



When we came to Japan to teach at LIOJ, we first knew Mike through his ground-breaking book—*Listening in the Real World*. We soon got to know Mike and were so flattered to be asked to work with him on a new and ground-breaking project—an ELT text based around authentic conversations among speakers of different varieties of English. This project resulted in the textbook *Faces: Exchanging Views in English*, and reflected Mike's passion to push the envelope in EFL teaching.

Mike is a true pioneer. He was one of the first ESL educators back in the 1980s to break away from the traditional model of grammar translation in second language learning into a functional, communicative model. We value Mike especially as a good friend, and we love how he has always challenged us to think creatively about language teaching and learning.

Andy Blasky and Betsy Chafcouloff