The Use of Smartphones as an Educational Tool in the EFL Classroom

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Abstract

The use of smartphones are now part of Japanese students' everyday reality, there exists an opportunity to exploit these devices for educational purposes. This study aims to assess Japanese students' perceptions regarding the use of smartphones in the EFL classroom. A survey of 101 female University students was administered comprising of thirty five questions to gauge feelings towards smartphone use in class. The aim is complemented by three objectives, relating to the exploration of students' (1) attitudes towards using smartphones in the EFL classroom, (2) the perceived benefits of using smartphones while learning English, and (3) the actual use of smartphones while learning English. Secondly, this study will assess EFL students' perceptions in regards to the use of two particular smartphone apps, with these being the Quizlet and Kahoot apps. The results showed that most students like and enjoy using devices in class, and believe have assisted in certain areas of their language learning.

Introduction

Background

We live in the times when the knowledge of a foreign language can lead to a multitude of opportunities. This is especially true in regards to the knowledge of English, which is considered as a global language (Crystal, 2012). As noted by Shellekens (2011), English language proficiency enables people not only to find their way all around the globe, but also to increase their employability and access to information. This is because English is a dominant language in business, on the Internet, and in the popular media (Pennycook, 2017; Thurlow & Mroczek, 2011). For this reason, it is commonly argued that learning English language is a fundamental necessity for people all around the world (Wright, 2015). English will become the official language for many upper management in Japanese corporations (Daily Yomiuri Online, 2010). This, paired with the necessity to increase Japan's global competitiveness, has led the Japanese ministry of education to enhance its efforts in increasing English proficiency among Japanese students (Wilkinson, 2015). This establishes a need for novel approaches to

teaching English in Japan.

Recent advances in educational research have considered mobile learning or commonly referred to as m-learning, the use of electrical devices in the learning process as a potential solution to this problem. Mobile technology can be accessed anytime and anywhere (Kurniawan & Tanone, 2016). According to recent statistics, 96.6% of Japanese population owns at least one mobile device (Statistics Portal, 2017b).

As recognised by Gikas and Grant (2013), the first step in establishing the effectiveness of m-learning of English language is to consider students' attitudes towards this mode of learning delivery. However, existing research on the associated attitudes and perceptions of Japanese university students resulted in mixed findings, with some studies showing that students perceive m-learning as valuable in education (Thorton & Houser, 2015) and others reporting that students prefer to use computers for educational purposes (Stockwell, 2008). Moreover, a variety of barriers were revealed to reduce the use of mobile devices within Japanese classrooms, consisting of both psychological and technological barriers. As noted by Wang and Higgins (2006), psychological barriers may consist of students' perceptions of mobile devices as entertainment rather than educational tools and of the lack of students' self-directedness for using mobile devices in education. Technological barriers, on the other hand, may consist of mobile devices' harmfulness to the eyes, limited storage and memory, and reduced speed with which mobile devices can be used (Stockwell, 2008).

Since the introduction of smartphone devices, it was shown that even though Japanese students have adopted the smartphone technology, they are still not using it in education (White & Mills, 2012; 2015). This has established a need to assess students' perceptions of using smartphones within the EFL classroom. Moreover, several authors have advocated the necessity to investigate Japanese students' perceptions of the use of particular smartphone applications for learning English (Kurniawan & Tanone, 2016; White & Mills, 2015). Thus, in addition to assessing the perceived usability of smartphone devices in education, studies are advised to investigate students' perceptions of the usability of specific apps (Grinols & Rayesh, 2014; Kurniawan & Tanone, 2016).

Literature review

Introducing m-learning

In order to thoroughly introduce this research, it is initially necessary to review the relevant literature. To assist in the increase of students' English language proficiency, researchers have long recognised the necessity to rely on innovative technological methods. The main reason for this is that university students report high levels of boredom when faced with traditional methods of learning, such as those involving the whiteboard and paper-and-pen exercises (Zhang, Zhao, Zhou, & Nunamaker, 2004). A necessity for innovative teaching methods is evident within the EFL classroom as well, because EFL students report reduced engagement levels (Yang, 2011). In order to introduce these students to innovative technologies, literature has initially assessed the effectiveness of different computer-based and Internet-based programmes for learning English. Such studies have revealed that computer-mediated technology is effective in engaging EFL students and in helping them to achieve their learning outcomes (Chan & Liou, 2005; Liu, Chen, & Chang, 2010; Ybarra & Green, 2003).

Since the introduction of mobile technology, researchers in the broader field of education delivery have started considering the possibility of delivering education via mobile phones, therefore developing the concept of m-learning. According to Crompton (2013), mobile learning or m-learning is defined as "learning across multiple contexts, through social and content interactions, using personal electronic devices" (p. 3). Such devices most commonly consist of mobile phones and tablet computers. M-learning was further perceived as potentially beneficial in education because it can be accessed anytime and anywhere (Bromley, 2012; Cavus & Ibrahim, 2009). It is also consistently noted that m-learning may be beneficial especially if it involves the applications of the principles of gamification (Kapp, 2012; Muntean, 2011), which are defined as the use of game elements within m-learning delivery (Flores, 2015). Moreover, due to the demonstrated effectiveness of both m-learning and gamification in safeguarding the learning outcomes on several subjects in higher education (for a review, see Evans, 2011), the literature has witnessed a growing interest in applying m-learning to studying English (White & Mills, 2012). This has resulted in a large number of studies addressing the effectiveness of m-learning in the ESL classroom, with studies showing that m-learning that ascribes to the principles of gamification can act as beneficial means for teaching students English vocabulary and grammar (Cavus & Ibrahim, 2009; Chen & Chung, 2008; Lu, 2008). However, studies also showed that m-learning is not positively accepted by students all around the globe (Ozdamli, 2015; Rossing, Miller, Cecil, & Stamper, 2012). This has resulted in an increased focus on testing students' perceptions of m-learning (Norris, Hossain, & Soloway, 2015). Therefore, the following section focuses on describing the current state of the literature on English language m-learning in Japan.

Literature on m-learning in Japan

There have been several studies that focused on the use of mobile devices while learning English in Japan. Technology is moving at a rapid pace and overcoming issues or constraints of smartphone use in the classroom that were raised in previous studies. As is highlighted in Thornton and Houser (2005) two projects which focused on mobile device use by Japanese University students. The first of these projects was delivered via the now obsolete second-generation (i.e., 2 G) mobile phones. As a part of this project, students received English vocabulary material via e-mails on their phone. The receiving of this material happened three times per day, for the purpose of enhancing regular interval study. After testing the effectiveness of this programme among 44 undergraduate students, Thornton and Houser (2005) concluded that the programme was positively perceived by students. However, the programme resulted in certain challenges as well because many students postponed reading their messages. In the authors' second project students received videos on their mobile devices. This programme was delivered via thirdgeneration (i.e., 3G) mobile phones where students received videos that taught them English idioms. Thornton and Houser (2005) reported that this programme was also positively perceived within a sample of 51 participants, although some students complained that their screens were too small for watching the videos. The authors concluded that, even after accounting for relevant challenges, smart phones be successfully used to deliver English language learning material.

An additional study was conducted by Barr (2011) at Kanda University of International Studies to establish how mobile phones can be used for learning English in the classroom. By interviewing a total of 24 Japanese students, this author succeeded in extracting the information on how students use their mobile devices during learning. It was revealed that students display a tendency to (1) take pictures of the whiteboard in order to capture notes from class, (2) to record their professors in order to remember how certain words are pronounced, (3) to use Google voice recognition feature while practicing pronunciation, (4) to use mobile -based flashcard apps to practice their vocabulary, and (5) to find other relevant material that helps them in practicing their English reading skills. On the basis of this information, the author concluded that mobile devices can be beneficial while learning English.

In a further study by Anzai, Funada, and Akahori (2013), researchers focused on the effectiveness of a particular mobile-based activity that Barr (2011) has previously identified as being used by Japanese university students. This activity referred to mobile photo note-taking. Specifically, these authors have compared

the English language vocabulary retention between students who have photographed versus hand-wrote their class's notes. This study revealed no significant differences between groups in their vocabulary retention. Anzai et al. (2013) concluded that, despite significant group differences, smart phone note-taking allows students the ability to access their notes anytime and anywhere.

Students' perceptions and actual learning outcomes were assessed following their participation in three m-learning projects (Obari, Goda, Shimoyama, & Kinura, 2013). These projects were conducted at the Aoyama Gakuin University of Tokyo. The students were initially provided with video news on their mobile phones, after which they were required to prepare themselves to review the news during lecture. In the second project, students were provided with drill-and-practice exercises that helped them practice their English vocabulary and grammar. Finally, in the third project, students were provided with an app that taught them English vocabulary through a picture-word pairing procedure. The research by Obari et al. (2013) further showed that student performance in these projects was deemed as positive. Moreover, students had favourable perceptions of all three projects, therefore once again confirming the applicability of m-learning while learning English.

Benefits and challenges of m-learning

The are recognised challenges of m-learning are commonly related to psychological and technological barriers. In relation to the former, Wang and Higgins (2006) note that university students tend to perceive their devices as entertainment tools rather than as educational tools. Due to the already-developed association between mobile devices and entertainment, students are argued to need to change their mindsets in order to use their devices in education (White & Mills, 2012). Similarly, Thurlow and Mroczek (2011) note that even if students are required to display the 'educational mindset' within the classroom, they may switch to the 'entertainment mindset' after the class, further discontinuing to use their device for learning. This idea was supported in the previously described study by Thornton and Houser (2005) where many students postponed reading their messages, even though they contained the necessary study material.

According to Wang and Higgins (2006), an additional challenge of mlearning is revealed that students prefer to study on their computers and laptops rather than on their mobile phones. Similar reports were obtained in other studies as well (Ozdamli & Uzenboylu, 2015; Rossing et al., 2012). As it seems, the fact that m-learning is accessible anytime and anywhere does not necessarily mean that students will select m-learning as their preferred mode of English delivery. Finally, the last recognised psychological barrier to m-learning relates to the lack of students' self-directedness to initiate learning. As pointed out by White and Mills (2012), m-learning is a novel mode of teaching delivery and the majority of students already have well-developed habits for utilising computers while studying. Switching to m-learning requires students to change their learning habits and this, in turn, requires being self-directive. The idea that the lack of self-directedness may hamper the use of m-learning was also confirmed in a study with Japanese university students (Kondo, Ishikawa, Smith, Sakamoto, Shimomura, & Wada, 2012). In this study, EFL students' self-directedness was assessed during the period of two semesters. Students were using mobile devices for learning English only in the first semester. This study revealed that students' self-directedness has decreased from the first to the second semester. The authors attributed this finding to the removal of external motivators (e.g., grades and teachers' feedback) that would motivate students' willingness to self-initiate their m-learning.

Apart from the challenges of m-learning that arise from psychological barriers, literature recognises additional challenges that arise from technological limitations. According to Stockwell (2008), one such limitation occurs when students use mobile devices with small screens, which results in low resolution. Due to this low resolution, using mobile devices for a long time may impair students' sight. Moreover, mobile/smart phones may often be slower than computers, which may be particularly problematic when students need to use their mobile phones for typing in English (White & Mills, 2012). In support of this notion, the study by Stockwell (2010) has revealed that students took more time to complete English vocabulary exercises and did more mistakes when using mobile phone than when using a computer. Finally, mobile devices often have limited storage and memory, which reduces their capacity to hold large bunks of educational material (Rossing et al., 2012).

In their review of associated challenges of m-learning, White and Mills (2012) went a step further and identified an additional type of challenge, relating to those experienced by English teachers. They argued that teachers perceive mobile devices as disrupting the class, especially if students use the devices for personal rather than educational purposes such as sending text messages, emails, or use the mobile chat functions. This may disrupt the class by directing students' attention away from the lecture. As further noted by White and Mills (2012), teachers may experience a difficulty in ensuring that materials used during mlearning will be compatible with a wide variety of students' devices. The fact that students have different devices may additionally result in an inability to provide all students with technical support.

When discussing the literature on the benefits and challenges of using m-learning while studying English, there is an gap in the literature because technology improves rapidly, and the majority of previously-revealed technical limitations have been reduced or eliminated now. The newest generation of smartphones now have better screens, increased memory capacities, and faster processing abilities than did mobile phones in 2006, when Wang and Higgins (2006) assessed the technological barriers to m-learning. Similarly, University students have now overcome at least some of the previously recognised psychological barriers to m-learning. Smartphones are currently used for a wider variety of purposes than they were used at the time of Wang and Higgins's (2006) research. The latest analyses reveal that, at present times, smartphones are not used solely for entertainment purposes (Tsetsi & Rains, 2017). For these reasons, it is necessary to reassess students' attitudes towards m-learning in today's technological environment.

Present study

This study focused primarily on two smartphone applications Kahoot and Quizlet. In Quizlet, an online flashcards application, the teacher English word lists on the basis of what was taught in the classroom. Students were presented with English and Japanese translations of words, together with a photo that aided their memorization and the added Quizlet live a group based smart phone game using this vocabulary. Figure 1 shows what the students see on there devices whilst playing the Quizlet live game, all students are given an answer but they have to decide together who has the correct one, with the right picture showing the main score board screen enabling that sense of competition with the other teams.





Figure 1. Quizlet live group game

Students in this study used the Kahoot smartphone game individually. They were presented with questions that assessed their ability to identify correct and incorrect sentences on the main screen in the classroom and to choose odd word or sentence out. Figure 2 shows a student smart phone screen shot whilst using Kahoot and the right shows the question that is projected onto the classroom screen.

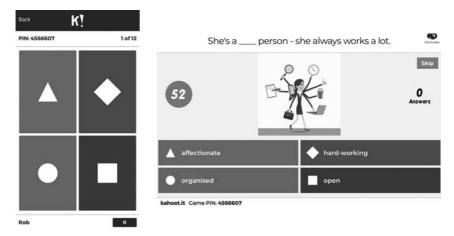


Figure 2. Kahoot

Method

Participants

Participants in this study consisted of a total of 101 students from Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University in Japan. They were all first year students who took part in an obligatory English programme at this female university. They have all agreed to participate in the research, thus confirming that their data can be used for further analyses.

Design and data analysis

This study has employed a quantitative methodology. As recognised by Neuman (2002), quantitative research is employed when the goal is to quantify people's perceptions and attitudes through the use of numbers. Exploratory research, on the other hand, aims is to summarise the main features of a given dataset, without engaging in confirmatory analyses (Jeager & Halliday, 2009). The choice was to rely on exploratory quantitative methodology, because the study aimed to describe participants' perceptions of using smartphones and particular applications while learning English. Such perceptions were assessed through using a questionnaire, which has resulted in numerical data. The main benefit is that this approach allows the generalisation of findings to the broader population of Japanese undergraduate students (Creswell & Clark, 2006).

Materials

The data was obtained through administering an online questionnaire, which was completed on smartphones. The questionnaire had a total of 35 items. Initially, participants indicated whether they own a smartphone and a tablet computer. Following this, a total of 19 questions focused on participants' perceptions of using smartphones while learning English. All questions were rated on a scale ranging from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree). Students' attitudes and perceived benefits of using smartphones were assessed by different groups of items. Attitudes towards using smartphones for learning English were assessed by 5 items, focusing on participants' comfort with, the enjoyment of, and a future interest in using smartphones. The perceived benefits of using these devices were assessed by 10 items, where participants reported the degree to which the use of smartphones made the course more interesting, increased their confidence, improved their motivation, enhanced their out-of-class learning, aided the English-Japanese translation, and improved their writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills. Four additional items focused on the use of smartphones while studying

English, where participants reported the degree to which they use such devices for the purposes of taking pictures of the whiteboard, recording class notes, listening to music in English, and learning English outside of classroom.

Additional 12 items inquired about participants' perceptions of Quizlet and Kahoot applications. Here, 5 items assessed attitudes towards these apps by asking students to rate the degree to which they liked using the apps, liked playing the group game, felt pressure during games, perceived the apps as enjoyable, and wanted to use the apps in the future. Four items measured the perceived benefits of the apps for learning vocabulary, learning English, and remembering the language. Finally, the use of particular apps was assessed by asking questions regarding students' out-of-class use of the apps and their use of other relevant apps. Finally, for the purpose of obtaining more thorough answers, participants were provided with several open-ended questions throughout the questionnaire.

Procedure

The questionnaire was made and administered via Survey Monkey, an online survey producing software. All participants were introduced to the research before being provided with an online link to the questionnaire. Once they entered the survey, participants indicated their smartphones and tablet use. They then answered the questions relating to the perceptions of using smartphones in the classroom, which were followed by questions about their perceptions of the Quizlet and Kahoot apps.

Results

Smartphone and tablet ownership

In this research, all participants (100%) indicated owning a smartphone. A total of 51 (50.5%) participants reported owning a tablet, whereas 50 (49.5%) reported not owning a tablet. These results are summarised on Figures 3 and 4.

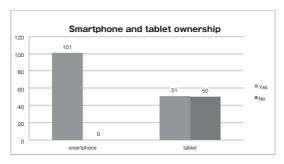


Figure 3. Smartphone and tablet ownership

Students' perceptions of using smartphones while learning English

The first goal of this research was to assess students' perceptions regarding the use of smartphones while learning English. This aim was achieved by focusing on three objectives: (1) to assess students' attitudes towards using smartphones in the classroom, (2) to assess perceived benefits of using smartphones for leaning English, and (3) to assess the use of smartphones while learning English. The results are presented for each of these objectives separately.

Attitudes towards using smartphones while learning English

Students' attitudes towards using smartphones in the classroom were assessed by 5 items, all of which were rated on a 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) scale. Table 1 summarizes descriptive statistics for these items. Lower mean scores on this table indicate a higher degree of agreement with particular items' statements. Following this table, the results are described for each item separately.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for items assessing attitudes towards using smartphones in class

Attitudes	Mean(M)	Standard Deviation (SD)
Willingness to use smartphones	2.28	.90
Comfort with using smartphones	2.16	.92
Enjoyment of using smartphones	2.02	.89
Looking forward to use smartphones in the future	1.99	.87
Interest in doing more lessons with smartphones	2.62	1.03

When assessing the willingness to use smartphones for studying English, the

mean rating on this item was 2.28 (SD = .90), therefore showing that students expressed a moderately high willingness. As it can be seen on Figure 4, the majority of participants 16% strongly agree and 51.49% indicated that they agree with this item's statement.

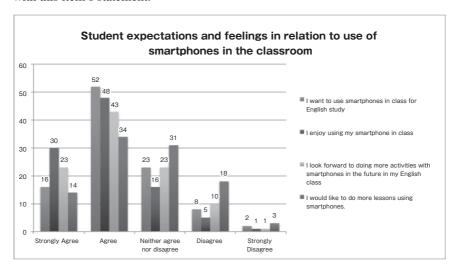


Figure 4. Willingness to use smartphones in class for studying English and expectations

Moreover, participants felt comfortable and enjoyed using smartphones in the classroom to a high degree. Students were also asked to indicate the degree to which they enjoy using smartphones for studying English. The mean rating on this item was 2.02 (SD = .89), thus revealing high levels of enjoyment to thus revealing a range of enjoyment. Looking at frequencies answers, Figure 4 shows that the highest percentage of participants (48.0%) agreed to this item's statement.

Students also looked forward to use smartphones within the classroom in the future to a high degree (M = 1.99, SD = .87). As it can be as seen on Figure 4, the majority of students (43.0%) agreed with this item's statement.

Finally, when assessing attitudes towards smartphone use, students were also questioned regarding their interest in doing more lessons with the use of smartphones. The mean rating on this item was 2.62 (SD =1.03), which reveals that their interest was in-between high and moderate to The SD is showing you that there is quite a range of interest. Figure 7 shows that the highest percentage of students (34.0%) agreed with this item's statement, although a similar percentage of students (31.0%) provided neutral answers. On this item, participants were also

asked to indicate why (or why not) they would like to do more lessons using smartphones. Here, positive comments revealed that participants want more lessons with smartphones because smartphones make the lesson more fun and enjoyable. Smartphones were noted to make the time pass more quickly, to make students like learning English, and to reduce the distance between students and teachers. Importantly, students indicated that using smartphones in the class improves their knowledge. One participant said: "Compared to studying with pen and paper, it feels like I can memorise the language almost double the speed". In relation to the explanations of why some students do not want to do more lessons using smartphones, students noted the problems with the Wi-Fi connection and some noted being afraid of developing a smartphone addiction. Additionally, one participant said: "I want to make communication directly rather than using a smartphone". These answers are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Reasons why (and why not) students want to do more lessons using smartphones.

Reasons for	Reasons against
Lessons become more fun and enjoyable	Issues with Wi-Fi connection
Time passes more quickly	Fear of developing smartphone addiction
Students start to like learning English	Preference for direct communication
Smartphones bring students and teachers closer	
Smartphones improve knowledge acquisition	
Smartphones make the memorisation faster	

Perceived benefits of using smartphones while learning English

Additional 10 items focused on the perceived benefits of using smartphones while learning English. Table 3 shows descriptive statistics for these items, with lower score indicating the higher agreement with the item's statements.

Table 3. Descriptive statistics for items assessing perceived benefits of using smartphones in class

Perceived benefits	M	SD
Class is more interesting	2.02	.89
Increasing confidence in English	2.88	.94
Encouraging out-of-class studying of English	2.69	.90
Increasing motivation to study English	2.58	.95
Improving English writing skills	3.18	.97
Improving English reading skills	2.88	.92
Improving English speaking skills	3.15	.93
Improving English listening skills	2.78	1.07
Aiding English to Japanese translation	1.65	.80
Understanding English	2.96	.90

Initially, participants were asked to rate the degree to which using smartphones makes the class more interesting. The mean rating here was 2.02 (SD = .89), when indicating the reasons for why smartphones make the class more interesting, participants noted that smartphones foster cooperation with other students, increase engagement during lesson, make students feel energized, reduce boredom in comparison to paper-and-pen exercises, make the lesson much more fun, and increase involvement through playing games. In relation to the negative comments, some students noted that smartphone exercises can be boring, that Wi-Fi issues reduce enjoyment, and that receiving calls on the phone reduces their inclass engagement. These results are summarised on Table 3.

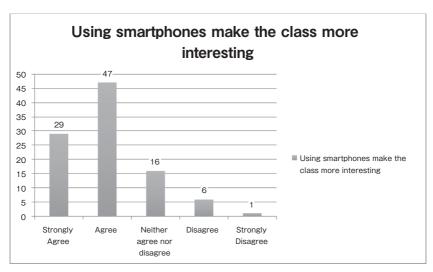


Figure 5. Benefit of class being more interesting

Table 4. Reasons why (and why not) smartphones make the class more interesting

Reasons for	Reasons against
Fostered cooperation with other students	Smartphone exercises can be boring
Increased engagement during lessons	Wi-Fi reduces enjoyment
Students feel energized	Receiving calls reduces engagement
Reduces boredom of paper-and-pen exercises	
Increased involvement through games	

Students were further questioned regarding the degree to which using smartphones in class makes them feel more confident in English. The mean rating on this item was 2.88 (SD = .94), thus showing that smartphones increased confidence to a moderate degree. As seen on Figure 9, the majority of students (41.41%) noted that they neither agree nor disagree with this item's statement.

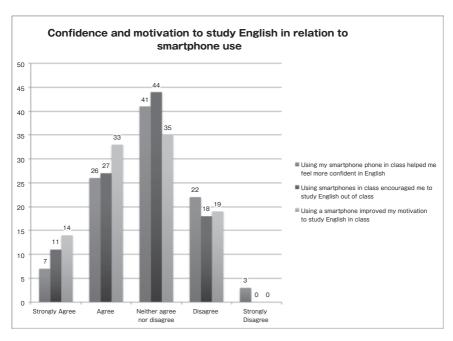


Figure 6. Confidence and motivation to study English in relation to smart phone use

Furthermore, students perceived smartphones as encouraging them to study English outside of class to a moderate degree (M = 2.69, SD = .90). On Figure 6, it can be seen that the majority of students (44.0%) neither agreed nor disagreed with this item's statement.

Another assessed perceived benefit relates to the degree to which smartphones improved students' motivation to study English. Here, the mean rating was $2.58~(\mathrm{SD}=.95)$, therefore showing that smartphones improved motivation to a moderate degree. As seen on Figure 6, the majority of students either agreed with this statement (32.67%) or neither agreed nor disagreed (34.65%). When asked how smartphones improve their motivation to study English, participants noted that their motivation is enhanced because using smartphones is fun, because they are familiar with smartphones and thus learning becomes easier, because they can compete with their classmates, because smartphones are more engaging than a textbook, and because learning through smartphones saves their time. These results are summarised on Table 5.

Table 5. The reasons why smartphone use improve motivation for studying English

Reasons why smartphones enhance motivation

Using smartphones is fun

Smartphones are familiar so learning is easier

Smartphones allow competing with classmates

Smartphones are more engaging than a textbook

Learning through smartphones saves time

A range of improvement, some moderately high and some moderately low (M=3.18, SD=.97). Accordingly, the majority of participants indicated that they either disagree (33.66%) or neither agree nor disagree (38.61%) with this item's statement. When asked how smartphones improve their writing skills, some participants noted that apps help in learning vocabulary, practicing spelling, and getting introduced to new words. However, the majority of participates indicated that smartphone apps do not help in improving English writing skills because students are not asked to write down the words, which reduces their memorisation capacity. These results are summarised on Table 6.

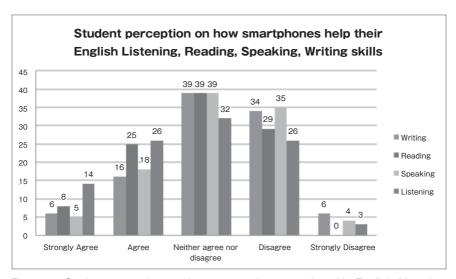


Figure 7. Student perception on how smart phones assist with English Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing skills.

Table 6. Reasons why (and why not) smartphones improve English writing skills

Reasons for	Reasons against
Apps help in learning vocabulary	Apps do not require writing down the words
Apps help in practicing spelling	
Apps introduce many new words	

Furthermore, participants' ratings revealed there is quite a range of reading skills development, some moderately high and some moderately low (M=2.88, SD=.92). Similarly, frequencies of answers showed that the majority of students (38.61%) neither agreed nor disagreed with this item's statement (See Figure 7). When questions regarding the ways in which smartphones aid their English reading skills, participants noted that smartphones allow them to check the pronunciation of words via Google, to compete with their classmates on who is quicker at reading, to memorise words more easily, and to read faster than before. Participants did not identify any important reasons for why smartphones did not aid the improvement of their English reading skills. These results are summarised on Table 7.

Table 7. Reasons why (and why not) smartphones improve English reading skills

Reasons for	Reasons against	
Opportunity to check word's pronunciation	None identified	
Opportunity to compete with classmates		
Apps help memorise words more easily		
Apps help in reading faster than before		

Participants further revealed that smartphones help them to improve their English speaking skills to a moderate degree (M = 3.15, SD = .93). Frequencies of answers showed that the majority of participants either disagreed with this item's statement (34.65%) or neither disagreed nor agreed (38.61%) (See Figure 7). Furthermore, participants said that smartphones aid their English speaking skills because they can talk with Siri and because smartphone help in practicing pronunciation. However, the majority of participants indicated that smartphone apps do not provide them with an opportunity to practice speaking (see Table 8).

Table 8. Reasons why (and why not) smartphones improve English speaking skills

Reasons for	Reasons against
Smartphones allow talking to Siri	Smartphone apps provide no opportunity for practicing speaking
Smartphones help in practicing pronunciation	

Smartphones were further perceived as enhancing students' English listening skills varying degrees (M = 2.78, SD = 1.07). The majority of participants either agreed (25.74%), disagreed (25.75), or neither agreed nor disagreed (31.68%) with this item's statement (See Figure 7). Analysis of participants' open-ended answers revealed that smartphones aid their listening skills because they can listen to music and radio broadcasts, watch videos, and listen to word's pronunciation - all of which aid their memorisation and understanding. No important reasons were provided for why smartphones are not aiding the development of English listening skills (see Table 9).

Table 9. Reasons why (and why not) smartphones improve English listening skills

Reasons for	Reasons against
Can listen to music and radio in English	None identified
Can watch videos in English	
Can check the pronunciation of words	

Moreover, participants revealed that smartphones help them to translate words from English to Japanese.

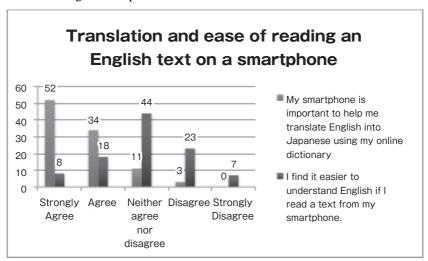


Figure 8. Benefit of translating from English to Japanese and ease of understanding text on a smart phone

Lastly, it was revealed that smartphones help students to understand English to a moderate degree (M = 2.96, SD = 90). Graph 6 shows that the majority of students (44.00%) neither agreed nor disagreed with this item's statement.

Use of smartphones while learning English

Final four items assessed the use of smartphones for learning English, while focusing on the use of smartphones for studying English, listening to music in English, taking photos of the whiteboard, and recording classwork. Descriptive statistics for these items are presented on Table 10.

Table 10. Descriptive statistics for items assessing the use of smartphones for learning English

Uses	M	SD
Studying English out-of-class	3.00	1.44
Listening to music in English	2.17	1.33
Taking photos of whiteboard	2.79	1.27
Recording classwork	3.86	1.17

Results further showed that participants used smartphones for studying English out of class to a moderate degree (M = 3.00, SD = 1.44). Figure 9 reveals that the majority of students either strongly agreed (22.0%) or disagreed (27.0%) with this item's statement.

Students also indicated that they used smartphones for listening to music in English to a high degree (M = 2.17, SD = 1.33). As seen on Figure 9, the majority of students (45.0%) strongly agreed with and 20% agreed this item's statement.

In relation to taking photos of the whiteboard, students indicated that they engage in this activity to a moderate degree (M = 2.79, SD = .27). Figure 9 shows that the majority of students either agreed (24.75%) or neither agreed nor disagreed (25.74%) with this item's statement.

Finally, students preferred to record their classwork via smartphone than to hand write to a low degree (M = 3.86, SD = 1.17). Figure 10 shows that the majority of students either disagreed (31.68%) or strongly disagreed (36.63%) with this item's statement.

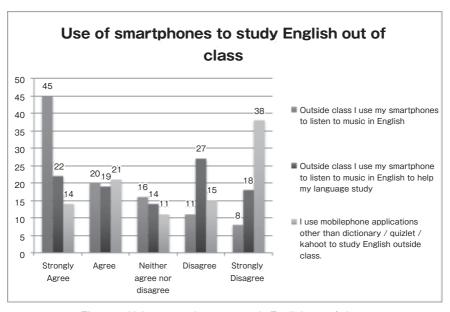


Figure 9. Using smartphones to study English out of class.

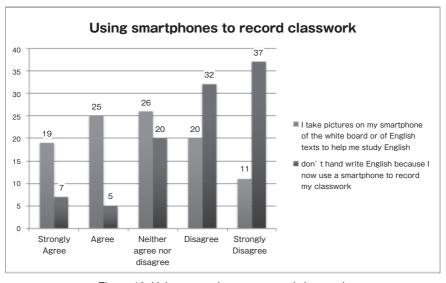


Figure 10. Using smartphones to record classwork

Students' perceptions of particular applications

The second goal of this research was to assess students' perceptions of the use of particular smartphone apps while learning English, including Quizlet and Kahoot apps. Results are presented separately for three themes, encompassing students' attitudes towards these apps, the perceived benefits of using these apps, and the actual use of these apps for learning English.

Attitudes towards particular applications

Students' attitudes towards using Quizlet were assessed by 4 items, and attitudes towards Kahoot were assessed by 2 items. Table 11 summarises descriptive statistics for these items, following which the results are described for each item separately.

Table 11. Descriptive statistics for attitudes towards Quizlet and Kahoot applications

Attitudes	M	SD
Quizlet		
Liking of Quizlet's group game	2.13	1.02
Pressure felt when in a team of Quizlet live	3.37	1.29
Enjoyment of Quizlet	2.03	.88
Willingness to use Quizlet in future	2.08	.86
Kahoot		
Enjoyment of Kahoot	1.90	.97
Willingness to use Kahoot in future	2.09	.88

Initially, students reported that they like playing Quizlet's group game to a high degree (M = 2.13, SD = 1.02). Figure 11 shows that many of students (36.63%) agreed to this item's statement. When indicating reasons for why they did (or did not) like this group game, students indicated that the game builds relationships among students, is fun, improves motivation through competition, and helps in memorising vocabulary. In relation to the reasons why they did not like this game, students mentioned that the game uses a lot of battery, that they had problems with Wi-Fi, and that they disliked having to collaborate with students they do not like (see Table 12).

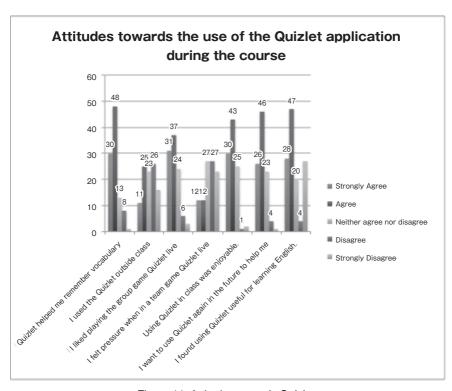


Figure 11. Attitudes towards Quizlet

Table 12. Student comments on the use of Quizlet live

Reasons for	Reasons against
Game is fun	Game uses battery
Game helps build student relationships	Wi-Fi issues
Game improves motivation through competition	Game fosters collaboration with disliked students
Game aids memorisation of vocabulary	

Participants further revealed that there was a range pressure when playing Quizlet live (M = 3.37, SD = 1.29).

Participants further reported that they enjoyed Quizlet to varying degrees. (M = 2.03, SD = .88). Highest percentage of students reported agreeing with this

item's statement (see Figure 11).

Moreover, they also reported high willingness to use Quizlet in the future (M = 2.08, SD = .86). As seen on Figure 11, the majority of students (46.0%) agreed with this item's statement.

In relation to Kahoot, many students noted that they enjoyed this app (M=1.90, SD=.97). Accordingly, the majority of students strongly agreed (39.60%) or agreed (40.59%) with this item's statement (See Figure 12). When indicating reasons why they like this app, students noted that they like quizzes, that Kahoot was fun, that they like competing with classmates, and that Kahoot helped them to learn vocabulary and to increase their motivation for studying English. Students did not enjoy Kahoot only because of Wi-Fi difficulties (see Table 13).

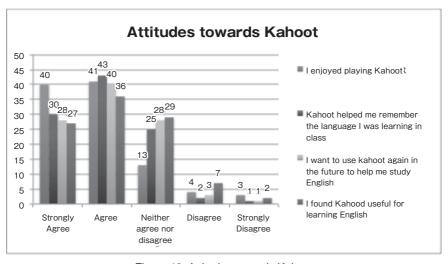


Figure 12. Attitudes towards Kahoot

Table 13. Reasons why (and why not) students enjoyed Kahoot.

Reasons for	Reasons against
Students like quizzes	Wi-Fi issues
Kahoot is fun	
Students like competing	
Kahoot helps in learning vocabulary	
Kahoot increases motivation for learning	

Finally, there is quite a range of participants who indicated participants revealed that they would like to use Kahoot in the future (M = 2.09, SD = .88). The largest respondent group (40.0%) agreed with this item's statement (see Figure 12).

Perceived benefits of particular applications

The perceived benefits of Quizlet and Kahoot are presented on Table 14.

Table 14. Descriptive statistics for perceived benefits of Quizlet and Kahoot.

Perceived benefits	M	SD
Quizlet		
Helped in remembering vocabulary	2.02	.92
Was useful for learning English	2.24	1.19
Kahoot		
Helped in remembering language	2.02	.85
Was useful for learning English	2.22	.99

Initially, participants noted that Quizlet was helpful in remembering vocabulary to varying degrees (M = 2.02, SD = .92). The majority of students (48.0%) agreed with this item's statement (see Figure 12).

They also indicated that Quizlet was useful for learning English to a high degree (M = 2.24, SD = 1.19). Highest percentage of students (47.47%) agreed with this item's statement (see Figure 12). When answering open-ended questions, participants noted that Quizlet is useful because it helps in memorising vocabulary, because it is easy for studying, and because it can be used anywhere. In regards to negative comments, it was only noted that some Japanese translations were different from actual word meanings (see Table 15).

Table 15. Reasons why (and why not) students found Quizlet useful

Reasons for	Reasons against
Quizlet helps in memorising vocabulary	Japanese translations sometimes different from word meanings
Quizlet is easy for studying	
Quizlet can be used everywhere	

In relation to Kahoot, participants indicated the app was useful in helping them remember the language there is quite a range of helping to remember, some moderately high and some moderately low. (M = 2.02, SD = .85). Though as seen on Figure 12, the majority of students (42.57%) indicated that they agree with this item's statement.

Finally, participants indicated that Kahoot was useful for learning English a range of degrees (M = 2.24, SD = 1.19). The highest percentage of students (35.64%) agreed with this item's statement (see Figure 12). In relation to the additional comments about this app, students noted that that Kahoot benefited their learning because it is fun, because its game system makes studying more enjoyable, and because the app helps to improve one's vocabulary. Still, students noted that the issues with Wi-Fi reduced the usefulness of this app in class (see Table 16).

Table 16. Reasons why (and why not) students found Kahoot useful

Reasons for	Reasons against
Kahoot is fun	Wi-Fi issues
The game system makes studying enjoyable	
Kahoot improves vocabulary	

Use of particular applications

Final two sets of items within the questionnaire focused on the assessment of the use of Quizlet outside of classroom and of the use of other mobile phone applications for studying English. Descriptive statistics for these two items are presented on Table 17. The results show that students used Quizlet out of class to varying degrees. (M = 3.11, SD = 1.26), though the majority of students either agreed (24.75%), disagreed (25.74%), or neither agreed nor disagreed (22.77%) with this item's statement. The SD is showing you that there is quite a range of other apps, some moderately high and some moderately low (M = 3.39, SD =

1.55). When indicating which apps they use apart from dictionary, Quizlet, and Kahoot, students noted using Target, YouTube, Mikan, Tango, HelloTalk, and KickTan.

Table 17. Descriptive statistics for the use of particular applications

Uses	M	SD
Using Quizlet out of class	3.11	1.26
Using other apps for studying English	3.39	1.55

Discussion

Despite the fact that the broader educational literature advocates the reliance on m-learning for studying English (Yang, 2011), it is consistently revealed that m -learning is not positively accepted by students from all around the globe (Ozdamli & Uzenboylu, 2015; Rossing et al., 2012). This has resulted in an increased focus on assessing students' attitudes towards m-learning in different countries. Moreover, there seems to be a need to re-assess Japanese students' perceptions on the topic, occurring due to several limitations in the existing literature. Specifically, most of the studies on Japanese EFL students' perceptions of m-learning have been conducted prior to the introduction and/or further development of smartphones (Thornton & Houser, 2005; Stockwell, 2008; Wang & Higgins, 2006; Zhag, 2008). Moreover, various authors have advocated the necessity to assess students' perceptions of particular applications for studying English, thus moving from the broad focus on the perceptions of m-learning (Kurniawan & Tanone, 2016; White & Mills, 2015).

This research had two aims. Initially to assess Japanese EFL students' perceptions regarding the use of smartphones in the classroom, by focusing on their attitudes towards smartphone use, the perceived benefits of smartphone use, and the actual use of smartphones for studying English. Secondly, to assess Japanese EFL students' perceptions of two particular apps for studying English, with these being the Quizlet and Kahoot apps.

Summary of results

When assessing Japanese students' attitudes towards using smartphones for studying English, this study revealed that some students are willing to use smartphones in the classroom, that some feel comfortable with using smartphones, that some enjoyed using smartphones, and that look forward to use smartphones in the future. These results are largely positive, therefore showing that many students

have favourable attitudes towards learning English with the use of smartphones. In general, many students thought that smartphones help them to enjoy the lesson, make the lesson pass more quickly, improve their knowledge and word memorisation, and reduce the distance between students and teachers. Moreover, some students reported that smartphones increase their liking of English study, which is a rather positive finding. However, some students also noted that issues with Wi-Fi and battery life reduce their engagement with smartphones, and some students were afraid of developing smartphone addiction. Importantly, some students also expressed a preference for direct communication while learning, which shows that m-learning may not be preferred by all students. These seem to be only barriers to m-learning that were recognised in current research, therefore showing that most of the barriers that were identified in past studies (Kondo et al., 2012; Stockwell, 2008; Wang & Higgins, 2006) have been overcome.

The were perceived benefits of m-learning in the EFL classroom, some students were most likely to say that smartphones aid the word translation and that they make the class more interesting. However, some students thought that smartphones improve their actual language skills merely to a moderate degree. Thus, smartphones were recognised to increase confidence in English, enhance motivation for studying English, and to improve writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills in a range of degrees. This questions the actual usefulness of smartphones in helping students achieve their learning outcomes. A further analysis of students' open-ended answers showed that smartphones are a great tool for increasing some students' in-class participation, engagement, and enjoyment. This is because some students enjoy playing games and competing with their classmates, therefore confirming the idea that gamification is important during learning (Flores, 2015). However, whereas smartphones were perceived as useful for learning vocabulary and practicing spelling, they were perceived as less effective for improving writing and speaking skills. These findings show that smartphone use within the classroom should be targeted with care and used only when working on vocabulary and spelling, further being combined with alternative exercises for the development of other skills.

In relation to the actual use of smartphones for studying English, results revealed that although some students use smartphones to listen to music in English, which may aid their learning, they are less likely to use smartphones for studying English out of class, for taking photos of the whiteboard, and for recording their classwork. Once again, this points to the idea that smartphones are most useful for increasing the engagement in the classroom, whereas its other uses are perceived as merely somewhat desirable and effective.

Apart from having positive attitudes towards using smartphones while studying English in general, some students also had positive attitudes towards the use of Quizlet and Kahoot in particular. Thus, some students noted that they enjoyed both of these apps and that they would like to use these apps in the future. When indicating reasons behind these positive attitudes, some students noted that these apps are fun because they involve competition, help build relationships with students, and increase their motivation for learning. In relation to perceived benefits, some students thought that these apps help in learning vocabulary to a high degree, which is a rather positive finding. However, no other learning-related benefits were noted. Once again, this shows that apps such as Quizlet and Kahoot can be effectively used to enhance only some English language skills, while alternative methods should be used for building other skills. Finally, when it comes to the use of particular apps for studying English, some students revealed a reduced tendency to use particular apps out of class, which shows that these apps are best to be used within the classroom.

Strengths and limitations of the research

Like every study, this one also has certain strengths and limitations. When it comes to the strengths, it can be noted that the study had a sufficiently large sample to generalise the obtained findings to the broader population of Japanese EFL students (Creswell & Clark, 2006). Moreover, the study succeeded in overcoming the limitations of most existing literature, which was achieved through assessing the perceptions of m-learning of students who use the most recent versions of smartphones and through assessing the perceptions of particular smartphone apps for studying English. This study did not involve an objective measurement of the degree to which smartphones and particular applications aid students' English language learning. This was not the aim of this research, though such objective measurement would help in discerning whether apps such as Quizlet and Kahoot should be used within classroom to improve students' English language skills. Therefore, this could be a focus of future research.

Recommendations

Recommendations that have arisen due from this study are that smartphones should be used for increasing EFL students' engagement and involvement during lessons. This recommendation stems from the presently obtained finding that some students have rather positive attitudes towards using smartphones in the classroom, stemming from the fact that smartphones make the class more interesting and serve the purpose of increasing some students' involvement. However, the

applications of smartphones for increasing English language skills should be implemented with care. This present research showed that, according to some students' perceptions, smartphones and apps such as Quizlet and Kahoot are effective merely in building vocabulary and spelling skills. Some students were less likely to perceive these apps as beneficial for developing writing or speaking skills, which emphasises the necessity to rely on alternative methods when teaching skills of this kind. Therefore, the main implication here is that smartphones should be used within the EFL classroom only if they are combined with traditional methods for building specific English language skills.

Conclusion

The limitations of smart phone use in the classroom that were prevalent in previous studies (Thornton & Houser, 2005; Wang & Higgins, 2006; Zhag, 2008) seemed to have been overcome. Specifically, most of these studies have been conducted prior to the introduction and/or further development of smartphones. The past research has not concentrated on Japanese students' perceptions of particular apps for studying English and here by focusing on a sample of students who own the most recent smartphones models, and through focusing on the perceptions of particular apps for studying English, this research has revealed that some Japanese EFL students have positive attitudes towards using smartphones for studying English, as well as towards using apps such as Quizlet and Kahoot. In relation to the perceived benefits, smartphones and these particular apps were perceived as enhancing some students' in-class involvement and enjoyment, as well as the development of vocabulary and spelling skills. However, the apps were perceived as less effective for the building of other English language skills, which notes the necessity to combine smartphone use with the traditional learning methods in the EFL classroom. Finally, in order to advance the understanding of the applications of m-learning within the EFL classroom, future studies are advised to involve objective measurements of the degree to which smartphone apps, when compared to traditional learning methods, enhance the development of English language skills.

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Appendix A: The use of smartphones as an educational tool in the EFL classroom questionnaire

The use of smart phones as an educational tool in the EFL classroom.

The use of smart phones as an educational tool in the EFL classroom. 英語学習の授業におけるスマートフォンの教育ツールとしての

This is a questionnaire on then use of smart phones in the EFL classroom. The results will be used for my own personal research and to help others in the future. I would be grateful if you could answer the questions and give comments about your experience studying English with the use of smart phone this year.

これは英語の授業におけるスマートフォンの利用についてのアンケートです。このアンケート結果は私の 研究に使用されます。今年度の英語の授業において、あなたのスマートフォン利用について答えていただ きたいと思います。ご協力、よろしくお願いします。アンケートへのご協力に感謝いたします。ロバート

 I agree to take part in the class questionnaire and the use of the findings to be published. *Your name or any private details will be kept confidential.

私は授業でアンケートに回答すること、またその結果を学術研究に使用されることに同意します。 (あなたの名前や個人情報は特定されません)

Yes
同意します
コメント機がある質問についてはコメントを記載してください、あなたの意見や感じたことを教えてください。 コメントを記入した後、OKポタンを押してください。
アンケートの最期まで答えたら(質問35まで)、DONEを押してください。
Please write a comment if asked, we want to hear
about your experiences.
Please press OK after a question with a comment
box
At the end of the questionnaire make sure you press the DONE button.
press the DONE button.
2. Do you own a smartphone?
私はスマートフォンを持っています
Yes (‡L'
○ No いいえ
For the students who answered No. What is the reason for not owning a smart phone? いいえの場合、それはなぜですか?

3. Do you own a tablet? 私はタブレットを持っています	
Yes (#L\	
○ No UUZ	
4. I want to use smart phones in class for English st. 私はスマートフォンをもっと英語の授業で使用した	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
5. I feel comfortable using smart phones in class. スマートフォンを授業で使用するのは快適である	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Strongly Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って
Neither agree nor disagree とちらでもない	いません
6. Using smart phones make the class more interest スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか?	ing. Why or why not? 楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深く	
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深く ですか?	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ Disagree そうでもない
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why or why not? Please comment.	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why or why not? Please comment.	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why or why not ? Please comment. はい、またはいいえの場合、コメントしてください 7. I enjoy using my smart phone in class.	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って
スマートフォンを使用するほうが、授業が興味深くですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why or why not ? Please comment. はい、またはいいえの場合、コメントしてください 7. I enjoy using my smart phone in class. 私は教室でスマートフォンを使用するのが楽しい	楽しくなる。はい、またはいいえの場合、それはなぜ Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません

8. Flook forward to doing more activities with sma 私は英語の授業でもっとスマートフォンを使用	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagreeそうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
9. Outside class I use my smart phone to listen to 私は授業以外で英語の音楽を聴くために、スマ・	•
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagreeそうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
10. Outside class I use my smart phone to listen 私は授業以外で英語学習用の英語の音楽を聴くが	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagreeそうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
11. Using my smart phone in class helped me fee スマートフォンを授業で使用すると、英語に対	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagreeそうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
12. Using smart phones in class encouraged me スマートフォンを授業で使用すると、授業以外の	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagreeそうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません

Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	Disagreeそうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
how?どのようにやる気が上がりましたか?	
14. I would like to do more lessons using smart 私はもっとスマートフォンでの授業を受けたい	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
Why or why not ? Please comment, はい、またはいいえの場合、コメントしてください	
15. My smart phone helps my English writing sk Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を書く能力を上げ	
スマードフォンは、私の失品を書く形のを工り Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	○ N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
Why? How? どうして、どのように書く能力が上がりましたか?コメン	ントしてください

16. My smart phone helps my English reading s スマートフォンは、私の英語を読む能力を上げ	「た。何故ですか?どのようにですか?
◯ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	○ N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
Why? How? どうして、どのように読む能力が上がりましたか?コメン	ントしてください
17. My smart phone helps my English speaking スマートフォンは、私の英語を話す能力を上げ	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
Why? How? どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメ:	ントしてください
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン	ントしてください skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening :	
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening : を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか?	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening : を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか?	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening : を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く違う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening : を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why? How?	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く違う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening s を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why? How? どうして、どのように聞く能力が上がりましたか?コメン	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く違う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening s を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why? How? どうして、どのように聞く能力が上がりましたか?コメン	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く違う N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません ントしてください Inslate English into Japanese using my online dictionary.
どうして、どのように話す能力が上がりましたか?コメン 18. My smart phone helps my English listening s を上げた。何故ですか?どのようにですか? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない Why? How? どうして、どのように聞く能力が上がりましたか?コメン 19. My smart phone is important to help me tran スマートフォンは英語を日本語に翻訳する場合	skills. Why? How? スマートフォンは、私の英語を聞く能力 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く違う N/A I don't have a smart phone 科はスマートフォンを持っていません ントしてください Inslate English into Japanese using my online dictionary . な、辞書のように使用しており、大変重要な物である

Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
	n dictionary/quizlet/kahoot to study English outside class. ウスマートフォンのアプリケーションを英語学習に使用してい
Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
What other English study applications do you use? はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22.1 find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン	nad a text from my smart phone.
はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22. I find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン	か? rad a text from my smart phone. で読む方が理解しやすい。
はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22. I find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	か? ead a text from my smart phone. ・で読む方が型解しやすい。 Disagree そうでもない
はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22. I find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン	mad a text from my smart phone. で読む方が理解しやすい。
はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22. I find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない 23. I take pictures on my smart phone of the	mad a text from my smart phone. で読む方が里解しやすい。 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達 N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って
はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22. I find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない 23. I take pictures on my smart phone of the why. 私はスマートフォンでホワイトボード・	wad a text from my smart phone. ・で読む方が理解しやすい。 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達 N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません white board or of English texts to help me study English. If so
はいの場合はどのアプリケーションを使用しています 22. I find it easier to understand English if I re 私は英語の文章を読む場合、スマートフォン Strongly Agree かなりそうだ Agree そうだ Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない 23. I take pictures on my smart phone of the why. 私はスマートフォンでホワイトボード・す。もし、そうなら何故ですか?	wad a text from my smart phone. で読む方が理解しやすい。 Disagree そうでもない Strongly Disagree 全く達 N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません white board or of English texts to help me study English. If so

ートフォンで授業の内容を記録しているからです。
○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持っていません
○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
why not? なぜ好きですか?なぜ好きではないですか?
○ Disagree そうでもない
Strongly Disagree 全く違う
○ N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません
ッシャーを感じます
Disagree そうでもない
Strongly Disagree 全く違う
N/A I don't have a smart phone 私はスマートフォンを持って いません

24. I don't hand write English because I now use a smart phone to record my classwork.

授業でQuizletを楽しく使用できる。何故ですが	
◯ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree とちらでもない	
Why?Why not? なぜ楽しく使用できるか、またはなぜ楽しく使用できな	いかコメントしてください。
30. I want to use Quizlet again in the future to I 私は英語学習の手助けとして、Quizletをまたf	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ ○ Agree そうだ	
-	
○ Disagree そうでもない	
○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う	
あなたはQuizletについて何か意見・感想はありますか?	
32. I enjoyed playing Kahoot. Why? Or why no 私はKahootを楽しく使用できた。それは何故	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く建う
Neither agree nor disagree とちらでもない	
Why? Or why not? Please comment. どうして?何故なの?コメントしてください	

すか?	
○ Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
○ Agree そうだ	○ Strongly Disagree 全く違う
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	
Why was this? Why not? どうして?何故なの?コメントしてください	
Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	○ Disagree そうでもない
Kahootをまた使用したい Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	Disagree # 3.75.trls
○ Agree そうだ	Strongly Disagree 全く違う
0.1955 ()/2	O 3344, 234, 24, 27,
O	
Neither agree nor disagree どちらでもない	
35. I found Kahoot useful for learning English. w	rhy? How? Anything you would like to say about Kahoot? ですか?あなたは Kahootについて何か意見・感想はあり
35. I found Kahoot useful for learning English. w Kahootの使用は英語学習に有効である。何故で	
35. I found Kahoot useful for learning English. w Kahootの使用は英語学習に有効である。何故で か?	すか?あなたは Kahootについて何か意見・感想はあり
35. I found Kahoot useful for learning English. w Kahootの使用は英語学習に有効である。何故で か? Strongly Agree かなりそうだ	すか?あなたは Kahootについて何か意見・感想はあり Disagree そうでもない

The use of smart phones as an educational tool in the EFL classroom.

Appendix B: English translation of comments that correspond to the survey. English translation of comments that correspond to The use of smart phones as an adocational lood in the EFL classroom survey. These are the answers to the questions from the survey translated from Japunese given by students.

Positive comments per Question 6: Using my smart phone improved my motivation to study English in class. How?	rticipants	Negative comments per	citipants
Ve can co-operate with friends playing quizlet live and I can use my flashcards on a train	1	It depends on time	
Can enjoy studying as it is like a game	9	My battery decreases during the game	
t is fun	7	Wi-Fi speed is slow/or does not work	
can feel study is more familiar with a smart phone and feel comfortable	5	Can be boring Confusing if I received a call or mail during the game	
f we use smartphone and study with the book I have a clearer image of the grammar and vocabulary Ising smartphone study is easier	3	Confusing it I received a call or mail during the game	
We can have competition, I like that	1		
Ve can play with friend's in-group game	-1		
esson with game is easy learning and I enjoy the study enjoyed the smartphone in the classroom in the classroom as it is progressive	1		
enjoyed the smartphone in the classroom in the classroom as it is progressive fuch more interesting to use a phone rather than to write with pen & paper and listening	5		
Recause it is very easy to understand	1		
Activates the class	1		
It keeps me energized in class	1		
studying using the big screen is understandable and speedy It is enjoyable to speak and mix with other students during the cell phone game	1		
Question 13:motivation Using my smart phone improved my motivation to study English in class. How?			
can search easily by using the internet	1	In fact my motivation didn't increase It did not improve my motivation, I just felt learning with a phone is more	
can listen to English language music	1	casual	
could have motivation to study outside class i.e. when I was on a train We don't need to write out sentence	2	It is ok It is fun, but unfortunately have to use own broadband	
always use a smart phone so it is fun and have more motivation than just with a paper textbook.	1	I don't think it improved my motivation	
Enjoyable and want to do more	1	No change	
thought I wanted to study as I used myt smart phone	1		
can learn make wear point or understanding at the time using her smart phone	1		
in so I wanted to do more study and my motivation increased can check English online using my smartphone	1		
wanted to check more words and vocabulary after I had started using smartphones in class.	1		
enjoyed the quiz with my classmates	1		
istening to music is enjoyable, so I want to listen more	1		
The cell is familiar so I like it and I have increased my motivation cell phone is familiar and use all the time so when I'm bored I use quiz let so this really helps me and	1		
ncouraged me to use the YouTube mad social media to listen and gain further understanding.	1		
think I try to study English hard	i		
r's fun	1		
My metivation went up because I could compete against my classmates so wanted to study. It was interesting	1		
thought I wanted I wanted to learn my vocabulary.	1		
Easy to use	1		
The completion side of the Quizlet live game encouraged me to study	1		
do this in my free time can study easily without dictionary anytime anywhere	1		
can study easily without dictionary anytime anywhere lood for vocab study as colorful tool more interesting	1		
can stay awake with out sleeping	-1		
t is a shared learning with quizlet live as learn from each other	1		
My motivation for joining the lesson is increasing Easy because can save time and effort writing the cards at home help	1		
Question 14: I would like to do more lessons with smart phones Why or why not?	14	No. because of speed of Wi-Fi is slow	
n the future most lessons will use the internet		I am afraid that I will not be able to stop use my smart phone (phone	
n the future most lessons will use the internet	1	addiction)	
can improve my knowledge		Using smart phone makes my concentration wander because have other	
The lesson by smart phone is more fun.	1	applications running I am worried about I become addicted to using my phone	
sing smart phone makes the time go quickly.	1	No Because Wi-Fi is slow in my university	
t's fun and feels the lesson is more related to me, it reduces the sense of distance between the teacher and		I want to make communication directly rather than using a smart phone.	
student	1		
It feels comfortable Compare with studying with a pen and paper it feels like I can memorize the language almost double the	1	I have to pay a lot for my Wi-Fi connection.	
Compare with studying with a pen and paper if feels like I can memorize the language almost double the speed		It depends on the situation of Wi-Fi	
Enjoyable	1	I don't have enough hattery of my smart phone	
t is more fun to use the smart phone and makes me like English	1		
Connection speed	1		
m so happy to make communication with my classmates Secause I like using my smartphone.	1		
want to take a lesson by smartphone but Wi-Fi must be stable and also I want to save my battery more.	1		
Y's simple	1		
can memorize in English with fun	1		
Using smart phones make lesson more active	1		
My battery runs low soon can understand	1		
Useful	1		
Using smartphone is more familiar for me	1		
not bored when using smart phone I don't have to write by hand so it's easier	1 2		
Question 15. My smart phone helps my English writing skills.	100		
Question 15. My smart phone helps my English writing skills. When I Google the vocabulary it appears automatically so can read it, write with correct spelling.	1	Not enough opportunity to write when using a smart phone	
lelps because there are apps to help with vocabulary.	1	I do typing so don't feel my writing skills upgraded	
can check words.	1	I feel it's far from writing in English	
The speed of my brain is increasing using smart phone. ts fun so I can understand and memorize.	1	It is just typing and predictive text. No because just pushing button	
ts fun so I can understand and memorize. Secause I could memorize a lot of vocabulary.	1	No because just pushing button No ecause smartphone predictive text so it does not upgrade my writing.	
don't write so I don't think my writing skill increased.		Smartphones has predictive text so don't memorize spelling so does not help	
TO DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	1	writing skill	
Quizlet helped my understanding and accuracy.	1	No Because I don't write by hand	
t is easier to understand words.	1	I don't feel it helps writing Pushing is just typing so cannot memorize spelling	
Replications asks the spelling	1	Pushing is just typing so cannot memorize spetting I don't write letters	
martphone is just pushing the letter by button so don't feel my writing skill increase.	1	and the second s	
can study easier while I have free time.	1		
can memorize vocab easily	1		
Because I see of a lot of words. This is the fill the gap style and can recall easily.	1		
This is the fill the gap style and can recall easily. I can understand vocabulary more than before.	2		
don't write letters.	1		
like the translation function.	-1		

Question 16. My smartphone helps my English reading skills. I can copy and Google easily so Google what I don't understand I don't feel so I don't feel so My skills about secals and my English knowledge upgrade though not my reading skill. So change So have seen and s I can read international articles easily Luse English applications I use English applications
I can check words.
Reading by smartphone is easier
It is fun
It is easy to memorize
I can listen the pronunciation
I become to read English more
I learned application of words I can listen pronunciation together
I can learn with sound.
I liked the completion against my classmates reading at speed in kahoot get higher score
Interesting. Under the competents against my classmater reading at speed in subsort get higher continuenting interesting continuents of the continuent of the continuen I can check to pronunciation by voice in quizlet Lread a lot I read a lot Its a flashcards system so can recall easily I understand the meaning of each vocabulary It is easy to understand pronunciation Question 17. My smart phone helps my English speaking skills I talk with sire No opportunity to speak I can check words I don't feel that
I don't speak so much using a smart phone
Don't have the opportunity to speak when using the smart phone
Even if I remember the vocabulary it is difficult as don't study the grammar
I want to speak with my friends. It is fun Its easy to memorize Its easy to memorize
I change my setting on siri from japanese to English
I watched TV drama
I could understand the pronunciation
I could understand the pronunciation
I can listen to music in English so listening and pronunciation skills
I don't think my speaking goes up using a phone but doab up Interesting
I can study when free
I have confidence with pronunciation because quizlet has a voice on and can copy Question 18. My smart phone helps my English listening skills
Lean listen to music so have more vocabulary to understand.
Lean listen to instructional radio
listen to radio in English
Listen to radio in English
Lean listen to promunication on quiziet
Can study easily because radio broadcast tin English every time.
Ilisten music a list to understand some English words.
My ears become used to listening to English
It is firm & acq as to listen to English I don't have an opportunity to listen No change It is easy to listen. I can hear speaking I can hear speaking
Lean listen to music more
Lwatched TV/listened to music
Wy ear has changed to listen pronunciation
I have opportunity to listen to English by application
Lean listen atwhere/anytime
Lean listen to the vocabulary voice on quitzlet
Lused this to listen in English
I think my vocabulary skills have improved
Interesting Interesting I can study in my free time It has a voice on quizlet so can study at the same time I can listen to English pronunciation Because I can play listen to the voice in quizlet Question 2.1. I use mobile phone applications other than dictionary/quizlet/kahoot to study English outside class. Which ones?
Target
Tedest Youtube/smartness radio Ted mikan tango study TOESC English applications Studying & listening alc net academy (university in-house system) Dictionary Analitic hello talk Study supply listening application Kick tan Question 23. I take pictures on my smart phone of the white board or of English texts to help me study Question 2.5 I same protein and person of English. If so why when I don't understand I can check later It's easier than writing Important subject matter on white board I cannot catch up because of writing he board is not visible If I take picture I will not check again If I write a memo with a pen I lose it I can memorize clearly It is write a memo wit I can memorize clear I want to study again I like paperless Useful Useful
Because I always finish everything by smartphone
I always have my smartphone with me
I can check later
I cannot keep up with writing

Question 16. My smartphone helps my English reading skills I can Google what I don't understand I don't feel so My skills about vocab and my English knowledge upgrade though not my reading skill I can read international articles easily reading skill No change No epoper should be sh I use English applications I can check words. Can check words.

Reading by maraphone is easier
It is fun
It is easy to memorize
Can listen the pronunciation
Irread English more
Island application of words
Can listen promunciation together
Can listen promunciation together
Can learn with sound.
Hade the completion against my classmates reading at speed in kahoot get higher score Interesting

Lear read easily when I am free

Can check vocab and pronuncation together

Jour studying vocabulary so not ficused on vocabulary, so not increase in reading skill

Easy to study in free time

Lear read faster that before I can check to pronunciation by voice in quizlet I read a lot I read a lot Its a flashcards system so can recall easily I understand the meaning of each vocabulary It is easy to understand pronunciation Question 17. My smart phone helps my English speaking skills
I talk with sire
No opportunity to speak
I can check words
It is fun
It is cay to memorize I don't feel that
I don't speak so much using a smart phone
Don't have the opportunity to speak when using the smart phone
Even if I remember the vocabulary it is difficult as don't study the grammar
I want to speak with my friends hs easy to memorize
[change my setting on onir from japanese to English
[varished TV drams
[could understand]
[could understand to the could understan Question 18. My smart phone helps my English listening skills I can listen to music so have more vocabulary to understand. I don't have an opportunity to listen I can listen to international radio I listen to the radio in English No change Histen to the radio in English
Can listen to promunisation on quidet
Can study easily because radio broadcast in English every time.
Histen music a los understand some English words
My ears become used to listening to English
It is easy to listen
It is find a easy to listen to English
It is easy to listen
Can hear English speakers I can hear English speakers
I can listen to music more
I watched TV/listened to music
My ear has changed to listen pronunciation
I have opportunity to listen to English by application
I have opportunity to listen to English by application
I can listen atthewer/anytime
I can listen to the vocabulary voice on Quizlet
I can listen to the rocabulary wise on Quizlet
I think my vocabulary skills have improved
Interestine I can study in my free time I can assay at my tree time.
It has a voice on quizlet so can study at the same time.
I can listen to English pronunciation.
Because I can play listen to the voice in Quizlet. Question 21.1 use mobile phone applications other than dictionary/quizlet/kahoot to study English outside class. Which ones? Traget
Tedict Ted kahoot mikan mikan tango study TOEIC English applications Studying & listening alc net academy (univ ersity in-house system) Dictionary Analitic hello talk Study supply listening application Kick tan Genetics 2.3. Like pictures on my smart phone of the white board or of English texts to help me study suggests the sweet such care the study when I don't understand I can check later [17: easier than writing of the such care the study of the such texts of the such I cannot catch up decisions of writing languages. The board is not visible If I take picture I will not check again If I write a memo with a pen I lose it I can memorize clearly I want to study again I like paperless Useful Useful
Because I always finish everything by smartphone
I always have my smartphone with me
I can check later
I cannot keep up with writing

Question 27. I Liked playing the group game Quizlet live. Why? Why not? It makes a good relationship with other students ning teammate with classmates I don't like. I enjoy winning I understand how much I understand It uses a lot if my battery Wi-Fi is not so good We can teach each other I can memorize easier with my classmate Can memorate easier with my classmate it is than to cooperate with classmate Lenjoy with my friend My motivation improves with competition 1 door like group game but due to my mental health I found it difficult to communicate with class mates It's fun and friendly with classmates It's fun and friendly with classmates It's fun and triendly with classmates Is interesting Increased vocabulary and was fun Increased vocabulary and was fan it bits fan cooperate with Friends. Lets of communication with classmates I Interpreved my medication to the classmates it in fan to make communication it is fan to make communication it cannot speedy if I don't memorize completely I can enjoy game with classmates I can memorize vocab lasm gatter I can speak with students who I don't know so well I don't know so well I don't he with tradients I don't really know I can speak with anybody The classroom feels like a party atmosphere Question 29: Using Quizlet in class was enjoyable. Why? Question 29: Using Quizlet in class was el Inemorize words
I can compete with others
I try hard not to lose game and like competit it is easy to understand as the pictures help I can do game with classmates
The teacher is kind Wi-Fi is not stable Sometimes I am shy 13 The voice audio makes me understand The voice audio makes me understand We can play the game using words! have pre-studied at home I can enjoy with my classmates I can study with fun We enjoy like a game Cutting edge technology I want to memorize vocabulary It is usual It is easy to understand There is an order I become a teammate with new people Can make conversation with classmates Question 31. I found using Quizlet useful for learning English Question 3.1. found using Quiziet useful for learning English It was good I want to level up the tacthook Memorites vocabulary and the state of the Wi-Fi an issue I can use anywhere Study easy when I am free Something I was familiar with as at high school I used paper version flash cards. It is confortable like a mobile notebook Question 32. I enjoyed playing kahoot I like that it is a quiz Fun I can check new vocabulary by testing game I can check new vocabulary by testing game Because I can complete the can understand my level where I am in my class Competitions and have the time limit from the competition and where the mine limit for the control is a control in the control in the control is a control in the control in t Question 33. Kahoot helped me remember the language in class? Lean study & understand because it is like a game Lean memorize use full phrases. Lean study repeatedly as we played the games a few times Lean study in a fun environment. Quiz system Quit system It was fun My knowledge is increasing Because it is easy with pushing the screen Because I could learn and also enjoy the game Repeated the game so I could understand I cass understand easily Many new words Grammar auestions used. Grammar questions used Question 35.I found kahoot useful for learning English? Anything you would like to say about Kahoot? Fin
I enjoyed studying
It is effective to study
It is effective to a function
I and such reported play and it's like a test
The game system more people enjoy
I liked we could report the game and words from the class
I is easy to understand the difficult words that most of the class don't know
Because moretimes a gammar question, it helps