the students competence / interest levels, I'm less patient with JTEs who just want to use games to fill the time, or who fail to effectively utilize an ALT's skills. 1/6/2015 11:11 PM
17. pends on the other teacher in the team, of course. 1/6/2015 5:45 PM
18. enjoy it very much if the co-teacher is cooperative and contributes actively to the success of each lesson. 1/6/2015 5:40 PM
19. Watching my students gain language competence and confidence is incredibly rewarding, and I really enjoy talking with them about their interests and what's happening in their lives.1/6/2015 1:01 PM
20. I like when I feel that my presence helps the students learn and have fun. I often feel that the class would be no different if I weren't there, and that means I'm not needed. 1/6/2015 12:36 PM
21. It really depends on the teacher and their effort in the classroom. A lack of effort by the JTE can make or break the ALT's experience. I enjoyed firsthand learning of Japanese techniques for teaching something seemingly abstract, however, I also had many classes where I felt the JTE was unclear on their expectations, and it ruined the classroom experience. 1/6/2015 11:55 AM
22. I love my job. I enjoy teaching kids because they are so full of energy and they have a lot of curiosity about me and where I come from. They also are like sponges. Their retention amazes me and when we do memory games I have to keep notes so I don't lose track. 1/6/2015 9:29 AM
23. When it actually happened, as opposed to the "two warm bodies" version. 1/6/2015 7:41 AM
24. I enjoy team teaching when the JTE has a general plan for the lesson and when they notify me of it beforehand allowing me to prepare materials or activities. It can be very difficult when expected to team teach but neither of us knows what the other is thinking. My least favorite scenarios are when the JTE gives me no more responsibility than reciting readings or vocabulary, or when they give me all the responsibility and expect me to plan and teach the whole lesson. 1/6/2015 12:24 AM
25. It depends upon the teacher and the teacher's control of the classroom. 1/5/2015 11:50 PM
26. It depends on who the other teacher is. If I don't have a good relationship with them, it's going to be impossible to really enjoy working with them. I do try to foster good relationships, though. 1/5/2015 9:59 PM
27. It really depends on the JTE and how open/cooperative they are. Most of my TT settings are very open, supportive and helpful. Some are not so much. I've been very lucky that none of my JTE's have completely shot me down. I think that TT JTE's need to be open-minded and creative. 1/5/2015 7:01 PM
28. Depends on the lead teacher. 1/5/2015 6:48 PM
29. I don't know I've never done it but it is something I would like to do 1/5/2015 6:37 PM
30. I see the benefits of team teaching when it works effectively. In my situation however, I sometimes feel I would be better off on my own. 1/5/2015 6:35 PM
31. As an ALT on JET. It depended on the JTE and their teaching styles. Some were very dynamic. Some would use the CD, even with me in class. Average score is 4...most of my JTEs were great (2003-2006) 1/5/2015 5:45 PM
32. In principle - yes, very much In practice - Not really. I have found that I am either a tape recorder/clown or a full blown teacher when I am "team teaching". This is largely due to the fact that communication between myself and my JTEs is very difficult. Most of them do not speak English very well and I do not speak Japanese.1/5/2015 5:38 PM
33. It is very dependant upon the boundaries I am working within. 1/5/2015 5:34 PM
34. There are times when I become a human recorder (a little too many times) and that's when I do not enjoy team teaching. 1/5/2015 5:20 PM
35. It truly depends on the JTE that I am teaching with. 1/5/2015 5:20 PM
36. It really ranges from 1-5, depending on the teacher, some teachers are a joy to work with, some don't actually do much team teaching. Others work against ideas. In general, I like the idea and enjoy it when there's good communication, gears are clicking and goals are the same. Otherwise it can be a chore - or not really team teaching at all. 1/5/2015 4:57 PM
37. There is not enough instruction given to Japanese teachers concerning how team teaching should be conducted. I am not used in the classroom. My first year, I wasn't even a tape recorder. The teacher used the digital textbook for all listening activities and I did nothing. 1/5/2015 4:52 PM
38. I much prefer the occasional opportunity I get to teach by myself, but I understand that team teaching is a necessary evil. My level of enjoyment all depends on the Japanese teacher's ability to effectively team teach. 1/5/2015 4:50 PM
39. I enjoy team teaching as and when the opportunity arises. Sadly, in my second year, this has become less than in my first (changed JTE).1/5/2015 3:53 PM
40. This is difficult to answer. Most of the teachers I work with are great, and even if their English ability isn't amazing they do their best to participate with the students and communicate with me. I teach around 4 lessons a week at Elementary without a dedicated English teacher (so it's me and the homeroom teacher and occasionally a classroom helper). Sometimes it's great because I have the autonomy to do as I like, however the biggest challenge is making sure the children are understanding and getting something out of the lesson. Some of the teachers I work with don't try very hard to help the kids understand what's going on, either because they don't have a good enough English skill or because they aren't that motivated when it comes to English. This makes it very difficult to plan exciting lessons because I rely on them to help me demonstrate or translate the goals and rules of games and activities. I do try and make sure they can understand the flow of the lesson, the goals, the vocabulary and everything so that they can assist me but sometimes it's a real struggle. I have two JTEs at one school who both have (in my opinion) lower level English. They tend to bring me to class less often, and if so they want me more as a tape recorder or someone who reads off questions for a review game. I don't really enjoy team teaching in that situation, or when I am teaching "solo" in elementary school and the teacher can't or doesn't help me out. I do have some really awesome teachers and that for me genuinely makes or breaks my experience as an ALT. 1/5/2015 3:47 PM
41. Depending on the teacher but a lot of time JTEs do not know how to use an ALT and will either use me as a tape recorder type of resource or will ask me to teach the entire class. More professional development is needed for JTEs and how to use ALTs approporiaty.1/5/2015 3:39 PM
42. I really enjoy team teaching when my colleague is open and flexible to the idea. I have encountered teachers who dislike team teaching and do not have a positive attitude towards team teaching with ALTs. This, of course, is a deterrent for the ALT, the JTE, and it greatly impacts the students (I feel). 1/5/2015 3:14 PM
43. It really depends on my partner. Some of my teachers I LOVE doing team teach with. Other teachers make it difficult or will openly put down my lesson and critique it in the middle of class which makes it less enjoyable. Still other teachers take a hands off approach to team teaching so it is a fairly solo teaching experience. 1/5/2015 3:05 PM
44. It is great to have back-up and added support, but it is difficult to strike a balance. Being in the "assistant" position, there are certain challenges when it comes to asserting your view on a matter and establishing a contributing and worthwhile role. It is too easy to be demoted to "tape recorder" position, especially when working with teachers who have never been trained how to capitalize on the benefits of having an ALT in the classroom. 1/5/2015 2:45 PM
45. I have a mixed bag when it comes to team teaching, ranging from tape recorder, to activity leader, to solitary teacher with little to no assistance. 1/5/2015 2:37 PM
46. I have built good relationships with all my teachers, and work hard to make plans with them, so we are all clear on our roles and goals for each class. 1/3/2015 9:30 PM
47. Depends so much on the JTE! 12/30/2014 6:40 AM
48. It depended on the individual, but typically I tried to get along with all my co-workers. 12/22/2014 6:22
49. It's not working great at the moment, 12/22/2014 10:19 AM
50. ENTIRELY depends on the JTE. In the first year I generally enjoy it at all times. In the second year I generally dread it all the time. 12/20/2014 11:52 AM
51. I dont really team teach. Technically I have a JTE with me (most of the time), but I come up with all the lesson plans, and run the class, and they mainly provide back up incase the class cant understand my instructions. 12/19/2014 5:18 PM
52. Which 2/5 of my teachers I love it, the other 3 leave something to be desired. 12/19/2014 3:13 PM
53. As someone who's not qualified as a teacher, I feel much more secure knowing I have a teacher to lean on if I need to and who disciplines the classroom in a culturally normal way. The quality of teachers and their commitment to the class varies, however. Some JTEs see my role as a tape-recorder or only a quick game at the beginning. Many more JTEs see my lessons as a day off for them, and don't provide any support or leadership in lesson planning or in the classroom. There are some really great teachers, however, that make it worthwhile, and who have supported me as they've given me more responsibilities in the classroom. 12/19/2014 10:41 AM
54. Team teaching was initially difficult, coming from a person who has never taught before or has never taken any formal instruction on linguistic methodology. But after a few months, I've gotten used to the role and can teach a bit more naturally, if albeit with some mistakes. 12/19/2014 10:18 AM
55. I prefer to teach by myself. 12/19/2014 9:20 AM
56. I would prefer to teach on my own and have more control over how material is introduced and taught 12/18/2014 9:56 PM
57. Depends on the other teacher 12/18/2014 8:25 PM
58. I would like more responsibility 12/18/2014 6:37 PM
59. When the team has time to meet and plan and is on the same page and support each other's goals for students, it is enjoyable. Too many JTEs are too overworked to spend much time planning their own solo lessons, much less plan lessons with an ALT. In my case, I watched all the communicative gains made by my 1st year students disappear by the time they were 3rd years because the JTEs did not value or continue communicative lessons after the 1st year (the only year team-taught). It's no fun to teach when you feel that your time, students' time, and JTEs' time is effectively being wasted. 12/18/2014 6:30 PM
60. It wholly depends on the teacher and the ethos of the school - some I love and some are just difficult (I teach at 2 JHS and 4 ES). but - I still do my best! 12/18/2014 3:59 PM
61. When it actually IS team teaching, I enjoy it a lot. For the most part, though, classes are left completely up to me... 12/18/2014 3:01 PM
62. I think it is dependent on the JTE I'm paired with 12/18/2014 2:38 PM
63. I feel that I am the main teacher, although I am not qualified. 12/18/2014 1:55 PM
64. Yes I enjoy team teaching, because when you are an ALT in JHS, we usually do brainstorming with the other Japanese Teachers of English. As to my experience, I help my JTE on how to let the students can easily understand our topic or target points. 12/18/2014 1:48 PM
65. Great experience. 12/18/2014 5:11 AM
66. With a teacher who is happy to work together, team teaching is fantastic. Sometimes it is nice to have the classroom to yourself, and sometimes it is nice to go in as a team. A teacher who is unwilling to team teach can make team teaching, and thus the class, unenjoyable for everyone involved. 12/17/2014 9:40 PM
67. I teach with 11 JTEs and have a good working relationship with 10, hence a score of 4!Next year I am hoping for a 5! 12/17/2014 8:39 PM
68. Depends on the teacher. 12/17/2014 7:24 PM
69. This is impossible to answer. Some teachers were a dream to work with, others a nightmare. So I'd put an average of 3! 12/17/2014 7:15 PM
70. Depends very much on the teacher that I work with. 12/17/2014 7:11 PM
71. I've never done it. 12/17/2014 6:48 PM
72. pIt can be difficult to gauge the JTE's response to activities, but their help is still indispensable. 12/17/2014 6:35 PM
73. It is completely dependent on the JTE. There are 2 of my 12 that I would classify as 1 or 2, but the rest at solid 4's and 5's. 12/17/2014 6:20 PM
74. It really depends on the day. To be honest, after my class today I want to say 2. It was a train wreck. There was no time for us to discuss the activity beforehand because she was running around all day, and she ignored my warnings that it would flop if she chose shy students because she was confident that they could do it. But generally, they all go very smoothly and I enjoy them. 12/17/2014 4:14 PM
75. Sometimes! It depends on the JTE - their views, their goals, their perception of what I should be doing. I would prefer to teach alone in elementary or have the Homeroom teacher as "the assistant." 12/17/2014 3:37 PM
76. It depends on the teacher I am team teaching with 12/17/2014 3:21 PM
77. With some teachers, yes. With others, no. 12/17/2014 2:39 PM
78. It greatly depends on the JTE. 12/17/2014 2:29 PM
79. If my teacher is active with team teaching, yes I enjoy it. But I have two teachers whose "team teaching" is me standing around not even speaking. What seems to work best is the teachers who let me lead the lesson, and hover around and join in when necessary and help explain activities. 12/17/2014 2:24 PM
80. I enjoy TeamTeaching with teachers that enjoy speaking English and take the time to get involved with both the preparations of the lessons and the excercises within the lesson; a rare breed. 12/17/2014 1:47
81. I feel it wasnt very effective the way my JTEs were doing it. Mostly i would read the vocab words from the text and the students would repeat after me. Not very motivating! 12/17/2014 1:38 PM
82. The only times I have done team-teaching have been with a native English speaker who was subbing for a sick JTE at another school. I think students enjoy watching their teachers interact with the language, although I feel like it could be more productive in some ways (mostly in terms of planning).12/17/2014 1:16 PM
83. It really depends. With the right teacher, team teaching can be incredibly helpful. It allows you to monitor group activity work more effectively (e.g., if there are 6 groups, 1 teacher has to circulate around all 6 groups throughout the class, but 2 teachers only have to circulate through 3 groups each), and the same applies to assisting students during individual work. However, I have often had the experience where my team teacher will wait for me to ask them to do something, or just stand in the back of the class and monitor, occasionally helping students if they ask for it, but not actively engaging with the lesson. In this case, I have a lesson where I planned on splitting the work between two teachers, but end up having to do all the work myself, plus be aware of what the other teacher is doing and making sure I guide them, so that they don't feel left out of the lesson. It becomes more work than if I had just prepared for a lesson on my own. 12/17/2014 12:01 PM
84. It's difficult to get the right balance - I am usually either completely left to do my own thing or not used at all! 12/17/2014 11:59 AM
85. meh. I feel Japanese teachers need training on how to team teach with a foreigner and how to utilize them in a classroom. 12/17/2014 11:40 AM
86. Of course it depends on who with! But i have taught alone and its also ok 12/17/2014 11:23 AM
87. Some teachers I enjoy it, others I don't. 12/17/2014 10:52 AM
88. I wish they had given more control. Granted each situation is different. I loved where I lived, loved the schools, but I felt they didn't want to give me too much control. But, I did plan some dialogue lessons with the JTE. 12/17/2014 9:12 AM
89. I work with around 2,000 students. With that many faces it is helpful to have someone in the classroom that can help facilitate with the more demanding students. At the JH level it is also nice to observe so many different methods for tackling specific grammar points. 12/16/2014 10:50 PM
90. If I actually got to team teach more I would enjoy it more. Most the time I'm a tape recorder in my classrooms. So when I get a chance to be in a team teaching situation I do enjoy it, but it's rare that I get the opportunity. 12/16/2014 6:37 PM
91. A good rapport makes it good, but often I feel that I have to solo teach 12/16/2014 5:28 PM
92. Depends on who I'm team-teaching with! 12/16/2014 4:47 PM
93. It depends entirely on the teacher. Some people are a joy to lesson plan and teach with. Some are fairly meh. It's very rare for me to have a teacher I just can't stand, so I guess team teaching is on the whole something I enjoy.