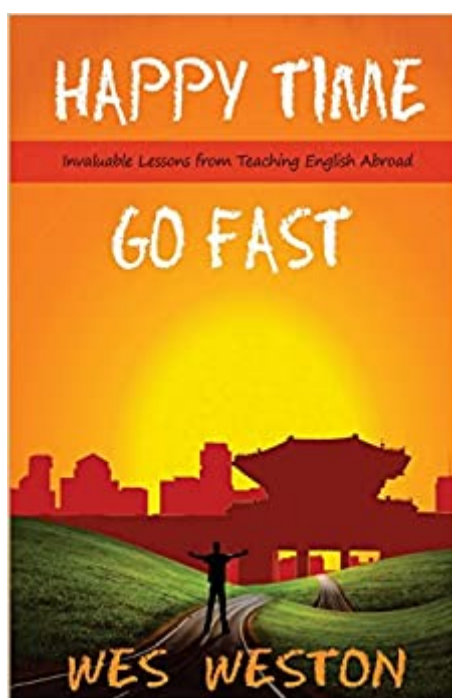


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# Happy Time Go Fast: Invaluable Lessons From Teaching English Abroad



## Synopsis

PUT YOURSELF IN THE SHOES OF A FIRST-TIME ENGLISH TEACHER AS SOON AS YOU OPEN THE BOOK! Humorous, informative, lighthearted and educational, *Happy Time Go Fast* takes you inside the classroom and standing in front of the students. Wes Weston shares amusing stories and anecdotes that illustrate his misadventures with discipline, classroom management, positive reinforcement, and even school romance. These experiences are then put into context against the serious backdrop of English education in South Korea where the English craze is uncanny. *Happy Time Go Fast* also takes you outside the classroom, examining what it's like to live in a foreign country. From learning the Korean language to learning how to use chopsticks, from discovering the fascinating world of Konglish to discovering the tranquility of Korean saunas, Wes Weston reveals some of the cultural norms and quirks of life in South Korea. Whether you're considering teaching English in Korea, or just intrigued by the thought of it, *Happy Time Go Fast* paints a vivid picture of a teacher's life in Korea, folds it into a paper airplane, and sends you flying towards an overseas adventure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wes Weston is nomadic. Upon graduating from university, he backpacked across Western Europe, completed a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, worked seasonal jobs in Florida and Alaska, and spent a year in Costa Rica volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Eventually, Wes discovered his passion. With a love for traveling and being immersed in cross-cultural environments, Wes began a career teaching overseas. He has since taught in four different countries, including South Korea, Namibia, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. Currently,

Wes lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is pursuing a Master's in TESOL. In the near future, he plans to resume his nomadic journey around the world. For more about Wes visit: [WesWeston.com](http://WesWeston.com)

Wes Weston writes openly and honestly in *Happy Times Go Fast* as he recounts three years teaching ESL English at the MoonKkanga Academy and later at Gyeonju English Village University in South Korea. As a novice teacher he finds what appears to be first-time security in his career as he launches into his role with clear motivation at the describing his errors and failures as well as his successes. Offering sweets to encourage students to work and mixing socially with older students could be considered questionable but he these are decisions he has to make. Using the game of rock-paper-scissors or gawi-bawi-bo to settle arguments is very successful. Above all the reader senses Mr Weston's enthusiasm to teach and learn what works and what does not. He quickly realises that motivational activities getting students out of their desks works well. Showing dull documentaries does not work and accordingly he changes direction which is something to be admired. Most teachers would agree that they never fully conquer the task of teaching because of changing curriculum, changing subject requirements and adjusting to the many different personalities in the room. Mr Weston who is referred to as teacha or We-Suh faces such difficulties as he takes the reader through this challenging but rewarding journey. Away from the classroom there are accounts of buying a motorbike, shopping, food, Korean history and etiquette but most of all there is an enjoyment in being in Korea with all the challenges and attractions of Asia. People who have visited or even better taught in an Asian country will know the pull and call these countries have for westerners and Mr Weston unashamedly shows this. He even had a girlfriend in Korea. This book will appeal to all travel enthusiasts and teachers but especially teachers new to the craft and to teachers of ESL English language and literature. Four stars may be a little harsh. I now look forward to reading *Watermelon is Life* by Mr Weston.

Happy time go too, too fast! It seems to be a paradox that times of joy can feel so fleeting whilst for the same time, discomfort takes an eternity! The author quite understandably had every reason to feel that the experiences he had teaching in Korea passed far too soon, as I also felt in reading of them. As an octogenarian whose early schooling was during the 30s depression and involved a convent rigidity and discipline, but of relatively short duration, followed by lengthy hours of enjoyable afterschool physical activities, I do feel a genuine sympathy for those children for whom their culture dictates such a harsh regime of scholastic attainment in order to save

and eventually find acceptable employment. Having raised 6 children and followed and following the fortunes and misfortunes of some 15 children and now a growing number of children, it has been most interesting to compare the various differences and attitudes between the Asian cultural attitudes to education compared to ours here in Australia and New Zealand, with which I am familiar. The Author's rendition of his experiences most certainly provided a most interesting and informative narrative with both intelligent insight and good humour which kept me thoroughly engrossed till the end and provided me with plenty of aspects to discuss with my husband who had served in the army in Korea with the UN.

This book is a page-turner (so to speak). As a person who has found herself in similar situations, I could not help nodding along, laughing and shaking my head in amazement. The writer is honest, funny and a great story-teller. Korean culture, politics and history as it pertains to the country and the education system are interspersed with captivating stories and hilarious anecdotes that really capture the joys and challenges of English teaching and the lifestyle of English conversation teachers in South Korea. This book has appeal for ESL teachers not just in Korea, but worldwide, as well as those who wish to take up the profession.

this is a sweet little book about a young American guy's experiences teaching English in Korea. It's well-written, funny, and surprisingly instructive. A great read for anyone thinking about teaching or who has taught in other countries, and people interested in Korea or armchair travel. If you're like me, you think about ditching it all to go teach English in other countries all the time, but probably, realistically never will. This book was a great proxy experience!!!

This is such a great read for pre-service teachers who are considering teaching as a profession and even better for those thinking about moving abroad. South Korea is a truly welcoming country and the author did an excellent job portraying life as a teacher there including all of the ups and downs. Hats off to an enjoyable read that brought me back to my own experiences living in Seoul in 2010. I too parted with Korea but continued writing at [goneseoulsearching.com](http://goneseoulsearching.com). I hope the author writes a follow-up about his experience in Africa!

If you are looking for a serious tome to study and research, this isn't it. This is a fun romp through the author's experiences teaching (and learning) in Korea. He learns as much from the students and

the experience as he imparts upon them. It made me want to be a single, carefree 30yo who could jaunt off to foreign lands and have fun and exciting life experiences. As I cannot, reading about it was the next best thing. Definitely recommend this book.

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