

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

Real English Conversation: Education

Dear English Learner,

Get ready to speak confidently! I recommend reading the worksheet out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question. [Click here to watch the original video](#). Thanks so much for learning English with me!

*Your teacher,
Vanessa*

Education

What age does school start? What's it like?

1. Out of pocket: *a cost that is paid for directly*

Parents have to pay for preschool **out of pocket**.

The amount of money I have to pay **out of pocket** for health insurance is unbelievable.

2. Pull out of a hat: *when something is chosen randomly, so as to be fair*

A charter school **pulls** kids' names **out of a hat**.

For Christmas, all my cousins **pull names out of a hat** to see who they buy a gift for.

3. Vastly: *to a great extent*

Just because you pay for a school doesn't mean that it has **vastly** better education quality.

I **vastly** underestimated how challenging this hike was going to be!

4. As of: *the time or date from which something starts*

What percentage of Americans are homeschooling **as of** 2021?

As of 8 o'clock this morning, I have eaten six cookies.

5. Good-hearted: *kind and well-meaning*

There are a lot of **good-hearted** people in education.

I don't agree with everything he says, but I know he is **good-hearted**.

6. To look down on: *to act superior to someone or something*

You are **looked down on** if you choose a different education system.

They used **to look down on** me for wearing that brand of clothes—now it's in style and everyone is wearing them!

Do most American students go to universities after their graduation?

Is it considered important?

7. Shoulda (should have): *something that didn't happen, but you wish it had*

I **shoulda** thought of that.

I knew there was a chance of it raining today. I **shoulda** grabbed my umbrella!

8. On the rise: *becoming greater, increasing*

Graduation from school is **on the rise** in general.

The cost of housing in the US is **on the rise**.

9. ___ by ___: *when things aren't done a set way, but separately*

Is college important? -Well, it's probably family **by** family.

Loans are given on a case **by** case basis.

10. What you get out of it: *to receive a benefit from something*

College is way too expensive for **what you get out of it**.

For some people, business school is worth the cost for **what you get out of it**.

Is it hard to find a job if you don't have a university degree?

11. To mean something: *to be important or hold value*

A 4-year degree **means something**.

Being a graduate of that program really **means something**—it's so challenging that most people drop out and never finish.

12. Assertive: *having a confident and forceful personality*

If you're an **assertive** person, you can get a good job.

I haven't always been **assertive**, it is a skill that I have built over many years with a lot of practice.

13. Of your own volition: *to do something without being told or asked; voluntarily*

She took some classes **of her own volition**, and that's why I hired her.

He saw the problem and fixed it **of his own volition**, so his boss promoted him.

14. Would have: *to talk about something that did not happen in the past*

I **would have** loved to do that. (common)

I **would have** loved to have done that. (correct)

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences about this prompt. **Tell me about education in your country. Is school expensive? Are you expected to go to university?** Use at least 2 phrases from this lesson in your answer.

Sample answer: *In the US, public schools are funded by the taxes that people pay. Some people decide to either send their kids to private schools, which can be really expensive if you pay out of pocket. Other people decide to homeschool their kids. The quality of education can vary vastly depending on where you live and the resources you have access to. In prior years, it was an expectation that people who wanted a good job would go to a university and get a degree, but I think that is starting to shift as trade schools are on the rise.*

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