

# How Junior High School Students Improve their Speaking and Writing Skills in English through Focus-on-Form Instruction

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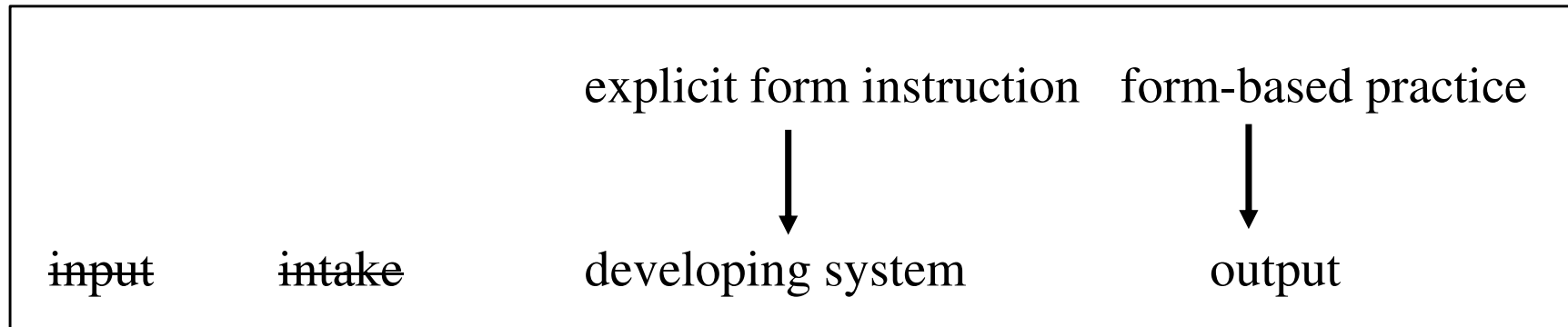
MEGUMI MATSUI



# Traditional grammar teaching

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*Traditional practice in grammar (Lee & VanPatten, 2003; Izumi, 2009)*

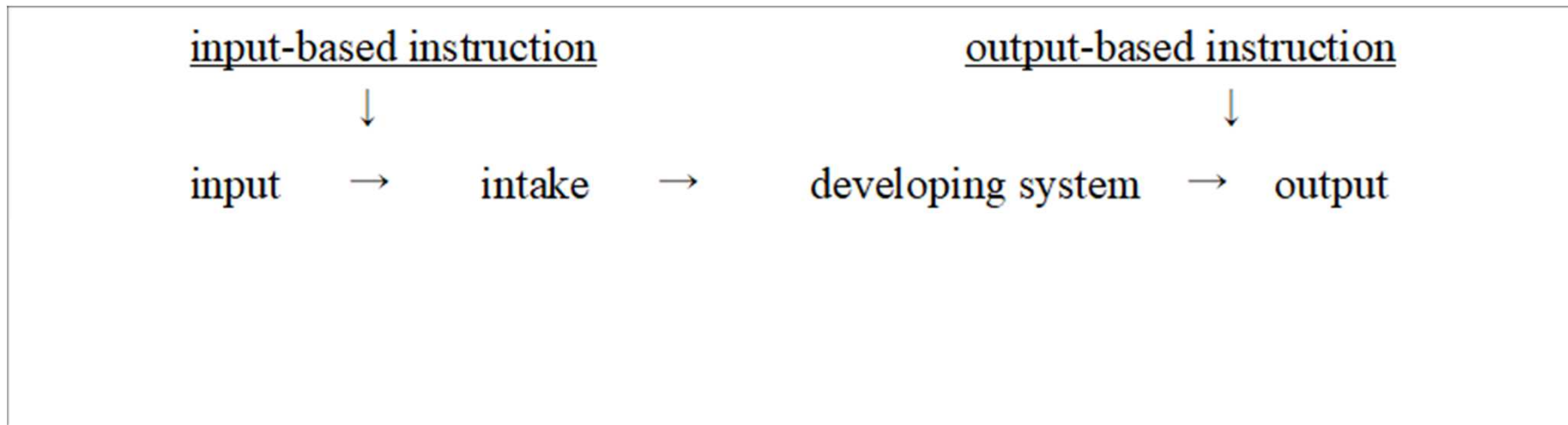


“because it focuses on output, traditional grammar instruction engages those processes involved accessing a developing system rather than those involved forming their system” (*Lee & VanPatten, 2003, p. 133*)

# Focus-on-Form Instruction (FFI)

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*Lee & VanPatten's model of second language acquisition (2003)*



FFI “entails a focus on meaning with attention to form arising out of the communicative activity.” (Ellis, 2006)

# Planned and incidental FFI

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FFI is divided into two types.

- (1) *Planned* - “a focused task is required to elicit occasions for using predetermined grammatical structure”
- (2) *Incidental* – “attention to form in the context of a communicative activity is not predetermined but rather occurs in accordance with the participants linguistic needs as the activity proceeds”

(Ellis, 2006)

# Planned FFI : Steps

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## 1. Input

Step 1: focusing on meaning

Step 2: focusing on form

## 2. Noticing (connecting form and meaning)

Step 3: grammar point

## 3. Output

Step 4: communicative activities

# Step 1: focusing on meaning

←

<Step 1> 先生が話す英語を聞いて、表にまとめよう！ 日本語で書いてもOK!! ←

←

(1) Mike ← ←	←
(2) Kate ← ←	←
(3) Kaito ← ←	←

←

Mike



Kate



Kaito



# (1) Mike

Mike



## (2) Kate

Kate





# (3) Kaito

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Kaito



## Step2: focusing on form

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<Step 2> もう一度英語を聞いて、あてはまるほうに○をつけよう！

(1) This is my car, but it's very old.

So, I (want / want to) a new car.

I (want / want to) buy a red sports car.

(2) It's time for cooking dinner.

My children love curry and rice.

So, I want (cook / to cook) beef curry for dinner tonight.

(3) I practice soccer every day.

I'm a good soccer player.

So, I want (be / to be) a professional soccer player in the future.

What do you (want / want to be) in the future?

# Step 3: Noticing (grammar point)

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<Step 3> Grammar Point!

① I want to **buy** a red sports car.

(意味： 私は赤いスポーツカーを買いたいです。 )

★ want to の後に ( 動詞の原形 ) を入れることで、  
( ~したい ) という意味になる。

② What do you want to **be** in the future?




— I want to **be** a professional soccer player.

(意味： 将来何になりたいですか？ — プロのサッカー選手になりたいです。 )

★ be をwant toの後ろに置くことで、  
( ~になりたいです ) という意味になる。

# Step 4: Output

(1) have for breakfast<sup>↕</sup>

① rice and miso soup <sup>↕</sup>	② toast and coffee <sup>↕</sup>	③ cereal and orange juice <sup>↕</sup>	My guess <sup>↕</sup>
			

(2) be in the future<sup>↕</sup>

① a doctor <sup>↕</sup>	② a singer <sup>↕</sup>	③ a chef <sup>↕</sup>	My guess <sup>↕</sup>
			

(3) (where) / visit<sup>↕</sup>

① Tokyo <sup>↕</sup>	② Osaka <sup>↕</sup>	③ Kyoto <sup>↕</sup>	My guess <sup>↕</sup>
			

(4) do on Sunday<sup>↕</sup>

① take a nap <sup>↕</sup>	② go shopping <sup>↕</sup>	③ play video games <sup>↕</sup>	My guess <sup>↕</sup>
			

<Model Dialog>

A&B: Hi, ○○. How are you?

I'm (good / great / sleepy / not bad). And you?

.....

A: What do you want to have for breakfast?

B: I want to have toast and coffee for breakfast.

A: Toast and coffee? (I See. / Really? / Nice! ).

.....

\*Change your role.

A: Nice talking with you.

B: You, too.

# Step 4: Output

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<Step 5> Let's write!

Write about your classmates! (例) Megumi wants to be a chef in the future.

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# Incidental FFI: My Last Year's Trip

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<Step 1> Read Megumi's essay. Then answer the questions.

<Megumi's essay>

I went to Hokkaido last August. I went there with my friend. We visited our friend in Sapporo. We went to Sapporo, Otaru and Furano. But we didn't go to Hakodate. In Hokkaido, I ate Jingisukan and ice cream. They were delicious. In Furano, I visited the "Blue Pond." It was very beautiful. I really enjoyed my trip. I want to go to Hokkaido again!

# My Last Year's Trip

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Q1. Where did Megumi go?

She went to Hokkaido.

Q2. Who did she go there with?

She went there with her friend.

Q3. What did she eat there?

She ate jingisukan and ice cream.

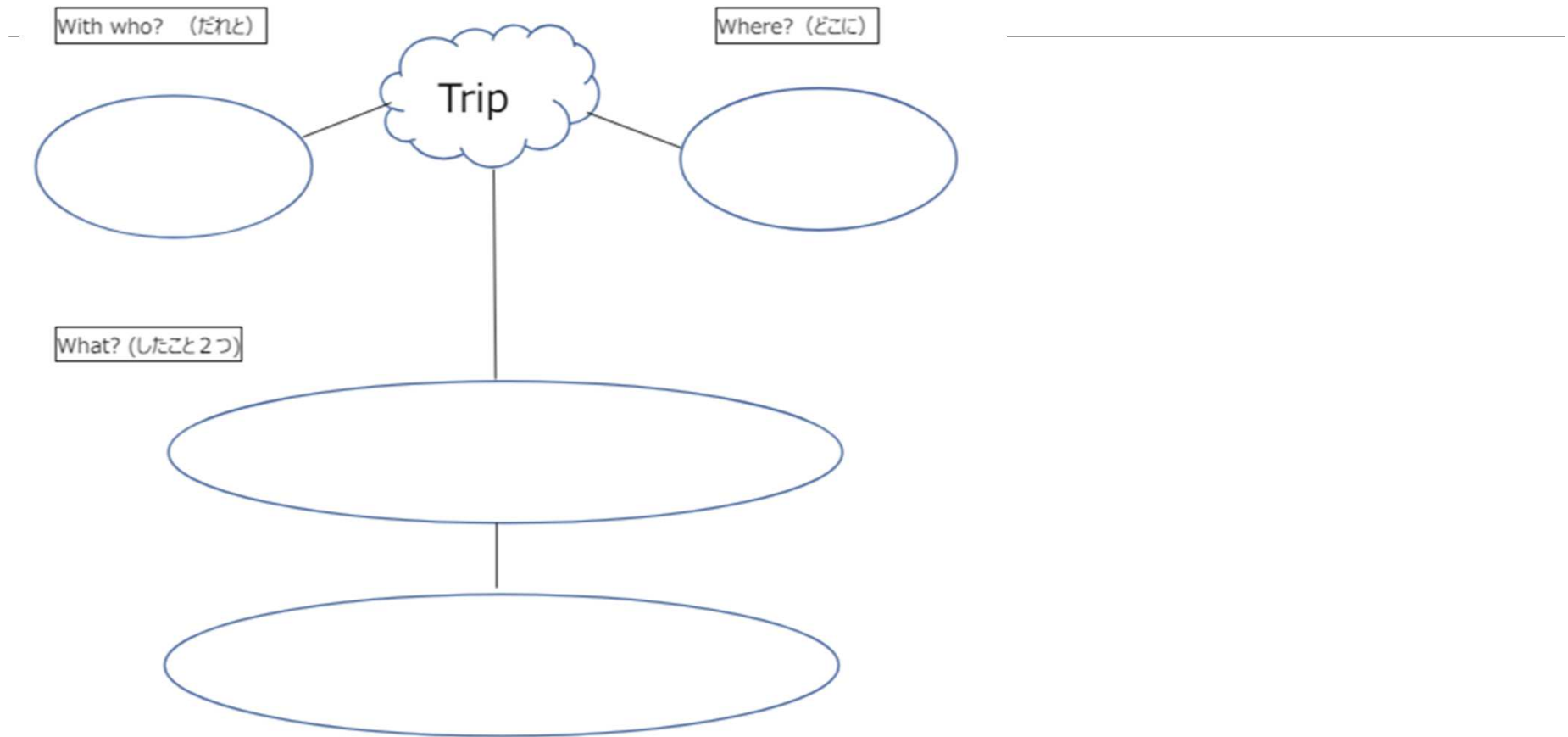
Q4. Did she go to Hakodate?

No, she didn't.

Q5. Did she enjoy the trip?

Yes, she did.

# <Step 2> Think about your last year's trip.





# <step 3> Answer the questions

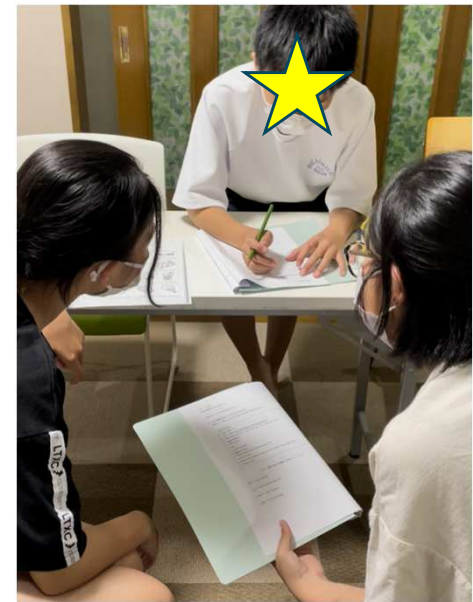
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Q1. Where did you go?

Q2. Who did you go there with?

Q3. What did you do there? (Write two things.)

Q4. Did you enjoy the trip?



## <Step 4> Talk with your classmates!

<Model Dialog>

A&B: Hi, ○○. How are you?

I'm (good/ great/ fine), thank you.

And you?

...

A: Let's talk about last year's trip!

B: OK!

A: Where did you go?

B: I went to Singapore.

A: Oh, you went to Singapore.

(That's nice! / Great!)

Who did you go with?

B: I went there with my family.

A: With your family? I see.

What did you there?

B: Well, ... I ate chicken rice and visited Singapore zoo.

A: Wow, (sounds fun!/ That's great!)

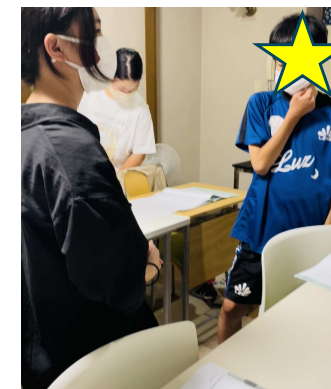
Did you enjoy the trip?

B: Yes, I did. How about you? Where did you go? \*change your role

...


A: Nice talking with you.

B: You, too.



## <Step 4> Fun essay writing

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1. First draft
  2. Peer editing
  3. Second draft
  4. Corrective feedback
  5. Final version
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# Peer editing

<Fun Essay Writing: Peer Editing>

## 【Comments & Questions】

- ◎ ワークシートを交換して、色ペンで書き込みをする。
- 「もっとよく知りたい」: \_\_\_\_\_ more (下線を引いて、moreと書く)
- 「よくわからない」: \_\_\_\_\_? (下線を引いて?と書く)
- 「いいね!」と思った表現: \_\_\_\_\_ ☆ (下線を引いて☆を書く)
- 質問とコメントを書く。

<p>【Comments &amp; Questions】 (From: _____ )</p>	<p>【Comments &amp; Questions】 (From: _____ )</p>
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<p>【Comments &amp; Questions】 (From: _____ )</p> <p>◦ 内容がまとめであって読む方も読んで楽しかった。</p> <p>◦ I ate lunch with my family and my cousin. のところどんたものを食べたのか気になりました。</p> <p>◦ I went to swim の所をあと少し付けたらみていいと思う。 例えば、岐阜のどこで? 泳ぐのかわどか気になりました。</p> <p>◦ とても読んで楽しかったので内容を濃くするとさらに楽しさが増えると思います。</p>	<p>【Comments &amp; Questions】 (From: _____ )</p> <p>◦ 自分の感情や、感じたことなどが入っていて、とても楽しかったということがよく分かっていいと思いました。</p> <p>◦ いいところについてや、きぶんについての説明も入っていて分かりやすくいいねと思いました。</p>
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# AR: How Junior High School Students Improve their Speaking and Writing Skills in English through Focus-on-Form Instruction

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Teaching Context:

- Level: Junior high school (1st year students)
  - Class size: 6 students
  - Time: 60 minutes, 1/week
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- FFI
  - Communication strategies
  - Learner autonomy

# AR results: Speaking skills

1st Speaking Test: 1minute (July 2022)



[0.00.00]↵  
01 Rika (..) hi Sho [0.02.00]↵  
02 Sho hi, Rika (.) how are you [0.05.00]↵  
03 Rika I'm good and you? [0.07.00]↵  
04 Sho I'm fine [0.08.00]↵  
05 Rika (..) what club are you in [0.11.00]↵  
06 Sho (..) I'm (.) I'm on the track and field team [0.17.00]↵  
07 Rika **that's great** (.) when do you practice? [0.21.00]↵  
08 Sho I practice (..) five days a week [0.25.00]↵  
09 Rika **oh I see** [0.26.00]↵  
10 Sho how about you? what (..) what club are you in? [0.31.00]↵  
11 Rika I'm in the brass band [0.33.00]↵  
12 Sho **That's nice.** When do you practice? [0.36.00]↵  
13 Rika I practice five days a week [0.40.00]↵  
14 Sho **me too** (.) what subject do you like [0.44.00]↵  
15 Rika I like technology and home economics [0.47.00]↵  
16 Sho **oh (.) I see** how do you come to school [0.53.00]↵  
17 Rika I come to school (.) by bike [0.57.00]↵  
18 Sho **oh I see** [1.00.00]↵  
19 Rika (.) what subject do you like [1.07.00]↵  
20 Sho (..) I like history [1.10.00]↵  
21 Rika **that's nice** (.) nice talking with you [1.12.00]↵  
22 Sho you too [1.13.00] ↵

↵

## 3rd Speaking Test: 2minutes (February 2023)

[0.00.00]

01 Ken Hi, Remina [0.01.00]

02 Rika Hi, Ken how are you [0.02.00]

03 Ken I'm okay and you [0.03.00]

04 Rika I'm good [0.04.00]

05 Ken (..) what did you go? あ{a, oh} (..) let's talk about last year's

06 trip [0.11.00]

07 Rika Okay [0.12.00]

08 Ken where did you go [0.16.00]

09 Rika well (..) I went to Ishikawa last year [0.21.00]

10 Ken oh you went to Ishikawa? that's nice (..)who did you go there

11 [0.26.00]

12 Rika I went there with my family [0.28.00]

13 Ken oh you went to with your family that's nice (..)え(e, oh)

14 (..)who(..) what did you do there [0.41.00]

15 Rika I went to Ayatoribashi and I went to usagino-sato [0.47.00]

16 Ken sounds (..) sounds fun. (..) did you enjoy the trip? [0.53.00]

17 Rika yes I did (..) how about you. where did you go wi-(..) go.

18 [0.57.00]

19 Ken (..) I went to Fukui [0.59.00]

20 Rika oh you went to Fukui that's nice (..) who did you go with

21 [1.05.00]

22 Ken I went there with my family [1.08.00]

23 Rika oh with your family? I see (..) what did you do there [1.16.00]

24 Ken I (..) went (..) to Tojimbo and I ate kaisendon. [1.25.00]

25 Rika That's great (..) did you enjoy the trip? [1.29.00]

26 Ken yes I did [1.31.00]

27 Rika oh (...) did you eat local food? [1.39.00]

28 Ken yes I did [1.40.00]

29 Rika (..) I see [1.41.00]

30 Ken (..) by the way what do you (..) which do you like season?

31 [1.51.00]

32 Rika well(..) I like (..) spring [1.53.00]

33 Ken oh you like spring that's nice (..) why [1.59.00]

34 Rika I like (..) Sakura [2.04.00]

35 Ken oh you like Sakura that's nice [2.07.00]

36 Rika how about you (..) which do you like season? [2.11.00]

37 Ken I like (..) summer [2.16.00]

38 Rika oh you like summer (..) why [2.19.00]

39 Ken I ate (..) shaved ice [2.24.00]

40 Rika that's nice [2.25.00]

41 Ken nice talking with you [2.26.00]

42 Rika you too [2.27.00]

# AR results : Writing skills

## Sample fun essay writings: My Hero (November 2022)


Name: [REDACTED]

Fun Essay: My Hero



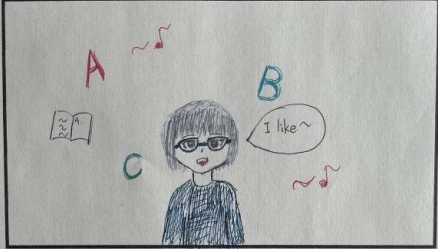
My hero is [REDACTED]  
He is my best friend.  
He lives in Higashiura.  
He is good playing games.  
I enjoy playing games with [REDACTED]  
He likes me  
He plays handball!  
I play handball with [REDACTED]

Fun Essay: My Hero



My hero is [REDACTED]  
He is a soccer player in Aichi.  
He is from Higashiura.  
He likes soccer.  
He is on the soccer team.  
He likes sushi. I like sushi too  
My favorite sport is basketball. but  
I like watching soccer.

Fun Essay: My Hero



My hero is [REDACTED] She is our English teacher.  
She is from Higashiura  
She is good at speaking English  
I look up to her  
She teaches me English  
I want to speak English  
Thanks to her teach

Average: 37.4 words  
Lowest: 35  
Highest: 52




# Sample fun essay writings:

## My Last Year's Trip ( February 2023)

Name: [REDACTED]

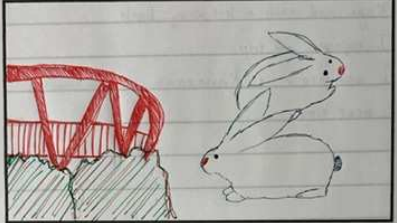
Fun Essay: My Last Year's Trip



I went to Nagano I went there with my family. We saw a beautiful river. There was also a water fall. It was cold there, so I did not swim. We saw a wonderful mountain and I took a picture of it. It was fun. We went to a soba restaurant. It was very popular and there were many people. I ate soba and tempura. It was delicious. I had good memories. I want to go to Nagano again. I want to visit ski area in Nagano next time.

Name: [REDACTED]


Fun Essay: My Last Year's Trip



I went to Ishikawa for two days. I went there with my family. My family and I like traveling very much. I saw Ayatsukushi and maple leaves. The bridge designed by Teshigahara Hironori. It looks like an ayatori railroad. It was beautiful, so I watched it for a long time. I also went to usujinozato. I saw many cute rabbits and touched them. I had a great time there.

Name: [REDACTED]

Fun Essay: My Last Year's Trip



I had a trip to Sizuoka I went there with my family and my cousin. My cousin lives in Moriyama. Sizuoka was very hot, so I wanted to swim there. I swam in the river with my cousin, so I was very happy. I saw many

Average: 87.6 words  
Lowest: 82  
Highest: 97

# References

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