

1 Read and match

Look at the different types of educational establishments below. Match them to the sort of person who might attend them:

Educational establishments

- A co-educational secondary school
- A primary school for infants and juniors
- A sixth-form college
- A nursery school
- A further education college offering evening classes
- A university
- A public school

Type of person

- A five-year-old and a nine-year-old
- A thirty-six-year old office worker who wants to get better at computer skills
- A seventeen-year-old who hopes to go on to higher education
- A twenty-year-old who wants to be a doctor
- A thirteen-year-old girl and a fourteen-year-old boy
- A fifteen-year-old whose parents want to pay for his/her education
- A three-year-old

2 University or secondary school?

Look at the phrases below. Which phrases would you expect to find mentioned in a state secondary school, which in a university, and which in both?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Pay course fees | Play truant |
| Take an exam | Get a grant |
| Cram for end-of-term exams | Graduate with honours in Chemistry |
| Have a weekly tutorial | Do homework |
| Attend a lecture | Pay attention |
| Give a seminar on William Shakespeare | |
| Take a degree | Take the register |

3 Read and match

Match some of the words above to the definitions below.

- a. study really hard b. get a degree
c. a one-to-one talk
d. government money to help you pay for the course
e. not go to school, even though you're not ill

cram

graduate

tutorial

grant

play

truant

4 Collocation

Which verb does not collocate in each sentence?

- a. I must work hard, because next Tuesday I have to _____ an exam.
i. make ii. sit iii. take iv. pass v. do
- b. I'm planning to _____ a course in Computing.
i. take ii. do iii. enrol on iv. make v. begin
- c. The teacher _____ us a really difficult test on phrasal verbs.
i. gave ii. set iii. made
- d. At the end of term students have to spend hours _____ what they have learnt.
i. revising ii. going over iii. taking up iv. studying
- e. Schools _____ for the summer holidays in July.
i. break up ii. end up iii. close iv. shut

5 Education idioms

Look at these idiomatic expressions using learn. Rewrite the sentences below using the expressions:

- learn off by heart
 - learn by rote
 - learn the ropes
 - learn (one's) lesson
 - a quick learner
- a. Starting a new job is difficult because you have to learn all the basic things that you don't yet know.
- b. He was able to pick up everything about the sport in no time at all.
- c. We had to remember all the words of the song before the concert.
- d. The child, who ran in the school corridor, fell over and banged his head. He now knows never to do that again.
- e. When my grandfather was at school he had to memorize all the facts that the teacher told him.

6 Fill the gaps

Read the passage below, filling in the gaps with the names of the educational establishments mentioned in exercise 1:

The school system in England

Pre-school education is provided by state or private _____. Children as young as two are often left by their parents while they go to work. Children usually start _____ when they are five. Then they go on to a state _____, often called a comprehensive school. In the private sector, children often go to a prep school, before going on to _____ 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 _____, before going on to _____.

7 Discussion

Prepare to talk about the school system in your country, and your own experience of education. Discuss it with your partner. Consider the following questions:

- What age do children begin school in your country?
- What age does compulsory education end in your country?
- What time do schools begin and end in your country?
- What are the different school stages called in your country? (e.g. nursery, secondary)
- What subjects are taught at what ages in your country?
- Do students have to pay to attend university in your country?
- What are your memories of education in your country?

8 Education worldwide

Write about the school system in your country. Try to answer the questions you discussed in exercise 6.

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

3 Match some of the words above to the definitions below.

- 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

4 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

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

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