The professional identity of Japanese teachers of English in Japanese higher education

1. I investigated the professional identity of four Japanese university English teachers at the onset of their careers, and analyzed the narrative data obtained from interviews using Wenger’s (1998) theory of identity as the analytical framework.

2. I investigated the impact of gender upon the professional identity of seven Japanese female teachers of English in Japanese higher education using Gee’s (2000) perspectives of identity as the theoretical framework. A strong relationship between gender and English language study was established.

3. I investigated the teaching practices and beliefs of one Japanese teacher of English in Japanese higher education. Through a series of interviews and classroom observations it was found that her identity as a literature specialist was as the heart of her identity as an English language teacher.
One of the best ways to prepare for doing well in English is to read as much as you possibly can. Try to read books that are just a little big more difficult than what you can read, and try to understand the whole of what is written rather than each word and each sentence. Try to guess the meaning of a word through the context of the sentence and through the grammatical placement of the word within the sentence. Reach for your dictionary AFTER you try to understand.

Remember, if you memorize long lists of English vocabulary words you will only remember the list. If you read a lot, you will learn a lot of vocabulary in context. You will also improve your understanding of natural English and you will learn to enjoy English as a language, and not just as a subject.

Good luck!