

Give Longer Answers: Unit 1

Overview

Here is a handout that will help your students practice the art of giving longer answers (Golden Rule 2). The task is quite simple: students need to rewrite a dialog containing too many questions and short answers by using only two questions with two long answers. This exercise will help make the point that when speaking English, students need to give longer answers in order to make a better impression. This does not come naturally to many Japanese students because of a natural interference from the typical Japanese style of conversation, which is more tolerant of short answers. The trick to this task is to combine several short answers into two long answers using the vocabulary provided as a guide. There are different ways to go about this, and the students can decide how they want to go about it. Encourage them to add extra *Reacting* expressions and improve the *Closing* in order to increase the friendliness quotient.

The final page of this file contains a model answer which you can use to help mark their papers. Remember that this is just one way of going about it; there are other possibilities. Alternatively, you could provide a photocopy of the model and have students compare their version with it.

If you would like a modifiable copy of this handout (.docx format), please get in touch and I can email it to you: talandis@gmail.com

Good luck! Let me know how it goes.

Jerry Talandis Jr.

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(MODEL ANSWER)

Phil: So, Kenji, where are you from?

Kenji: I'm from Tokyo, from Akabane. It's near Ikebukuro.

Phil: Oh, I see.

Kenji: But I live in Kyoto Prefecture now, in Uji.

Phil: Oh, Uji. Right! So, what's your major?

Kenji: I'm majoring in physics.

Phil: Oh really? Wow, that sounds difficult!

Kenji: Yeah, but it's interesting. I'm a first year student in the Science faculty.

Phil: Okay! Well, I gotta run. It was nice meeting you!

Kenji: Good to meet you, too. See you later!

Phil: Take care! Good luck with your studies.

Kenji: Thanks! You, too.