

The job interview: Teacher's notes

Time: 1 Hour

Skills: Speaking, reading, listening

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Age: Teenage to Adult

Number: From 9 to 11 Students

Materials needed: Job advertisement and character cards.

Procedure:

Warmer:

In this lesson students role play a job interview. There are seven character cards (one for the employer and six for job seekers) and a job advertisement.

To introduce the lesson to the students, first ask them about jobs, specifically what kind of job they have or hope to have. Then ask them about where they can find job advertisements and how people in their country would go about applying for a job.

Main activity:

Once you've got the students thinking about how people look for jobs, show them the fictional advert for a Head Chef in a Korean restaurant in Sydney, Australia. Go over the vocabulary in the ad, explaining what a Head Chef is, then get the students into groups to brainstorm what type of person the employer might be looking for (hard-working - yes, but what else? Dirty? Lazy? Efficient? Creative?). Then ask them to come up with some questions an employer might ask a job seeker and some questions a job seeker might ask an employer.

Once the students have some English vocabulary around the job and an idea about what information they are after (this is very useful if your students are teenagers who have never worked), then give them their role cards. Usually I try to give the students who speak better English the job seeker roles, but more outgoing students tend to enjoy this role, even without good English skills. Give the remaining students the role of employer. Try to get two to five students in the employer role.

Explain to the students that they are either the employers or the job seekers and give them about fifteen minutes to either:

A) Employers: Get together and brainstorm questions to ask for the interview, using the questions on the board as a kind of springboard.

B) Job Seekers: Go over their character and find their strengths and weaknesses for the job. For teenage students again, it's a good idea to remind them that although they cannot lie, they can emphasize their strengths and that they also don't have to say their weaknesses if they are not asked.

Once the students are prepared, get the employers to sit in a panel at the front of the class and a job seeker to sit in front of the panel. This can be nerve-wracking for them,

which is why I prefer the more confident students to be job seekers and only do it with classes who are comfortable together. Before the interviews start, explain to the employers and job seekers that it is the students who are the employers that choose the person who gets the job, not the teacher. Teenagers in the employer role really respond to this responsibility and often take notes during their interviews.

One by one the job seekers are interviewed by the employers, asking any questions that they want to. The job seeker is also permitted to ask questions if they can and want to.

After the interviews are finished, give the employers time to decide which job seeker gets the job. If time permits, allow them to call any job seeker(s) they want back for a second interview. At the end, the employers pick one successful job seeker with a brief explanation as to why that person was given the job over the others.

End Note: I chose a Korean Restaurant in Australia because I am from Australia, my students were Korean and a restaurant seemed like a logical place where the two cultures would meet. It is possible to transfer this idea to other countries and other jobs.

The job interview: Job advert

Chef Wanted

Are you an experienced Chef in Korean Cuisine?
Are you a hard-working, ambitious person, ready to be a
Head Chef in a famous Korean restaurant?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you are in
luck. *Pungduck Dong Does Korea* is seeking an
experienced Chef to fill their position of Head Chef.

All applicants must speak fluent English and Korean and
must have the right to work in Australia.

Please call 02 2803 7653 to arrange an interview.

The job interview: Role cards

Employer Card

You are the owner of a Korean Restaurant in Sydney. You need to employ an experienced Korean Head Chef to work in your kitchen. The prerequisites for this position are:

- 1) Must have at least 2 years' experience as a chef because the person will be in charge of the kitchen.
- 2) Must speak fluent English and Korean.
- 3) Must have recognized training in preparing Korean food from a reputable cooking academy.
- 4) Must be looking for a long-term position.
- 5) Must be able to work in Australia.

Desirable qualities (preferred but not essential) are:

- 1) Should possess leadership qualities in character, experience in a leadership role desirable.
- 2) Should have experience working in a Korean restaurant.
- 3) Should be organised, efficient, punctual and hard-working.
- 4) Should be able to build good relationships with co-workers.

Jobseeker 1 (Male)

Your name is Tim Chung and you are an experienced Korean chef. You are 55 years old. You have been living in Sydney since you were ten and learnt to cook Korean food from your mother and then from the Sydney school of Korean Cuisine. You used to own your own Korean restaurant in Sydney's south side but you sold it, because you are getting older. You are hoping to retire in ten years. You speak English better than Korean but still speak Korean well. You are an Australian citizen.

Jobseeker 2 (Female)

Your name is Han Eun Hwang and you are 30. You are Korean and are in Australia on a 2 year work visa. You are from Busan and worked in a Korean restaurant in Busan for ten years before you came over to Australia. You studied Korean Cuisine at the Seoul Centre for Culinary Arts. In the Korean restaurant, your job was Second Chef and you left the job because you want to be a Head Chef. You are hoping to get a job in Australia so you can extend your visa and move to Sydney permanently.

Jobseeker 3 (Male)

Your name is Peter McDonald and you are 35. You are a Canadian who has been fascinated with Korean food since teaching English in Korea. You learnt to cook Korean food formally at the Toronto College of Cuisine and have worked in a Korean restaurant in Toronto for 5 years. For 2 of the 5 years you were the Head Chef there. You left the job however, because you had an argument with the restaurant owner over the menu. You decided to move to Australia because it is warmer and you want to work here for at least a year. You're not sure if you are going to move permanently yet. You speak English as a first language and studied Korean in Korea for two years.

Jobseeker 4 (Female)

Your name is Tina Kim and you are a college graduate from Korean Cuisine College of Melbourne. You are 24. You are ambitious and want to work as a Head Chef in a Korean restaurant but don't have experience. You worked at the Melbourne Casino whilst at College as a kitchen hand for two years. You are an Australian citizen but you were born in Korea. You have moved to Sydney from Melbourne with your boyfriend for his job. You speak fluent Korean and English. Your boss at the Casino praised your hard-work and dedication.

Jobseeker 5 (Male)

Your name is Kim Ra Son and you are Korean. You are 37 years old and have married an Australian woman. You have moved to Australia permanently. In Korea, you worked at a restaurant called 'The Outback' which is how you met your wife. You worked as a head chef there for ten years and had good relationships with all of your co-workers. You speak fluent Korean but your English is still not very good. You are taking English as a Second Language classes at Sydney University and your wife helps you to study English. You studied Korean food at Daegu Food College and worked for two years in a Korean restaurant before getting the job as the Head Chef at 'The Outback'

Jobseeker 6 (Female)

Your name is Anna King. You are an Australian from Brisbane. You are 31 years old. You've loved Korean food ever since you tried it at age ten and studied at the Seoul Academy for Chefs when you were 22. You hope to open your own Korean restaurant one day but are still saving up the money. You worked as a Second Chef in a Korean restaurant for 5 years and then as a Head Chef in the same restaurant for 4 years. You left your job though when your husband and you decided to move to Sydney to buy a house together. You are now looking for a job to save money to buy your own Korean restaurant. You speak English well but Korean not so well. Still, you know all of the Korean food words perfectly and picked up a fair bit of Korean whilst studying in Seoul. You are willing to study Korean as a Second Language at Sydney University.