

# Boosting Student Engagement Through Interactive Learning

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## **Presentation Overview**

1. Introduction
2. What is Learner Engagement? (Theory)
3. Four Aspects of Learner Engagement (Theory)
4. Watching a Recorded Demo Lesson (Practical Application)
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# Introduction

## About Me

- Name : Takashi Nomura
- School : Waseda Shibuya Senior High School in Singapore
- Role : Head of English Language Department
- Experience : 20 years at this school

## About Our School

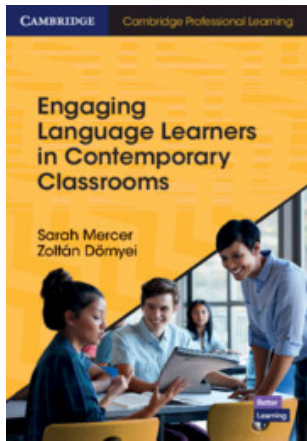
- Total Number of Students : 330
- Grades : G10, 11, 12 (about 110 students each)
- Nationality : 99% Japanese

## About Our English Classes

- English Proficiency
    - CEFR A2 – C1
  - Class Structure
    - General English : 24 students per class / 4 or 5 levels
    - Conversation Classes : 3–4 students per class /10 levels
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# What is Learner Engagement?

- A growing concept in English education in Japan
  - Key References
    - Mercer & Dörnyei (2020)
    - Hiromori (2024)
    - Featured in *English Teachers' Magazine*



- Engagement = Motivation + Action
  - Students need to act, not just feel motivated

# Four Aspects of Learner Engagement

## 1. Behavioral Engagement

- Participation in class (attendance, homework, discussions)

## 2. Cognitive Engagement

- Using thinking skills (summaries, questions)

## 3. Emotional Engagement

- Feelings, motivation, enjoyment

## 4. Social Engagement

- Collaboration, teamwork, support
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# Watching a Recorded Demo Lesson

<b>Students</b>	: Grade 8 and Grade 9 (Junior High School Year 2 & 3)
<b>Event</b>	: Demo Lesson for Prospective Students
<b>Student English Level:</b>	CEFR A2, Eiken Pre-2
<b>Topic</b>	: A local attraction in Singapore; Bird Paradise
<b>Materials</b>	: A local English Newspaper; the Straits Times
<b>Classroom Language</b>	: Japanese and English
<b>Lesson Duration</b>	: 35 minutes
<b>Teacher-Student Relationship</b>	: Meeting for the first time
<b>Highlights</b>	: Pre-reading Activity : Photo Description Task : Building the Foundation : Summary Task
<b>Lesson Material</b>	: The following pages

# Bird Paradise launches breeding centre, offers 1) Glamping with the Penguins



A Glamping with the Penguins experience allows guests to spend a night at the park's Penguin Cove in bell tents.

[1] SINGAPORE – 2) Bird Paradise in Mandai has launched (=started) a new breeding and research centre as well as a two-day, one-night glamping experience with 3) penguins.

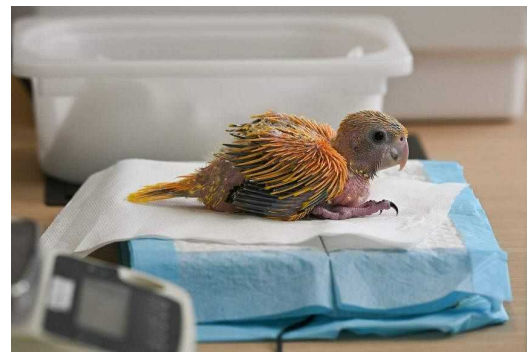
[2] These new features were unveiled (=shown for the first time) at the park's grand opening on Wednesday, six months after its soft opening in May.

[3] The 17ha park – the size of about 24 football fields – has so far received more than 600,000 Singapore and international 4) visitors, said Mandai Wildlife Group, which manages the park.

[4] At the 5) breeding and research centre next to the Winged Sanctuary, guests can witness 6) chicks being raised by hand in the nursery. Raising chicks by hand maximises their chances of survival and involves keepers building a close

relationship with them in ways similar to parental care.

[5] The centre will offer visitors a behind-the-scenes peek into how the park cares for its birds. One of its aims is to increase the 7) population of critically endangered bird species.



[6] Also making its debut is a Glamping with the Penguins experience that allows guests, for the first time, to spend a 8) night at the park's Penguin Cove in glamping bell 9) tents. The cove is three times bigger than the penguin exhibit at Jurong Bird Park.

[7] The two-day, one-night experience is designed for families of four, who will be able to wind down [=relax] with the penguins, watch a Southern Lights showcase screened at the exhibit, and go on guided tours of the aviaries and other facilities such as the park's avian [=bird] hospital.

Current Affairs HEADLINE: Bird Paradise launches breeding centre, offers Glamping with the Penguins

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I Answers

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

II Summary of the Article (Use as many above words as possible!)

III Your Opinions / Ideas





Name \_\_\_\_\_

I Answers

1 Glamping	2 Bird	3 penguins
4 visitors	5 breeding	6 chicks
7 population	8 night	9 tents

II Summary of the Article (Use as many above words as possible!)

III Your Opinions / Ideas

# How to Boost Engagement

## 1. Behavioral Engagement; Participation in class

- **Physical Environment**
  - Arranged desks for better focus
- **Psychological Safety**
  - Created a safe atmosphere to share ideas freely

## 2. Cognitive Engagement; Using thinking skills

- **Summarizing Task**
  - Students summarize a newspaper article in their own words

## 3. Emotional Engagement; Feelings, motivation, enjoyment

- **Familiar Topics**
  - Used Singapore's Bird Park to get students interested

## 4. Social Engagement; Collaboration, teamwork, support

- **Pair Work**
    - Students practice with partners, support each other
  - **Student Ideas**
    - Students share ideas to shape the lesson
    - Realize their voices matter
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## Conclusion

- Learner Engagement = More than motivation
- We should encourage real engagement in the classroom
- Key points to consider:
  1. The physical and psychological learning environment
  2. Interesting topics that students can relate to
  3. Tasks that are slightly challenging
  4. Collaboration and student contribution

## Key References

- Mercer, S., & Dörnyei, Z. (2020). Engaging language learners in contemporary classrooms. Cambridge University Press. (鈴木章能・和田玲訳(2022)『外国語学習者エンゲージメント — 主体的学びを引き出す英語授業』アルク)
- 廣森友人(2024)『エンゲージメントを促す英語授業—やる気と行動をつなぐ新しい動機づけ概念』大修館書店
- 専門雑誌 英語教育 The English Teachers' Magazine  
November 2022 第3特集「エンゲージメント」とは  
June 2024 第2特集 エンゲージメントを促す英語授業

## Thank You!

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