

Q22 How do you feel about being an assistant (not the main teacher)?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	'Should' is a tricky word. Sometimes the ALT (me) stands in because the teacher can't make a lesson. The alternative is to have no lesson and the kids fall behind, so it's educationally good to have a reliable ALT that can manage the class.	2/5/2015 11:38 AM
2	Like I said before I am the main teacher in some of my schools. But I honestly wouldn't mind it if there was more of a Team Effort. Me assisting by being a tape recorder has no meaning for me. I often feel like if I left the only reason they would miss me would be due to the fact that they had to take extra time for speaking tests out of their schedule.	1/22/2015 5:25 PM
3	Sometimes I feel more free from the pressures, but sometimes I feel like my hands are tied because I can't offer much input. (But because the teachers have to teach to the book and tests, maybe they feel similarly helpless.)	1/15/2015 8:02 AM
4	No problem. I have no big ego.	1/13/2015 5:02 PM
5	Perfectly fine because it describes my situation quite accurately at the moment: every day I'm at a different school. By the time I'm back at the Monday school, it's been a week, I haven't seen their growth personally, or the materials they have covered. I need the help of the main teacher to understand what's happened since then and how she's taught certain grammar and words. I also don't administer tests, none of my assignments are made to count towards their grade, and I'm only allowed to correct those that I've assigned personally anyway.	1/12/2015 10:57 PM
6	It has it's ups and downs. It really doesn't bother me that much, except when I am sitting in the back doing nothing for 50 minutes.	1/12/2015 11:37 AM
7	Currently I work with three JTEs. I am more experienced than all of them, yet I am the assistant and have minimal input in lessons. Its... frustrating.	1/10/2015 11:35 PM
8	Nothing it's the position that I signed for.	1/10/2015 11:29 AM
9	At the time I was content with it. I didn't have the training or language skills to be the main teacher.	1/9/2015 5:07 PM
10	There is no problem in me being an assistant teacher as I am not qualified as a main teacher. I am not even qualified as an assistant.	1/8/2015 9:42 PM
11	I am the main teacher in practice	1/8/2015 3:09 PM
12	I feel that the title of "ALT" is not applicable to me, as I am rarely an "assistant". I would prefer something like "NET", or "native English teacher", but I suspect that the "assistant" label is more of a way to justify the year-to-year contract system.	1/8/2015 2:59 PM
13	Because I didn't have any qualifications or training when I first came, being an assistant is what drew me to the job as I thought I would be under the tutelage of a qualified and experienced teacher. However I soon discovered that, at my school, I am the main teacher as I write all the lesson plans and conduct the classes mostly by myself (you could say that I am the teacher and the Japanese teachers are the ALTs). I act at the main teacher in the communication classes because developing communication skills is not viewed as vital. This results in the Japanese English teachers not taking a great interest in the class and therefore letting me do all of the work. While I do enjoy having this much freedom and I feel I am a much better teacher because of it, when I finish my work here my resume will still say I was an "assistant," therefore heavily hindering future employment opportunities.	1/8/2015 2:53 PM
14	I have no problem with this, as long as I feel respected from the main teacher and that we work in collaboration. Right now I'm giving up on getting involved, because it is clear that they only want someone who can pronounce English.	1/8/2015 2:45 PM
15	I'm okay with it (especially since I am placed in high school but am an elementary school teacher normally), but to be fair I am not really treated as an assistant by most teachers. I tend to visit each class one session per week, and for most of my classes at my base school that period is 'mine' - I am treated like the teacher of record, allowed to teach what I would like to for the most part, and the JTE behaves as my assistant during that time.	1/8/2015 10:48 AM

16	I am the main teacher, mostly, and have qualifications so would appreciate that being noticed more at all levels of administration	1/8/2015 9:31 AM
17	Not good, because of my experience - I feel under utilised	1/8/2015 9:08 AM
18	Its just in the name. I actually do more work than the Japanese teacher and don't feel like I am assisting.	1/8/2015 1:12 AM
19	it's totally fine; it's not about being the "second in command" but how I deal and communicate with my students it's good because it also means lighter loads (as compared to that of the main teacher)	1/7/2015 10:22 PM
20	As someone who didn't previously teach, I don't mind it at all. It's a good experience. I enjoy it with some teachers more than others.	1/7/2015 7:30 PM
21	Fine, as long as I feel that students are getting a good quality service. Also, I am not as qualified as my Japanese colleagues.	1/7/2015 4:12 PM
22	I would rather be a real teacher with all of the perks and benefits.	1/7/2015 3:50 PM
23	I think the name is misleading because I am the main teacher more often than I am not	1/7/2015 3:47 PM
24	NOT good, especially when I am doing the job of the main teacher in most schools.	1/7/2015 3:00 PM
25	I don't have any feelings about it at all, as in most cases I teach the whole lesson based on plans that I have created.	1/7/2015 2:53 PM
26	It stinks. I much prefer to be the main teacher.	1/7/2015 10:22 AM
27	I have no problem being an assistant, and have been an instructional assistant in many capacities throughout my career in education. I have been an instructional assistant in elementary schools, as well as for emotionally disabled students grades K - 8. However, when I have been an assistant, it has been expected that the main teacher would take responsibility for planning and classroom management. As an ALT, that has not happened. Thus, although my title is ALT, in effect I am most definitely the main teacher. I am convinced that Japan needs to further define in concrete terms exactly what it expects from its ALTs as well as its JTEs.	1/7/2015 10:04 AM
28	It is fine as long as the main teacher is competent and clearly defines my role in the classroom.	1/7/2015 9:03 AM
29	I don't have a problem being an assistant as long as I feel my presence and skills are being utilized, and I am not the brunt of rude comments or jokes.	1/6/2015 11:25 PM
30	I feel, in some cases, that I have a higher education level than some JTEs, and I wish I could respectively called 先生 and be respected as such. However, alas, that's not always the case. The JET Programme is changing, though, if you didn't know. In the near future, some veteran ALTs who have proved themselves will be able to teach classes alone. Expect this change in the next couple of years.	1/6/2015 5:54 PM
31	I feel underutilized as an assistant a lot of the times. In elementary schools, I'm not the assistant, but the main teacher. So at first, having to switch between assistant and main as I go from junior high to elementary school a couple of times in a week was very draining.	1/6/2015 5:47 PM
32	It can be frustrating when the main teacher makes grammatical mistakes. I also have trouble watching students struggle with grammar translation for the majority of the year with so little emphasis on oral communication.	1/6/2015 1:12 PM
33	I don't mind being an assistant at all; I understand that the JTE is much more qualified than me. I just would like to be more of an assistant teacher, and less of an extra English-speaking body in the classroom.	1/6/2015 12:44 PM
34	It is a constant reminder of our insecurity. We are always "just the assistant," so I feel as though there is a lot of lenience shown towards the students in our interactions and disrespect.	1/6/2015 12:04 PM
35	Well, when I teach my classes I am usually the main teacher and the JTE just watches and helps only when needed. There never has been any difficulty in this arrangement.	1/6/2015 10:30 AM
36	Coming into Japan with no experience of the school system, not training in the local methods or requirements and no knowledge of the curriculum, I feel that it was appropriate (JHS). As time progressed I took a more active role and by the end I was teaching solo even at JHS and in some cases I was asked to supervise JTEs who were on probation or in training.	1/6/2015 8:23 AM
37	I am fine with it because that is the job that I applied for and expected when I accepted the position.	1/6/2015 12:41 AM
38	I am perfectly okay with this. I am not certified to be a teacher. I still have a lot to learn, so I am comfortable being an assistant. That is what an ALT means. To be an assistant. If an individual strongly disagrees with being an ALT, then I must suggest that they get the certification needed to be an English teacher in a foreign country.	1/6/2015 12:33 AM

39	feel boring it you will just a human recorder. feel fine because you are not obligated to prepare the lesson. feel stress if what you taught particularly the sounds (phonics)will remain katakana sounds.	1/6/2015 12:22 AM
40	No problem. I was trained to be an educator so that assisting teachers is not an issue.	1/5/2015 10:32 PM
41	I don't like it. I am pretty sure I am only going to do this 2 years. I don't care that I have nothing lined up for me at home nor that I get a pay raise my 3rd year; I just cannot stand feeling so impotent. I can "gaman" through 2 years, but something drastic would have to change for me to stay longer. I understand now why people do not stay too long in this job.	1/5/2015 10:10 PM
42	It's fine.	1/5/2015 9:30 PM
43	It never bothered me. I wanted to come here to better my teaching skills while having support and someone to bounce ideas off of- a mentor. I am rarely treated as an assistant.	1/5/2015 7:28 PM
44	I don't mind it. However, the lead teachers often lack the language skills and experience to handle what they are tasked with (teaching English).	1/5/2015 7:06 PM
45	I'm always in charge of my classes. I would have liked to assist in some classes to see how other teachers work but when I asked to attend a teachers English class they wouldn't speak to me for weeks. Not hard for them to do since they don't get involved with my classes	1/5/2015 7:02 PM
46	I like the fact that I don't have a whole lot of responsibility, but sometimes I think I would prefer to just run my own cram school instead. I can't do that while under JET contract though...	1/5/2015 6:50 PM
47	I was comfortable being in a support role because I was not professionally trained to be a teacher, and I understand that the JTEs are obligated by government policy to teach the mandated curriculum.	1/5/2015 6:00 PM
48	I think not being the main teacher is important. Most ALTs do not have teacher training, and therefore are not qualified to be the "main teacher". Even though I have teacher training, I am still learning how the system works here, and I think it would be too overwhelming to be made the main teacher unless I was familiar with the education system.	1/5/2015 5:56 PM
49	That isnt a problem to me as i understand it is very risky to handover the entire english language education to foreigners. But i just wishes they'd be more open to WORKING TOGETHER. :)	1/5/2015 5:54 PM
50	I like not being required to do all the rubbish that would be required of me if I was a main teacher.? No bonus is worth that! The title annoys me as in most cases I conduct the class.	1/5/2015 5:47 PM
51	I'm okay with it. There's no way I could be the main teacher for each lesson. With the cultural lessons one of my JTEs lets me have, I'm so stressed about it and I can't imagine doing that every day.	1/5/2015 5:37 PM
52	I feel frustrated and under-utilised.	1/5/2015 5:34 PM
53	I feel fine. I'm not trained. But I'd like a more clear level of responsibility.	1/5/2015 5:30 PM
54	I don't mind because I don't feel qualified to do my job.	1/5/2015 5:29 PM
55	It's been awhile since i've truly been an ALT - I feel alright about it, but i've rarely felt the assistant, only in classes where the teacher was a good team teacher or really took charge. In many of my classes I became the Main Language Teacher.	1/5/2015 5:17 PM
56	I have no problem being an assistant, if I am being used and respected.	1/5/2015 5:05 PM
57	Again, depends on the teacher. Usually it doesn't bother me, as I still feel like a valued memver of the classroom and the school.	1/5/2015 5:00 PM
58	I knew what I signed up for, if I wanted to be a "real" teacher I would have gotten credentials for that instead of applying for JET.	1/5/2015 4:43 PM
59	I enjoy it, however in some cases I do feel like the main teacher. As I previously mentioned, some days I teach without a dedicated JTE and the other teachers in the room with me have either limited English or limited motivation to help. I would not want to be a main teacher in the respect that Japanese work culture is something I don't like so much. Having autonomy for lesson creation and implementation can be enjoyable, yet sometimes it's a true challenge.	1/5/2015 4:28 PM
60	If I was the main teacher the students wouldn't learn anything, so I'm fine being the assistant teacher. My goal after this isn't to be a teacher so I prefer to be the assistant.	1/5/2015 4:26 PM

61	I have no difficulty being an assistant, but would prefer a situation where there is true "team teaching" with deference and respect given to JTE's opinions and abilities. Whilst I try and show such etiquette and respect to the JTE's I have noted that this is not always true and so it can make creating a rapport with a JTE more difficult due to previous experience.	1/5/2015 4:12 PM
62	I'm fine with it as I don't wish to be a teacher as a career. It feels frustrating at times when I want to be involved in testing and assisting students who want extra lessons. Overall, I haven't the training to be a teacher, and I am satisfied with the opportunity given to me as an assistant.	1/5/2015 4:10 PM
63	It's fine as long as the main teacher speaks English (not katakana English). It is more beneficial for the students to listen to fluent pronunciation	1/5/2015 4:09 PM
64	That's how it should be as I have to formal teaching qualifications. We are assistants not teachers.	1/5/2015 4:05 PM
65	I don't really mind for the teachers I worked for never treated me like an assistant. I always get to ask of my opinion for each lesson.	1/5/2015 3:56 PM
66	I'm not trained enough to be a main teacher and I'm more comfortable as the assistant. However, I think my role in the classroom needs to be more clearly defined. I also think JTEs need to be more aware of how they are using or under-using my skills. What parts of the class can I shine in and what parts should I take the backseat?	1/5/2015 3:53 PM
67	I want to be the main teacher. But I am a teacher in my home country and I don't like sharing very much :)	1/5/2015 3:47 PM
68	I think it is a comfortable position, perhaps too comfortable.	1/5/2015 3:40 PM
69	It doesn't bother me, as long as I am not used solely as a tape recorder (to repeat textbook phrases and stories over and over).	1/5/2015 3:27 PM
70	In some classes, I do all the teaching. So it depends on the JTE. Some ALT's are just a human tape recorder. It all depends on how the JTE chooses to use the ALT.	1/5/2015 3:26 PM
71	I'm fine with that.	1/5/2015 3:23 PM
72	At my school I am treated as equal to the main teacher and act as the lead in my classes. In reality it feels more like being a real teacher than the assistant. However, I know that my class is only a small portion of the students English education and I wish that I had the freedom to participate in more of their regular English learning environments.	1/5/2015 3:20 PM
73	Sometimes it really sucks, especially when I don't know what is expected of me. Or if the teacher is being rude and unprofessional. Sometimes it is incredible, and things come together in a way they couldn't if I was alone.	1/5/2015 3:09 PM
74	I do not mind being an assistant, though I would greatly prefer if I had the chance to at least, sometimes, guide a lesson as T1, and show them how much more I am capable of.	1/5/2015 3:02 PM
75	Currently, I'm fine with the status since technically I'm not a licensed teacher in any part of the world.	1/5/2015 2:58 PM
76	I'm happy as I'm not treated as an ALT. I'm treated as a main teacher	1/5/2015 2:49 PM
77	Great, it is what I signed up for. I am not a teacher. I am here to support. If that means leading sections of a class, it is a mark of recognition from the teachers as to ability and trust. Even if I was a qualified teacher, unless I had studied here, I would still not have a full understanding of the system here. I get well paid to help deliver the best English classes we can to our students as a team. Mine is a support role and the teacher ultimately has the responsibility of the students education. In my opinion a little ignorant to assume we can teach better than the teachers. Sure, after 2 1/2 years some things frustrate me in the lessons, but it's not better than home, not worse, just different. We come here to help teach and to experience the culture and it's differences, we have a responsibility to make students aware of the wider world, but even that must fall within the remit of our responsibilities, we are here to help teachers and students, not reform the education system.	1/3/2015 10:26 PM
78	I feel it is good because I don't have as huge a workload as the main teacher. Also the main teacher is more in tune with the students personalities and problems. A main teacher may often be a homeroom teacher with a huge responsibility for students.	12/31/2014 5:45 AM
79	I am a pretty flexible person. I can adapt to whatever style the JTE likes. In many classes I am actually the main teacher, just without the title. I am fine with that for now, though I am looking to move to university, where I have more stability, cohesion, and control.	12/30/2014 7:06 AM
80	I feel fine with my role as I am not a properly trained teachers as it is not my educational background. I knew that I would be an assistant. The jobs is ALT = assistant language teacher.	12/22/2014 10:44 PM

81	I never had any issues with being the assistant, for I did not want the responsibility that came with being the main teacher. I enjoy work/life balance and being a classroom teacher in Japan is not something I think I am ready for.	12/22/2014 6:40 PM
82	I don't mind as I have my own classes too.	12/22/2014 10:46 AM
83	Better. I don't know enough about the culture, I can't always read the students, and I object too much to the format of entrance exams here to be an effective teacher for that. If I had wanted to be the main teacher, I would have learnt Japanese and applied for a job at a private school or eikawa. I wanted to assist- to help JTEs with English as well, and to have a more cultural role than a task master role.	12/20/2014 12:18 PM
84	It was a great chance that I don't want to miss.	12/19/2014 10:09 PM
85	I'm the main teacher as far as the students are concerned. Think that depends on personality, charisma, ability to lead and motivate.	12/19/2014 7:15 PM
86	I feel like I should be more of an assistant than I am, since I have no qualifications, but I run my own classes, sometimes without a JTE present.	12/19/2014 5:21 PM
87	refer to my answer to question 20.	12/19/2014 3:22 PM
88	I teach mainly	12/19/2014 2:47 PM
89	As an unqualified teacher, I'm very happy about being an assistant.	12/19/2014 10:55 AM
90	It's the opposite case for me. Initially, I felt overwhelmed by having so much freedom and leadership in my class, but it's helped me improve my teaching abilities.	12/19/2014 10:31 AM
91	I hated it, so I changed it. My school was very supportive.	12/19/2014 9:29 AM
92	Im ok...	12/19/2014 7:30 AM
93	like I'm not taken seriously but then again I don't have any teaching degrees so that's fair enough	12/18/2014 11:16 PM
94	If I were the main teacher of course I would teach very differently. However, I came here fully expecting to be an assistant and not a lead teacher--precisely because I wanted to be an assistant teacher--and I certainly wouldn't mind being an assistant if I were in fact treated as such (as a supporting member of a team working together toward a common goal). That said, with the lack of communication among JTEs, attempts have been made to use me to inappropriately spy on what other JTEs are doing; with resistance to methods I am often asked by the BOE or another JTE to force JTEs to change, which is not within an assistant's authority or place; with the lack of meeting time or minimal coordination between ALT and JTE, I am often unaware of how I can be of assistance during JTE-led lessons, or vice versa for ALT-led lessons; with a lack of clear guidance on what is expected of ALTs, it is impossible for me to judge if I am doing my job well or poorly--as far as I can tell from teacher comments, the most important qualities of "good" ALTs are coming to work on time, looking professional, and following school rules, nothing related to job duties--etc. If I could truly be an assistant, I would be happy. In fact, despite all the drawbacks I've mentioned in this survey, I have met many of my goals in becoming an ALT: I've learned a great deal about Japanese education, I've observed how a master of classroom management created an engaged and autonomous (if not really communicative) learning environment, I've picked up a few teaching tricks and built up a repertoire (if rather smaller than I'd hoped) of successful communicative activities, and in my free time on the job I've had the chance to do a ton of research for my own professional development as well as to design and lead professional development opportunities for both JTEs and ALTs. I think I'd feel a lot better about my time here as an ALT if I just didn't feel so gosh-darned guilty for potentially not fulfilling my very vaguely defined responsibilities as an ALT. And also if I weren't asked to design and teach lessons that I feel are detrimental to students' learning (e.g. mind-numbing rote outdated exam prep as opposed to strategy based instruction, task based instruction, CLT, etc.). As an assistant, I don't mind assisting a JTE who wishes to teach such things, but when asked to actively design and lead such activities instead of just assist in them, things get really uncomfortable in the classroom or in our rare teachers' meetings.	12/18/2014 10:51 PM
95	I am unsatisfied with it solely because I could do a better job than most of the T1s. I realize that the role of an ALT is to be an assistant; however, it is hard to be an assistant when I feel that I could be a more effect teacher than the T1. I would have no problem being T2 if the main teacher was a better teacher than me.	12/18/2014 10:32 PM
96	Although the title ALT refers to "assistant" for Elementary settings, it doesn't work that way, we are the "main teachers" in the classroom and our JT's follow our lead, do the translations if necessary and helping us with the activity demonstrations.	12/18/2014 10:25 PM
97	If the ALT is not a trained teacher then it makes sense. Often in elementary school the ALT is the main teacher though.	12/18/2014 8:53 PM

98	I'm fine with it. It can be difficult at first, but my JTEs are very friendly and I have a good working relationship with them. They have been teaching in Japan for a long time and know how to deal with students properly, so I usually defer to them.	12/18/2014 8:51 PM
99	I am happy with that position.	12/18/2014 7:25 PM
100	In any other context I'd find it uncomfortable however there is no way that I could be the primary teacher given how low the level of English is at my school	12/18/2014 6:50 PM
101	I signed up for it so can't really complain.	12/18/2014 6:45 PM
102	I don't enjoy it.	12/18/2014 5:19 PM
103	I couldn't be the main teacher, you need to have a fluent level of Japanese.	12/18/2014 4:24 PM
104	I am happy to be the assistant. There is too much language barriers for me personally to be responsible for dealing with marking, assessments, behavioral issues in the class. However, being an assistant without actually team teaching is not fun nor useful to anyone. There has to be an involvement of both parties.	12/18/2014 4:12 PM
105	It's ok for now - it's a good experience as I enjoy working with the children, and being an ALT lets me interact with them in a way that maybe I couldn't if I were the main teacher. I wouldn't do it for ever but it's facilitating the next stage of my life - so for now - it's ok.	12/18/2014 4:05 PM
106	I am usually the main teacher.	12/18/2014 3:49 PM
107	I am ok with it. But I make it clear to the students that it doesn't mean they can under estimate me. I have as much power what discipline is concerned (or I like to think so)	12/18/2014 3:44 PM
108	I feel perfectly okay with not being the main teacher. I don't have the experience or education to be the main teacher. That said, this makes it incredibly difficult when I am basically expected to be the main teacher.	12/18/2014 3:27 PM
109	It doesn't bother me. I don't speak the language and I haven't been trained as a teacher. The things that frustrate me have nothing to do with being an assistant. Rather it's watching kids try to use rote memorization to learn a language. The japanese school system has many problems, but I'm not here to fix those problems. Being an assistant makes me more approachable to students. I'm not perceived as an intimidating teacher with lots of authority.	12/18/2014 2:48 PM
110	I don't feel any under rated or over rated being not the main teacher, as for me I do my responsibility within the context of my job description-ALT. But as an educator ALT must also be equipped with extensive knowledges to be more helpful to students and JTEs as an assistant.	12/18/2014 2:40 PM
111	Fine. the students need someone who speaks Japanese in the class room. That being said I prefer active involvement not just standing and reading when necessary.	12/18/2014 2:07 PM
112	I think many of my teachers forget the term 'assistant'.	12/18/2014 2:00 PM
113	There are some cases that alts are not the main teacher but for those who are teaching in elem schools we lead the class so I have no problem about this.	12/18/2014 1:34 PM
114	In my placement, the difference within the classroom is trivial. Outside the classroom, I appreciate the fact that, as an assistant, many of the menial and administrative tasks required of normal teachers is not required of me.	12/18/2014 11:48 AM
115	I'm totally ok with it, I wouldn't want to be shackled to my desk like the teachers here	12/18/2014 10:57 AM
116	I enjoy having fewer responsibilities. I could not be a main teacher at eight separate schools, so being an assistant works well for me. Plus, I do not have the same educational background as many teachers, and I am not technically certified. It's my first full-time job, so I prefer learning and practicing as an assistant.	12/18/2014 5:55 AM
117	Very frustrating at times.	12/18/2014 5:16 AM
118	50/50, enjoyable/humiliating	12/18/2014 2:42 AM
119	totally coolio.	12/18/2014 1:10 AM
120	I think this has whet my tongue for the real thing. Here, though, If I am assistant to a capable main teacher, then I don't mind. If I disagree with my teacher or don't feel like I am being used, then it can be quite, quite frustrating. Thankfully, because of elementary school, I do get to try my hand at being main teacher, and that is just lovely.	12/17/2014 10:00 PM
121	Fine! Although I help out with marking ,report card assessments and sometimes am asked to attend staff meeting when in relation to foreign language teaching,I can focus on teaching my classes and not the administrative side of things,and go home early with no strings attached!	12/17/2014 8:51 PM

122	*When* I am actually the assistant, that's fine. I have no problem following the lead of the JTE. When they ask me to do significant planning or just throw over a class to me (in the middle of the class,) I resent it. I work part-time, so planning time is unpaid.	12/17/2014 7:33 PM
123	In good circumstances, I don't have a problem with being the assistant. In mediocre or bad circumstances, it's truly awful. It really does depend on the school and JTEs as to whether an ALT likes and feels fulfilled by their job.	12/17/2014 7:25 PM
124	I feel insanely lucky. Teachers in Japan have way to much responsibilities and way to many crazy parents to deal with.	12/17/2014 7:22 PM
125	I didn't mind at the time.	12/17/2014 7:18 PM
126	I've never been an assistant.	12/17/2014 7:00 PM
127	At the moment, considering my relative lack of training, I think it's a really good experience for me to see how the class is operated without having to take full responsibility. In elementary school I am often the main teacher, and when I compare that to my junior high school days where I am more of an assistant it's much easier to observe what goes on in a classroom and get ideas from my JTEs.	12/17/2014 6:50 PM
128	When I was just an assistant,the working conditions were not good and my opinions didn` t matter at all.	12/17/2014 6:44 PM
129	For my 2 teachers, I love it. I am not a trained teacher I do not want to be a main teacher. With that being said, as far as practical English is concerned, I would do better than all but 1 of my teachers. The real problem I think is english testing. There are these ridiculous arbitrary tests that the JTE's feel pressured to prepare students for. As one teacher has informed me when I asked them why when a student asked for how to say "I neither like nor dislike ~", the JTE refused to answer and instead told them to stick with what was said in the textbook, "If I teach them anything not on the tests, they will get lower scores".	12/17/2014 6:40 PM
130	See the previous answers I wrote. If you have any other questions for me, please contact me at cmharmony1224@yahoo.co.jp Thanks.	12/17/2014 5:47 PM
131	I'm absolutely satisfied with my position as an assistant. I am in no way qualified to be the main teacher, though my JTEs are happy to "give me the floor" in a lesson, so I am glad to be helping in any way I can.	12/17/2014 5:35 PM
132	To be honest, I like not having the responsibility of disciplining the students. I like that the students get excited when I show up. I feel like it's a more positive position to be in overall.	12/17/2014 4:35 PM
133	At the start I was fine with it as I had little knowledge of the role. Having been here three years, I would rather take the lead role when I am in the classroom.	12/17/2014 3:47 PM
134	At the elementary school I am the main teacher, the homeroom teacher sometimes helps me but not always. I prefer to be the main teacher. At JHS I am an assistant and it feels like a waste as I could do so much more to help the students if I had the chance	12/17/2014 3:24 PM
135	Fine	12/17/2014 3:15 PM
136	A lot of my classes, I act like the main teacher, which is really awesome that I have complete control over some of my classes English education. When I am more like an assistant, if I am actively involved with the activities, I am okay with that, and will ask to lead an activity here and there, which seems to work out well. If I am completely pushed to the side, I will try to work my way in every way possible because it is a complete waste for me to just stand around, and those teachers make me very frustrated.	12/17/2014 3:06 PM
137	Fine. I do not have the Japanese linguistic ability to thoroughly teach English as a foreign language to Japanese students. I can explain things in English well enough, but the varying range of skill level would leave a lot of students completely lost. I am able to lead simple classes alone, but I think the JTE is vital to the education of the students in most English classes. Also, as a foreigner, I don't understand (or even agree with) the methods of teaching these students need to pass the Center or university exams. I am more than happy to assist where I can, and would even consider pursuing a permanent teaching position, but understand the current limitations and my position as an assistant.	12/17/2014 3:04 PM
138	I am the main teacher during my classes, so...	12/17/2014 2:46 PM
139	Most of the time, I like being an assistant. I'm wasn't trained as a teacher so for most things, my JTE knows best about how to get a point across in class.	12/17/2014 2:37 PM
140	It mostly doesn't bother me, but there are days when I feel useless and devalued.	12/17/2014 2:34 PM
141	I'm not qualified to be a teacher, so I have no problems with being an assistant. If I had a teaching degree, I would hope to have more control over lessons.	12/17/2014 2:25 PM

142	I'm treated equally. They trust me to create activities as well as units of work, just like a full time teacher. The only parts I don't do are the boring or difficult report writing, parent-teacher interviews and staff meetings. Don't miss that at all. But I'm also earning only half of my teacher wage back home so.... I guess I miss the money. But the experience of living in Japan is worth it	12/17/2014 2:22 PM
143	I have no qualms.	12/17/2014 2:00 PM
144	Love it. It's what I signed on for. However not the case, though I thoroughly enjoy having creative control.	12/17/2014 1:56 PM
145	I still enjoyed being an assistant teacher because i could have a different relationship with the students than if i were the main teacher.	12/17/2014 1:47 PM
146	As I have no educational training, I feel much happier and more comfortable being an assistant.	12/17/2014 1:32 PM
147	I wouldn't mind being an assistant so much if I were actually utilized in the classroom. I often feel left out because I can't help them with questions that are written in Japanese or explain grammar to them in Japanese.	12/17/2014 1:29 PM
148	I think it is ok, but it would be great if we could be the main teacher. Many children have learned foreign languages in immersive environments (no Japanese). The same can be done in Japan.	12/17/2014 1:28 PM
149	I am often the main teacher in my classes.	12/17/2014 1:13 PM
150	I'm fine with it. Because I have lots of schools and classes to teach at along with other activities.	12/17/2014 1:12 PM
151	I worked with great partners. They did their job as they saw it and I did mine.sometimes I was the main teacher - when time allowed - and my partner was very supportive. I know that I can't be the main teacher as I don't hold a japanese teaching license and so cannot be legally responsible for the kids.	12/17/2014 12:35 PM
152	I am fine being an assistant, but I still want to be recognized as a teacher by my students. I conduct myself as a teacher in the classroom, but as mentioned before, there are many reasons I feel my students may not fully recognize me as a teacher - at least not on the level of the JTEs.	12/17/2014 12:34 PM
153	I don't mind being an assistant, but I wish they would communicate with me in a more timely way. I find it rather unprofessional to be left in the dark about what I am supposed to be doing, which leads me to believe that I'm not really supposed to be doing much at all...	12/17/2014 12:14 PM
154	I rarely feel that way as my JTEs and I have found a good balance in our roles.	12/17/2014 12:13 PM
155	Fine, as I've had no teacher training. I can lead a lesson by myself but at least while I'm still learning how to be a teacher, I'm happy being an assistant. I will probably leave after 2 years as it's not really a job I can progress in.	12/17/2014 12:06 PM
156	As im not qualified its fine. If i was a teacher with a lot of experience it would be a different story! But if that was the case, alt position is not one i would aspire to	12/17/2014 11:42 AM
157	I enjoy it - there is freedom to do more in a different way. But this depends again on the JTE!	12/17/2014 11:35 AM
158	I am the main teacjer	12/17/2014 11:35 AM
159	I don't feel that I am able to accomplish anything. Sure, the kids get used to interacting with me on some level, though I don't know if that impacts how they interact with foreigners later in life. They aren't learning English from me. Teachers often treat me as an extra thing they use if they have time.	12/17/2014 11:29 AM
160	I am fine with it.	12/17/2014 11:20 AM
161	It is fine.	12/17/2014 11:14 AM
162	I like it and dislike it. Like it because I don't have to do much. Dislike it because I feel I could be more useful if teachers would give me a chance.	12/17/2014 10:54 AM
163	That's what I was hired for.....	12/17/2014 9:15 AM
164	I enjoy the decreased responsibility, but there are some really bad teachers out there. It's painful to watch my former elementary students lose their enthusiasm for English.	12/16/2014 11:35 PM
165	I'm fine with it. As I said before I was a substitute for two years I've been in charge of the classroom and I like being in charge of the classroom. But I'm not a certified teacher so I do not feel comfortable teaching the kids alone. Even as a substitute I kind of felt it was wrong to leave me in charge of the kids when I haven't had proper experience: other than just a very quick orientation the day before I started taking over for teachers of different schools. A lot of it was on-the-job training with no one to teach me how to do anything. I am okay with being an assistant and I prefer the assistant title for now until I can figure out if I want to do this for a career and learned a little bit more of how to teach.	12/16/2014 6:53 PM

166	I am the main teacher. It works out that way because at both schools, I teach with 5 or 6 teachers. I am the only one who knows what is happening in all classes. I want to try to create a two-way communication with my fellow teachers, but sometimes I hijack the process.	12/16/2014 5:50 PM
167	It's fun! Best job ever!	12/16/2014 5:33 PM
168	Most of the time, I am the main teacher -- at least in reality if not officially. If I were to interview for another ALT job in a different city, though, I would specifically ask them whether I'd be actually teaching the lessons (at least a good portion of the time) or if my role would mainly be of the assistant/human tape recorder/gaijin showpiece variety. If they told me it would be the latter, I'd thank them for their honesty -- and then I'd turn the job down. A lot of ALTs really can teach. We just need to be allowed to. Fortunately, in my case I am allowed to, most of the time. I'm currently keeping my eyes out for jobs, however, where I can teach at one school permanently and where I know I can teach my own classes. I teach two university classes a week and it's great. I'd love to teach at a university full-time (wouldn't we all!) or at a private Japanese HS. There's one such HS here in town and I hope they're hiring next year!	12/16/2014 5:18 PM
169	It's the job I signed up for. Frankly, I don't have the training or certification to be the main teacher. If I were to continue in ESL after my time with JET ends, I would want to go back to school and get those skills. I wouldn't want to be an assistant forever, but I don't mind being an assistant right now.	12/16/2014 4:35 PM