

Week One

*There is no reason why that
next job can't be yours.
It is simply that easy*

Scan the Jobs Market

Before we get too serious about things like passports, resumes and other details of life, let's go ahead and fantasize a little bit. Scan this jobs feed with great jobs around the world including China, Thailand, Korea and much more: [EFL Jobs Worldwide](#)

Scan this big jobs list at Dave's ESL Café

— for all International Jobs except Korea and China: [International Jobs](#)

For Korea: [Click Here](#)

For China: [Click Here](#)

Realize that the people who will fill those jobs are just like you. Shortly they will be overseas living in and exploring the world and other cultures, traveling and often saving good money and/or paying off debts and student loans.

There is no reason why that next job can't be yours. It is simply that easy.

Now we can go back a few paragraphs and draw a line through fantasize and change that to *plan*.

This eBook is your plan.

Let's go!

Week Three

Organize Your Job Search

This is the fun part. Schools and companies overseas actually need and want you! It's a nice boost to the self-esteem and only the first of many dramatic changes that this life and lifestyle will bring to you.

A Short Personal Story

My wife and I sometimes look at each other and say, "Would you ever have imagined before we moved overseas that we could have done all the things we have done? That we would have worked and lived in so many countries? That we would have been able to travel to so many different countries? That we could have learned and experienced so much?"

Our answer is always, "No, could never have imagined it!" It still surprises us!
This life can be real for you too.

Teaching English overseas can exceed your imagination. When you are on the discussion boards on the Internet, look for some of the long-term and reputable posters. Ask them!

Please note though that there are many who will masquerade as experts on the discussion boards. Be quite careful from whom you take advice and on what advice you make your life decisions.

I have heard so many ridiculous claims about wages and jobs that I'm not even surprised anymore. Don't fall victim to these stories. Things aren't nearly as fantastic as they say nor are they as bad as they say.

Some "travelers" find it difficult to just say, "Yeah, I traveled to the Far East and taught English for a couple years and it just went great!" They seem to need to add a few embellishments about pirates, robbers and crooks along the way. It makes for a much more exciting story!

In fact, many thousands of us tread this path with very few problems. Come on board!

Week Four

By now, your passport may have arrived or should be arriving soon. Scan the face page of your passport to send with your letters of interest and emails of enquiry. Though this is week four in a ten-week process, you could actually find yourself overseas within three or four weeks from now.

Starting the Job Search

One word of caution. Many people on discussion boards will suggest that only the worst jobs are advertised and you should just head on over and get a job in person. To some degree, they are right but it also depends on the country. Very popular countries like Thailand, for example, tend to hire locally. Countries like Korea, tend to hire from overseas. Japan does a bit of both. Latin America, largely hires locally, China tends to hire from overseas.

Probably the easier it is to get around a country without knowing the language, the more likely they will hire locally. But many countries are a bewildering maze if you are not familiar with them and even just finding a language school might be close to an impossible task.

Being hired locally often means a school won't pay your travel expenses and also often means you will need to leave the country and go to a neighboring country to apply for a visa that will allow you to work. *Many countries will not allow people who arrived on a tourist visa to convert that visa to an employment visa. Therefore, an extra expense will be involved.*

If this is going to be your first job overseas and possibly your first time overseas at all, try to land a job from your home country. It just makes it easier. For some countries, like China for example, it is common for airfare to be paid. Your new employer will often meet you at the airport, help you get settled and will often arrange your housing in advance. You will have little to worry about other than just showing up for work on day one. Compare that to arriving not knowing where to go and where to stay and if you'll be successful at arranging anything at all.

Week Five

Getting that first serious job offer is a very exciting thing. After you dance around a few moments, stop and catch your breath and start to think about things you must know before making a final decision.

This section is designed to help you know if you should take that job or not.

Ask Questions About the Job

Don't be shy. There are important things you need to know before moving yourself halfway across the world, but don't ask all these questions at one time. You'll overwhelm your potential employer. Spread them out a bit. Many of these can be asked during the interview or while reviewing the contact you'll have when the job is offered.

Some important questions to ask or things to know:

What is expected of me on a daily basis?

How many classes a day will I be expected to teach?

How long is each class? Is each class considered "one hour" even if it is only 45 or 50 minutes long?

Will I be expected to stay at the school even when I don't have classes?

Will I have responsibilities other than teaching? (like cleaning the classroom or the school, recruiting students, evaluating students for placement, handing out flyers for the school, parent meetings, etc.)

Will I be paid for that time?

Week Six

Getting Organized

Week six is about organizing your life for some major changes. Once you start a serious job search, it may actually take you less than two weeks to land a job that you would like.

If you are heading to Korea or China and have done your research, it will not be uncommon to find a good job within only a few days.

If you use a recruiter, they can also speed the process along. Even if you use a recruiter you should still do the research on your job, employer and housing that was suggested in Week Five. If your recruiter does not want you to ask questions about the job that should be a red flag to find a different recruiter.

By the end of this, you should have accepted a position, seen and signed a contract for the job and received either a fax or a scan of your contract signed by your new employer.

Contracts are a guideline and employers don't always follow them to the letter. Expect your contract to be in the language of the country where you are going with possibly a translation of it into English and it might be a poor translation. The quality of the translation is not an indicator of the quality of the school, though it might be an indicator of just how much they need you.

Generally speaking, only the native language of the country where you are going is legally valid for contracts in that country. Don't get overly stressed about contracts. There are often a few things you will just have to take on good faith or you will never adapt overseas. Don't forget that your new employer is taking on good faith that you will be a decent and reliable employee and that you have represented yourself fairly and honestly.

This week, we will focus on organizing for the move overseas even if you don't really know where you are going yet.