ENGLISH EDUCATION PLAN
FOR LOWER GRADES OF ELEMENTARY
REFORMING THE CORE — AI × PRONUNCIATION

Osaka Prefectural SENRI Senior High School

Introduction

Japan

96th /123rd

according to the EF English Proficiency Index in 2025

➡️

Current English education needs to
be improved
for lower-grade elementary students

Current Education System

English is **not compulsory** in grades 1–2.

Why?

Pronunciation is **not formally taught**.

Hard for teachers to teach

Pronunciation

↓

| Listening |
| Speaking |

| Reading | Writing |

Should pronunciation be taught in grades 1–2?
→Yes

The critical period for language acquisition

Average word-level intelligibility
(percentage of words correctly recognized)

Native speaker	Japanese males	Japanese females
89.2%	49.8%	52.0%

Citation: 峯松 信明 岡部 浩司 シュー ヘンリック 広瀬 啓吉(2005)『米語母語話者を対象とした日本人英語の聞き取り調査』pp. 6.

How to solve?

We think **AI** is effective

➡️ Learning pronunciation improves communication.
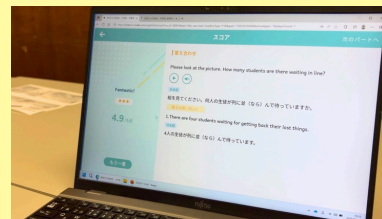
How to solve?

Research Q. Are there any AI apps that have been introduced in schools?

"BASE in OSAKA"

★ practice speaking with AI
★ an app used in Osaka classrooms
★ give feedback and scores on students' pronunciation

However, the number of proposals is limited.

➡️ **Fixed-type AI**

Only pre-programmed solutions can be proposed.

25/08/2025– Visited the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education

Difference between Fixed-type AI and Generative AI

Fixed-type AI Ex: BASE in OSAKA		Generative AI Ex: ChatGPT
limited range of expressions 👎	**Diversity of expression** 👍	unlimited suggestions
more accurate based on programs 👍	**Consistency in grading** 👎	grading criteria are ambiguous
tasks are clear, making it easy to maintain motivation 👍	**Ease of learning** 👎	hard for beginners to continue learning; more appropriate for advanced learners
suitable for building basic skills Ex: Pronunciation, Speaking		helps learners develop practical skills Ex: Practice Conversation

Using an app with these two types of AI will maximize students' potential.

Conclusion &Aspiration

— **Early pronunciation education is essential to build a basement of English.**
— **A blend of Fixed-type AI and Generative AI is effective in raising overall English levels.**
— **We need to demonstrate the effectiveness of AI app with real students.**

References :「EF英語能力指数EF EPI「イー エフ エデュケーション ファースト」EF」、文部科学省「小学校学習指導要領（平成 29 年告示）解説 外国語活動・外国語」、編峯松 信明 岡部 浩司 シュー ヘンリック 広瀬 啓吉(2005)『米語母語話者を対象とした日本人英語の聞き取り調査』pp. 6.