

## **A Class Report: The Use of American Sitcoms to Teach English**

**Motoko Fukaya**

(Seikei University)

In this report, I will present how to use sitcoms in elementary-level English classes, based on my experience using the American sitcom, "Full House."

I first used "Full House" in an elementary-level English class for college students in 1998. Since then, I have taught sitcom-based English classes to the elementary-level students for eight years, and have introduced many activities such as dictation, shadowing, composition, and role-playing into class. The aims of this type of class are firstly, to have the students get used to the pronunciation, intonation and speaking-speed of colloquial English, and to develop their listening ability. Secondly, to review grammar and build up vocabulary needed for daily conversation. And finally, to let them discover how American ways of living and thinking are different from their own. After eight years of experience using sitcoms, most students I taught enjoyed this class and found that English is not only a subject to study, but also a tool for communication. After taking this class, many students told me that, at first, they had not expected that they could enjoy learning English but they did. These reactions to my class suggest that using sitcoms is effective in teaching and learning English.

Though I have no statistics to prove the effectiveness of this method, the students can be active learners and many of them have actually shown improvement both in attitude and use of English, judging from the end-of-year surveys. There is room for improvement in this method. Issues such as instructions on shadowing and role-playing, and a better system of evaluation need to be addressed. I would like to hear any advice or suggestions from the audience.