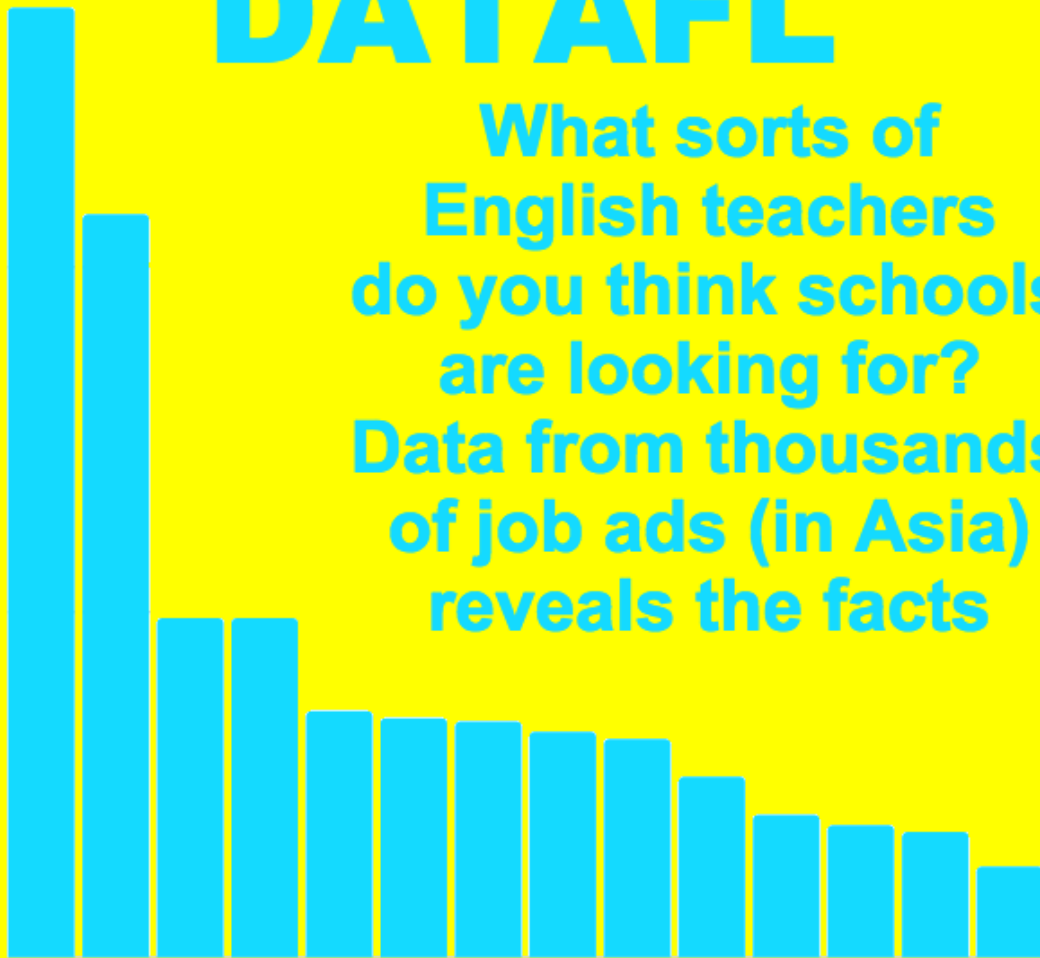


DATA on

TEFL IN ASIA


DATAFL

What sorts of English teachers do you think schools are looking for? Data from thousands of job ads (in Asia) reveals the facts



*Written and collected
by
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ESLinsider



And this might not surprise you if you are an “experienced” teacher.

Are you looking for a job teaching English in East Asia? Do you want to know what schools/employers there really want?

My interest in doing this probably started with the fact that I hear many TEFL course providers [lie](#) and say that TEFL courses are required in ____ (insert country).

For me this wasn't really surprising, but it's cool to actually see some data.

So how did I get this data?

I did a combination of command "f" on a Mac to find the count of keywords on a page (when there were multiple job ads on a page) and sometimes a count of the Google search results by using a search operator like:

site:somewebsite.com “keyword goes here and don't forget the quotation marks because these make a difference”

Towards the end I will tell you how you can use this info to help.

Four countries were examined.

- China
- Korea
- Japan
- Taiwan

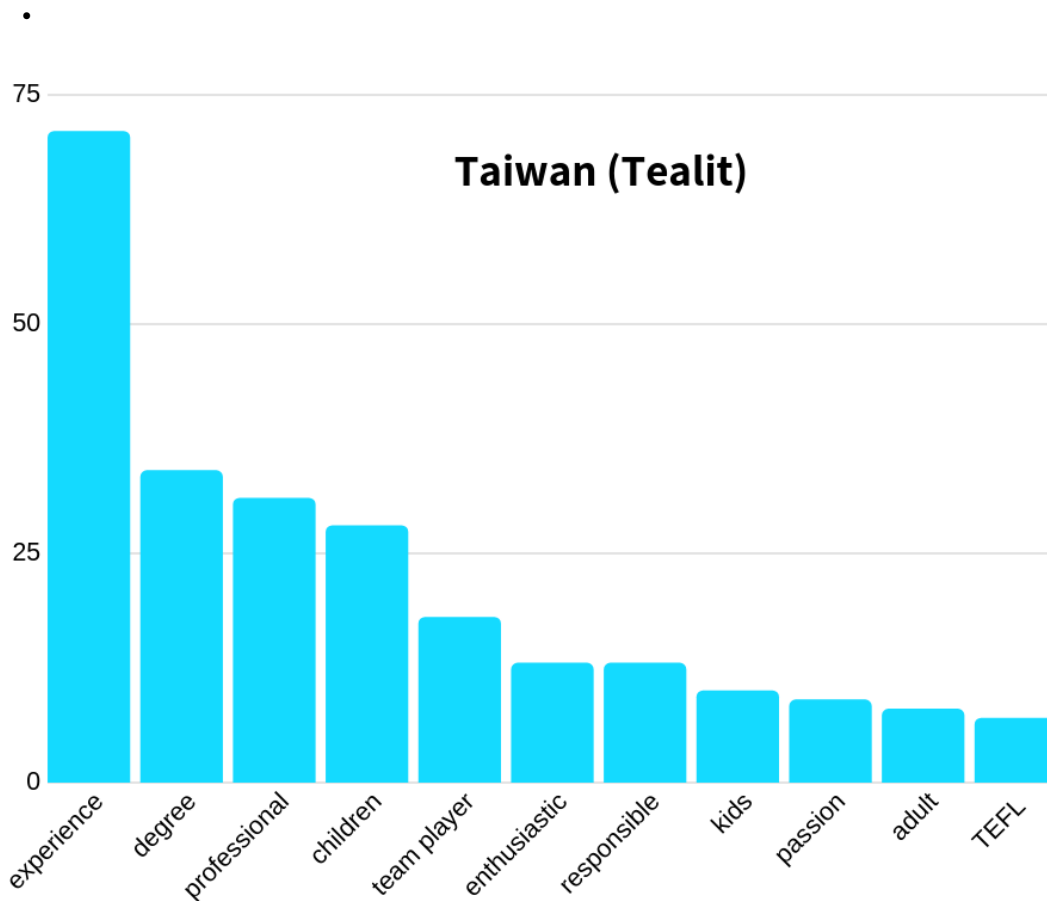
I didn't usually search for keywords like “degree” or “native speaker” as those are often required for your visa and were often not mentioned. The keyword "children" meant they were looking for someone to teach children or if it was "adults" then that was

noted.

And below the word "TEFL" is short for TEFL or TESOL certificate.

So...

What do employers in Taiwan want?



These are some of the most common words employers used on Tealit.com on 02/19/2018-11/27/2017. These were based on only 50 job posts.

The number represents how many times it was placed on the page.

- experience 71
- degree 34

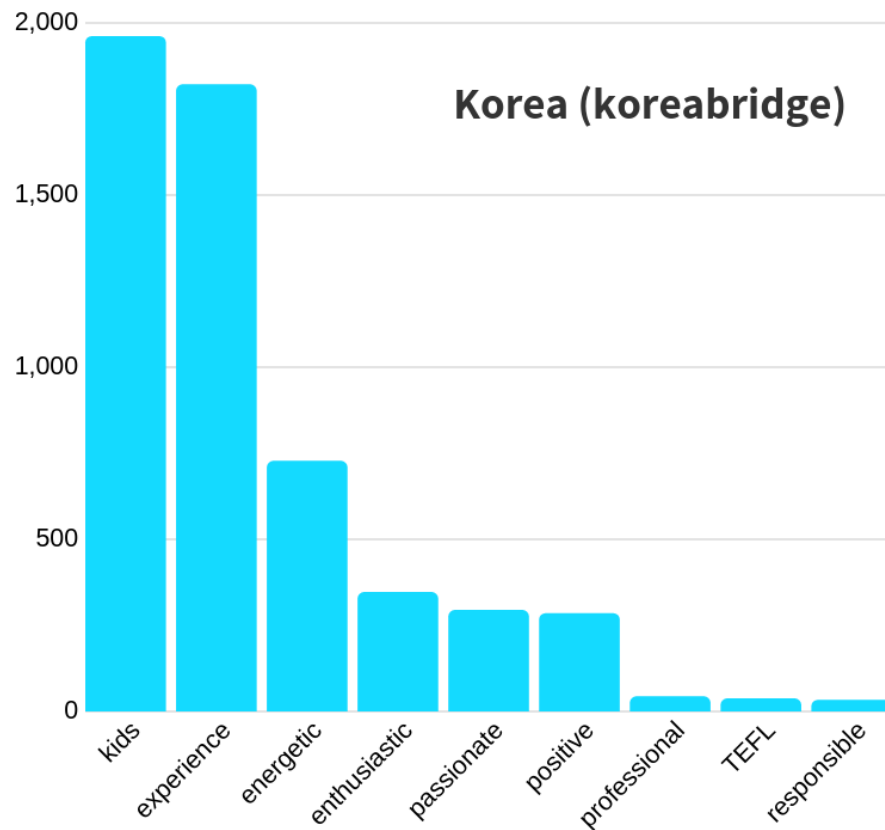
- professional 31
- children 28 (i.e, working with children)
- team 18 (join our "team" or "team" player)
- enthusiastic 13
- responsible 13
- kids 10
- passion 9
- adult 8
- tefl certificates 7 (preference)
- patient 7
- positive 6
- criminal background check 4
- teaching demo 4
- teaching license 6
- chinese ability 0 (compare that to Ohayosensei in Japan below)

I only counted the word "degree" here and one other time. A degree is pretty much a given [requirement to teach English in Asia](#).

Related:

- [What's it like to teach in Taiwan?](#)
- [How to get a job teaching in Taiwan](#)

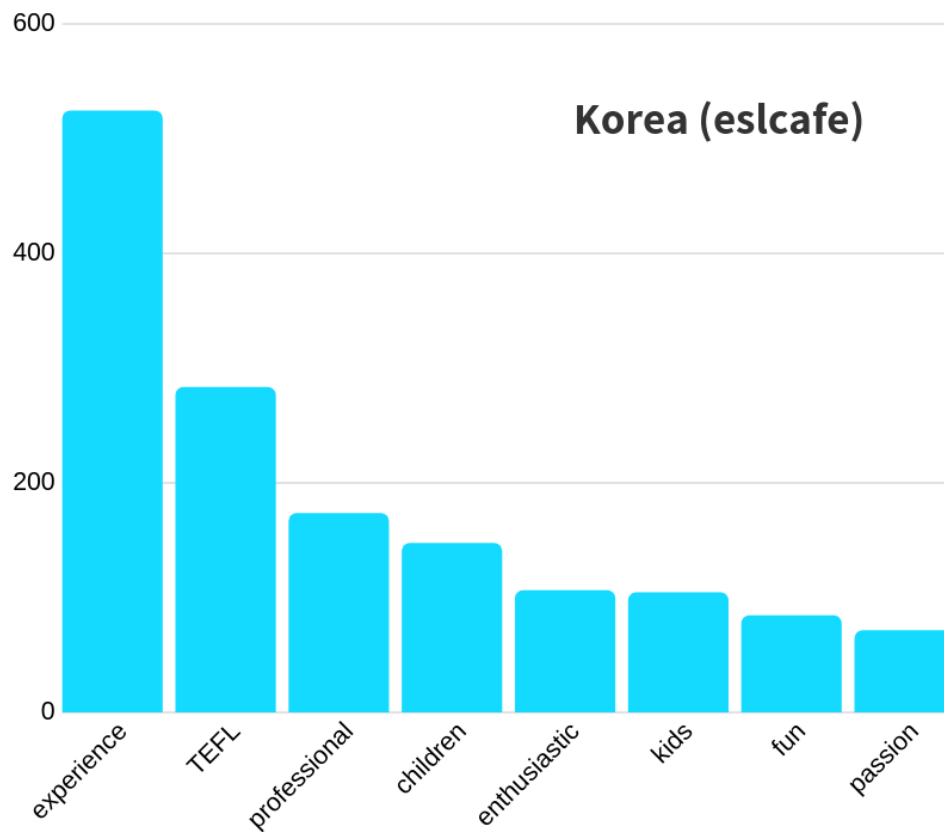
What do employers/schools in Korea want?



These numbered search results were taken from Google on Feb. 19, 2018 using the keyword and the following search operator:

site:koreabridge.net/jobs "keywords below go here"

- kids 1,960 results
- experience 1,820
- energetic 726
- enthusiastic 345
- passionate 293
- positive 284
- professional 42
- tefl 36
- responsible 32



site:eslcafe.com/jobs/korea "keywords below go here"

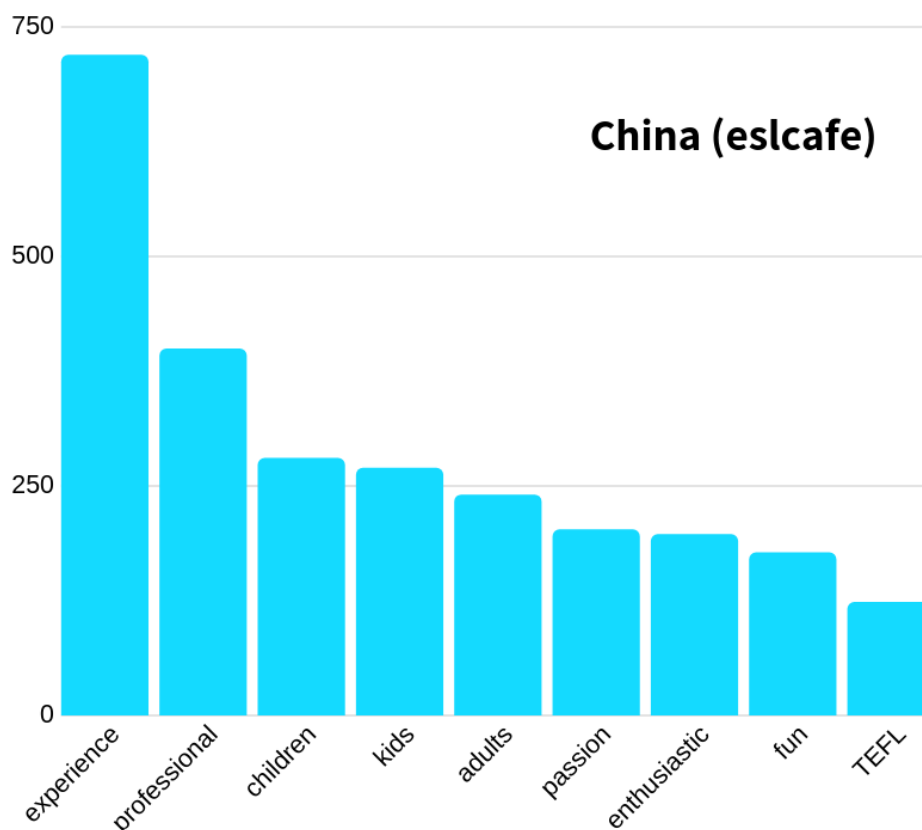
- experience 524
- tefl 283
- professional 173
- kids 104 children 147
- enthusiastic 106
- fun 84
- passion 71
- responsible 56
- energetic 52
- friendly 52
- passionate 35

Related:

- [What's it like to teach in Korea?](#)
- [How to get a job teaching in Korea](#)

What do employers want in China?

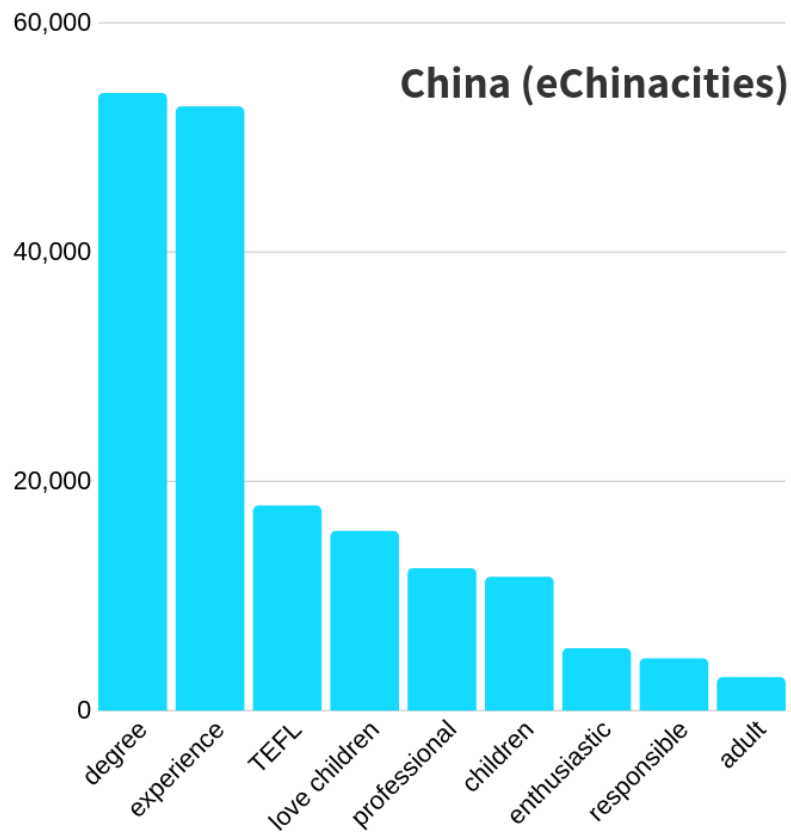
For this I searched 2 sites: eslcafe.com via Google and eChinacities.



site:eslcafe.com/jobs/china "keywords below go here"

- experience 719
- professional 399

- kids 269 children 280
- adults 240
- passion 202
- enthusiastic 197
- fun 177
- tefl certificate 123
- energetic 99
- responsible 91
- no experience 44



eChinacities

The below results were found by site search on jobs.echinacities.com, "teaching jobs".

- degree 53,836

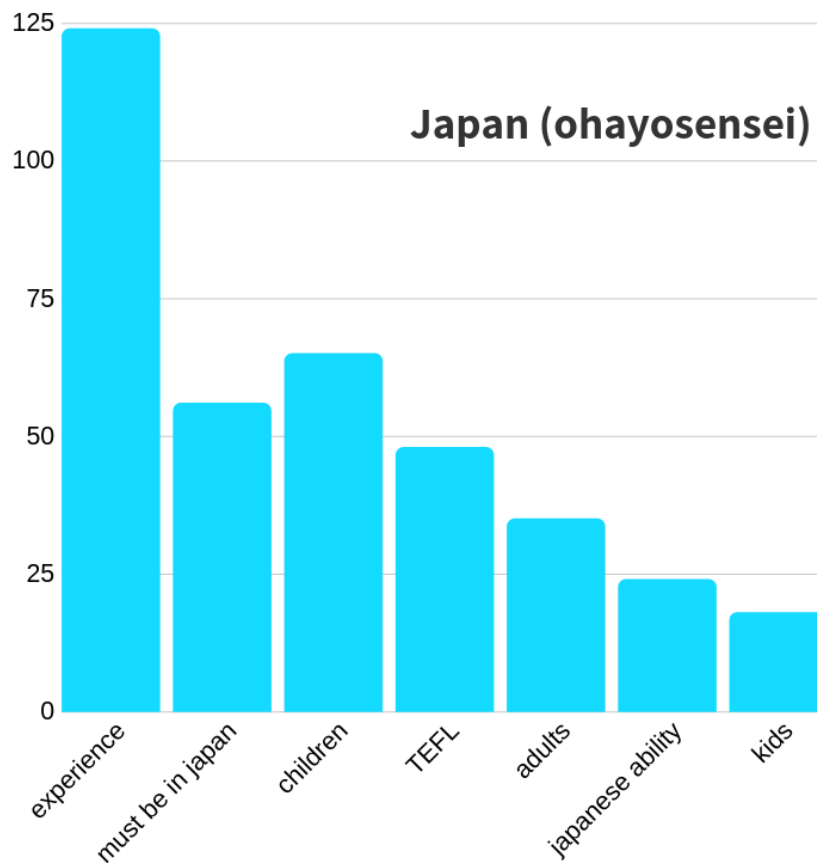
- experience 52,654
- TEFL cert 17,837
- love children 15,621
- professional 12,377
- children 11,621
- enthusiastic 5,385
- responsible 4,516
- adult 2,864
- fun 2,443
- passion 2,236
- creative 1,521

Related:

- [What's it like to teach in China?](#)
- [How to get a job teaching English in China](#)

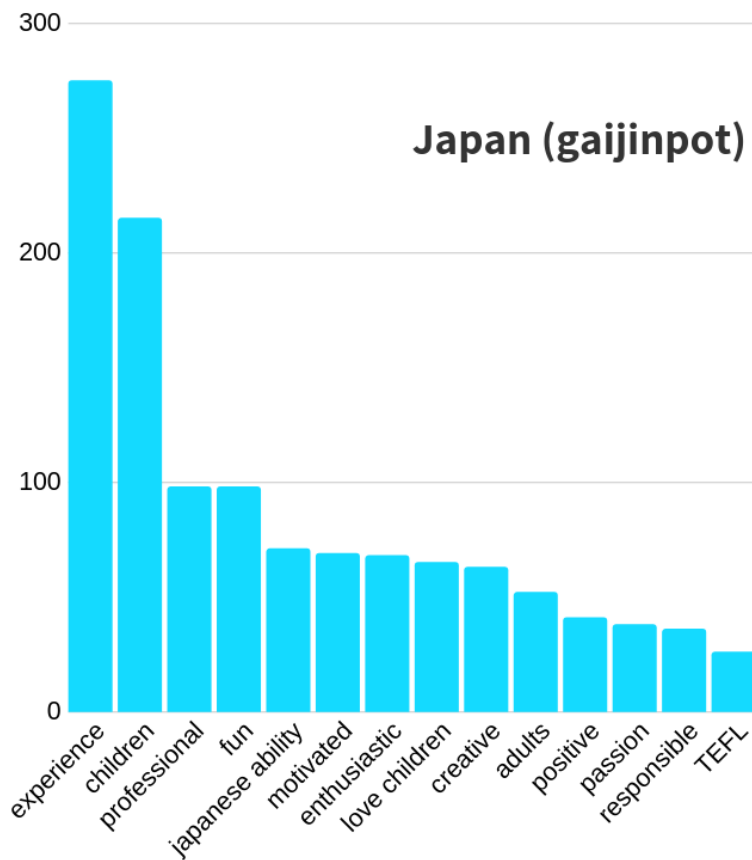
What do employers in Japan want?

This one and the Taiwan one are possibly the most accurate as all the job posts were on one page, so I could easily find and see the keywords and get a direct count.



ohayosensei.com Feb 19, 2018

- experience 124
- no experience 0
- children 65 kids 18
- adults 35
- responsible 0
- tefl certification 48
- professional 1
- enthusiasm 1
- japanese ability 24
- must currently reside in japan 56



jobs.gaijinpot.com education/teaching Jan. 19-Feb 19, 2018

- experience 275
- children 215
- professional 98
- fun 98
- japanese ability 71
- motivated 69
- enthusiastic 68
- love children 65
- creative 63
- adults 52
- positive 41

- passion 38
- responsible 36
- tefl 26

Related:

- [What's it like to teach English in Japan?](#)
- [How to get a job teaching in Japan](#)

Final tallies

How accurate is this?

It's not extremely accurate for a few reasons.

1. Some of the words here were not necessarily used in the same sense. For example, the keyword "enthusiastic" is a pretty common quality that schools are searching for in a teacher, but the word can also be used in a different way like the school could say we are "enthusiastic" about making learning English fun.
2. Some results may include multiple postings by the same school or [recruiter](#) which inflates the keywords mentioned in that post.
3. Some keywords may have multiple meanings. For example, most schools want "experience" but a smaller percentage may accept teachers with "no experience".
4. I didn't search for all of the same exact keywords on every site which resulted in some differences.

Here is a list of keywords found in job advertisements from most to least popular.

- experience 56,187
- tefl cert 18,070 (-17,000 for China)

- love children 15,686
- professional 13,121
- children 12,356
- enthusiastic 5,770
- responsible 4,744
- adults 3,199
- fun 2,802
- passion 2,556
- kids 2,361
- creative 1,584
- energetic 877
- passion 328
- positive 290
- japanese ability 95
- motivated 69
- must currently reside in japan 56
- no experience 44

What can you gather from this?

Schools prefer teachers with [experience](#), however there are a few schools that have stated above that they accept teachers with "no experience".

Most of the jobs in East Asia are for teaching children. According to the numbers above there were 30,000 plus mentions of children, kids, etc. vs. 3,000+ mentions of adults.

So according to those numbers there are possibly **10 times as many jobs teaching children than there are adults.**

Do you like teaching children?

That's a common question employers will ask. If you have experience teaching children or just like teaching children then put that on your resume.

Use these words in your writing and interview if...

If these words apply to you and the position you are applying to then you can use them on your resume/cover letter and or in your interview.

- experience
- professional
- children (love)
- enthusiastic
- responsible
- fun
- passionate
- creative
- energetic

And if they don't then try to find a job that may suit you better.

Differences in the countries

There weren't many, but there were a few.

- TEFL certification is in greater demand in China than it is in other Eastern Asian countries.
- Most schools in Japan and Taiwan hire in country.
- Some schools in Japan require some Japanese ability which is uncommon in other countries in Asia.
- Teaching demos are more common in Taiwan and China than other countries.

Related:

- [Where should you teach English in Asia?](#)
- Those are the common preferences, but keep in mind that there are often [unsaid preferences](#) too.

- [Online TEFL training geared towards teaching kids in Asia.](#)

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