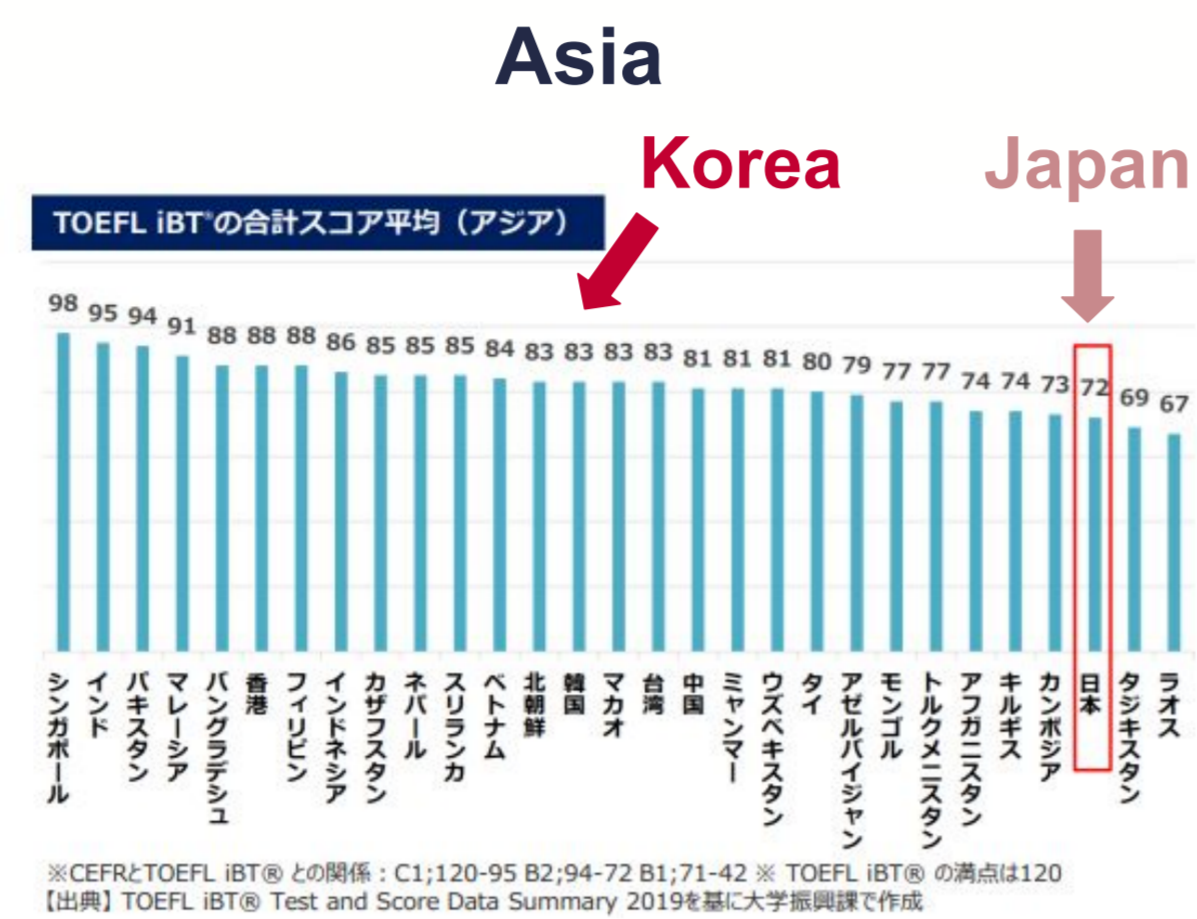
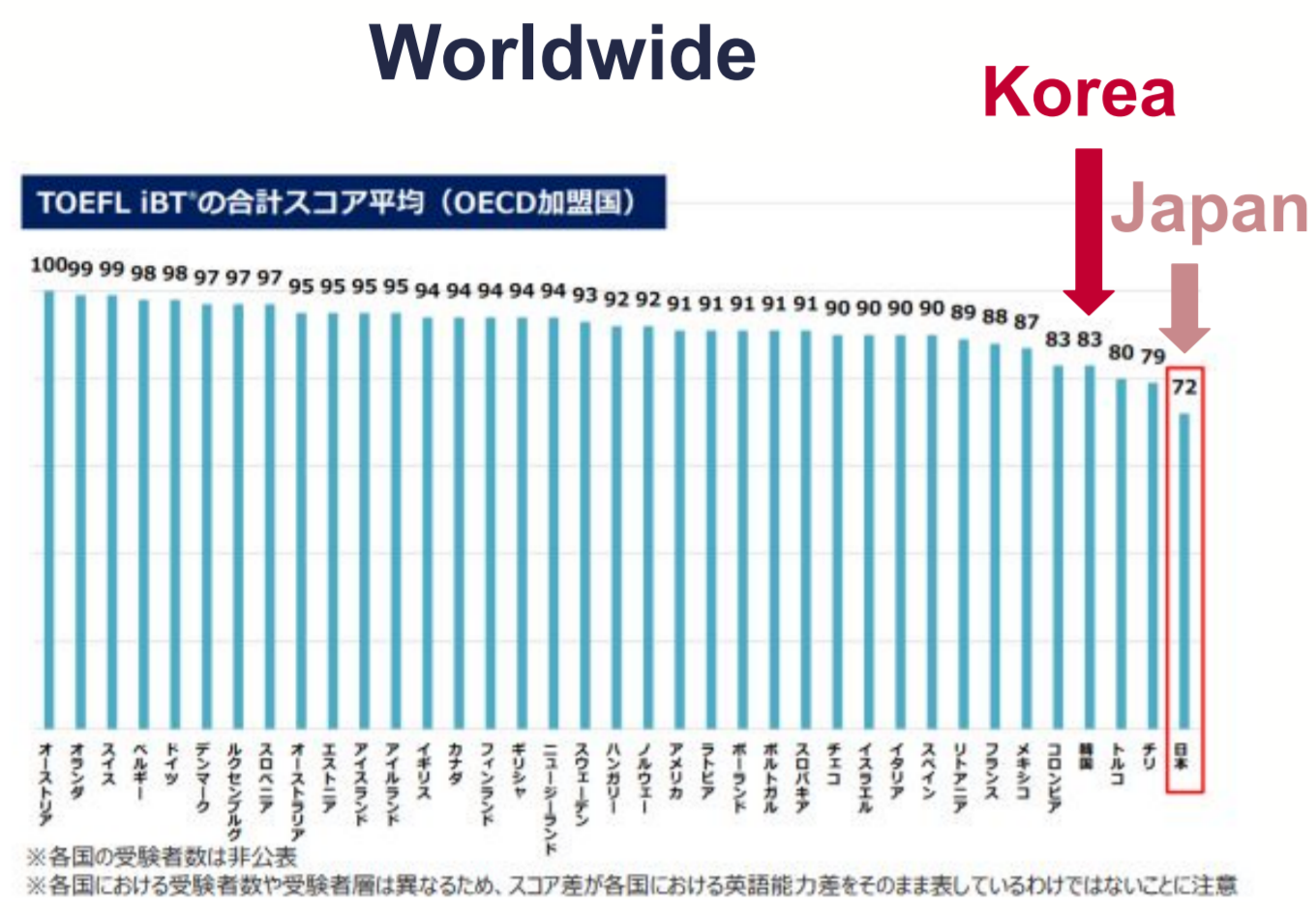


How to make English classes in Japan more practical and efficient: Learning from Korea



W_AL03-1 Tottori Prefectural Yonago Higashi Senior High School

Introduction



(Graph 1: The average score of TOEIC iBT in the world)

(Graph 2: The average score of TOEIC iBT in Asia)

- Korea's score is 10 points higher than Japan's, and it's very close to that of Europe.
- Korea places in the middle, while Japan is almost in last.

However, Korean grammar is pretty similar to Japanese and both countries don't use English as an official language.

The question is: Why is Japan so far behind?

Results

Through research, it became clear that the difference comes from the change in education from about 20 years ago. Through research, the difference was classified into 2 categories; **Education Materials and Teaching Methods.**

	Education Materials	Teaching Methods
Japan	Reading books aloud and watching news and radio shows in English	Learn more advanced English (reading articles and listening to discussion)
Korea	Singing songs and explaining pictures	Learn while having fun (using gestures and interviewing each other)

In terms of time management of classes, in fact, English education had already started about **10 years earlier** in Korea than in Japan.

Time spent in English class in elementary school

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hours (per week)	34	34	68	68	102	102	136	136	

(Figure 1: Korea)

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	1	2	3
Hours (per week)				60	60	60	105	105	105	105	105	105

(Figure 2: Japan)

They changed their education system a few times, but in the present, Koreans spend a lot more time immersing themselves in English in elementary school.

Possible reasons why Japan's English education system doesn't work as well

- Students are reluctant to study English because the level is too high for them.
- Non-interactive classes discourage students from applying what they learn and are really boring.

Conclusion

- Focus more on early English education to increase the English level in Japan.
- Create exciting classes to make students become engaged in English lessons.
- Use IT technology to make more chances for students to talk with ALTs and ease the teacher's workload.
- Increase the hours of English classes in elementary school.

Discussion & Ideas

Learning from Korea, Japan should focus on early English education and create exciting classes to make students familiar with English.

The biggest concern is **the teacher's workload**, especially in elementary school. They need to prepare for and give English classes, regardless of their major. Also, the lack of the number of ALTs is a common problem in both countries.

To solve the problems...

1. Take advantage of technology

Teachers will be able to partly count on native speakers during classes and cut a lot of time preparing for it. This will also enable more students to take ALT's classes.

2. Give students more choices for how they study English.

Students can learn English in many ways online such as playing games, watching movies and singing songs, not just by reading a paper textbook.

People all have their own best way for them to learn.

References

1. 文部科学省「英語教育・日本人対外発信力の改善に向けて(アクションプラン)」- 最終閲覧 2023/12/06
2. 文部科学省「高等学校における教科・科目の現状・課題と今後のあり方について(検討素案)(外国語教育、情報教育)」- 最終閲覧 2023/12/06
3. 김 영호 慶尙大學校「韓國, 日本 및 中國의 英語教育課程 比較」2005 - 最終閲覧 2023/12/06
4. 上野輝夫「小学校英語教育の新しい時代」2017 - 最終閲覧 2023/12/06
5. 前田隆子「小学校での英語教育に関する研究-東アジア諸国の事例と比較して-」2021 - 最終閲覧 2023/12/06
6. Wenyang Sun, University of Utah and Xue Lan Rong, University of North Carolina 「English Education Reform in Asian Countries」2021 - 最終閲覧 2023/12/06