

Notes for the teacher

Aim

The aim of these vocabulary activities is to introduce between ten and twenty useful vocabulary items for the level, with an emphasis on checking the meaning and using the words and phrases. The students should be able to use the language actively once they have completed the tasks.

Each vocabulary worksheet can be used as a lesson in itself. It provides practice in speaking, reading and writing as well as introducing vocabulary. However, the worksheets are designed to be flexible. The first two exercises can be used as a lead-in to a lesson on the topic area, introducing vocabulary before going on to a listening or reading from the class coursebook. The final speaking activity can be used as a follow up to a lesson on the topic area. The writing task makes a natural homework activity.

The tasks are designed to help students match words to meaning, and to use and personalise vocabulary. However, it is always a good idea to think about which words your students will find difficult. If you have a monolingual class it is easy to predict this, and think of check questions to make sure they understand the words.

Teacher's notes – Education_ Upper-Intermediate

1

Ask the students to look at the different types of educational establishments, and match them to the sort of person who might attend them.

Answers

- A co-educational secondary school = A thirteen year old girl and a fourteen year old boy
- A primary school for infants and juniors = A five-year-old and a nine-year-old
- A sixth-form college = A seventeen-year-old who hopes to go on to higher education
- A nursery school = A three-year-old
- A further education college offering evening classes = A thirty six year old office worker who wants to get better at computer skills
- A university = A twenty-year-old who wants to be a doctor
- A public school = A fifteen-year-old whose parents want to pay for his/her education

2

Ask the students to work in pairs and categorise the phrases.

Answers

a state secondary school: play truant (hooky), do homework, pay attention, take the register

a university: pay course fees, get a grant, graduate with honours in Chemistry, have a weekly tutorial, attend a lecture, give a seminar on William Shakespeare, take a degree

both: take an exam, cram for end-of-term exams

- a. study really hard = cram
- b. get a degree = graduate
- c. a one-to-one talk = tutorial
- d. government money to help you pay for the course = grant
- e. not go to school even though you're not ill = play truant

3

Put the students in pairs to decide which verb does not collocate in each sentence.

Answers

- a) make
- b) make
- c) made
- d) taking up
- e) end up

4

Ask the students to rewrite the sentences using the expressions.

Answers

- a. Starting a new job is difficult because you have to learn the ropes.
- b. He was a quick learner.
- c. We had to learn all the words of the song off by heart before the concert.
- d. The child, who ran in the school corridor, fell over and banged his head. He has learnt his/her lesson.
- e. When my grandfather was at school he had to learn by rote.

5

Ask the students to read the passage and fill in the gaps with the names of the educational establishments mentioned in exercise 1

Answers

The school system in England.

Pre-school education is provided by state or private nursery schools. Children as young as two are often left by their parents while they go to work. Children usually start primary school when they are five. Then they go on to a state secondary school, often called a comprehensive school. In the private sector, children often go to a prep school, before going on to public school when they are five or six. Many children often leave school at sixteen, after they take their GCSE exams, but some stay on to take their A level exams at school or sixth form college, before going on to university.

6

Ask the students to prepare to talk about the school system in their country, and their own experience of education. Put them in pairs or threes to discuss.

7

Ask the students to write about the school system in their country. You could set this for homework.



These exercises were prepared using the CD ROM from the new **Macmillan English Dictionary**, which was designed to make making vocabulary lessons easy for teachers. You can find out more about the dictionary and the CD in www.onestopenglish.com. You can also buy the dictionary from the site.