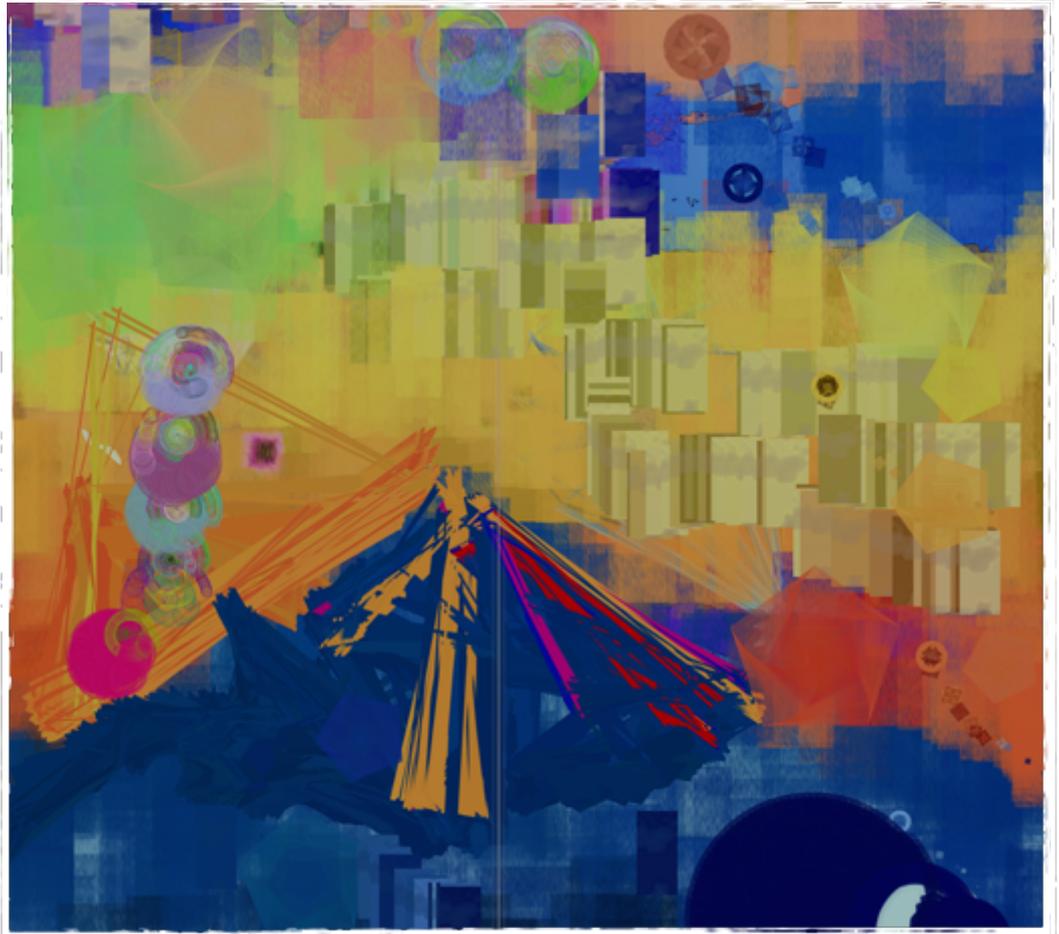


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Between Keys



A publication of the JALT Materials Writers Special Interest Group

The Materials Writers SIG was established for the purpose of helping members to turn fresh teaching ideas into useful classroom materials. We try to be a mutual assistance network, offering information regarding copyright law, sharing practical advice on publishing practices, including self-publication, and suggesting ways to create better language learning materials for general consumption or for individual classroom use.

WWW.MATERIALSWRITERS.ORG



Shift key_

Marcus Grandon and Adam Murray

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new, content-delivery format in *Between the Keys*. In the age and spirit of online video and podcasts, this issue contains the inaugural release of what we hope will be a continuing series of multimedia productions for our community. Over the past few months, our SIG has sponsored conferences and presentations throughout Japan. Unfortunately, it is impossible for many SIG members to attend these conferences due to other commitments. As such, we've arranged permissions with these presenters to record these SIG-sponsored presentations, and we are now proud to begin releasing these recordings thereby making it possible for our members who were unable to attend these conferences to also benefit. We call it Shift key_.

In this issue, Shift key_ features a featured talk by Barbara Hoskins Sakamoto. This talk will be available in several formats. First, we combine the audio with her PowerPoint slides and post it on YouTube for those members who prefer to see the slides while listening. At the same time, we make the audio-only portion of the talk available for those who might prefer to listen while on the go.

Shift key_ is very much a work in progress. While we are aware of the multitude of hosting and downloading options for these digital files, please bear with us as we discover which delivery format works best for our members. Any help or suggestions are welcome. In the meantime, we do hope that you enjoy our first release of Shift key_.

Mandates, Myths, and the Bananarama Principle

Barbara Hoskins Sakamoto (International Teacher Development Institute)

Teachers of our youngest learners face some of the biggest teaching challenges -- inadequate professional support and training, government mandates based more on wishful thinking than research, and parents are enrolling their children in English classes at younger ages than ever before. We'll look at research and classroom practice around the world to see what actually works, what doesn't, and why successful foreign language education for children should matter to all teachers.



Barbara Hoskins Sakamoto holds a US English teaching license and an MATESOL, and has taught Language Arts, ESL, and EFL. Barbara is co-author of one of the world's best-selling course book series for children learning English, Let's Go (Oxford University Press), co-author of the online course, English for Teachers (International Teacher Development Institute), and author of the chapter, 'The role of technology in early years language education', in Early Years Second Language Education (Routledge, 2015). She is an English Language Specialist with the United States State Department, and is Course Director for International Teacher Development Institute (iTDi.pro). Barbara has been invited to give keynote and plenary talks at a number of international conferences, and has conducted teacher training workshops in Asia, Europe, and the Americas. She has conducted courses and teacher training online. Her webinars are always popular with teachers around the world.

The complete talk is available on YouTube @ <https://youtu.be/nghvYhBhXBs>



The audio file (mp3) is here: <http://www.materialswriters.org/betweenthekeys/Sakamoto.mp3>