

### Vocabulary

Different countries have different types of school, so it's sometimes difficult to give the names of national school types in English.

The information below explains some school types in English-speaking countries.

#### USA

Ages 5 to 11 • **elementary school**.

12 to 14 • **junior high school / middle school**

15 to 18 • **high school**

#### UK

Ages 5 to 10: **primary school**

11 to 16 or 18: **secondary school**

For places of higher education (for students 18 and older), we generally use the words **college**

(US and UK) or **university** (UK).

### Reading 2.3

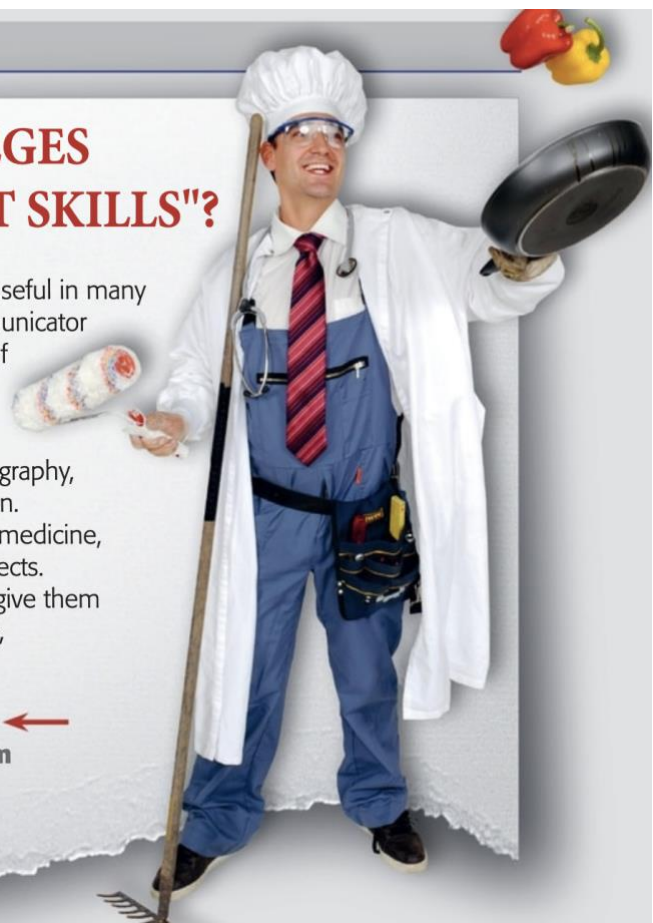
#### 2.3 Reading

## ARE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TEACHING ENOUGH "SOFT SKILLS"?

They're called "soft skills": areas of knowledge that are useful in many different professions. For example, being a skillful communicator is a very useful ability. Having a reasonable knowledge of mathematics is, too.

Clearly, soft skills are an important issue in education. They help decide which subjects – such as science, geography, history and art – children should spend the most time on. In universities, students on specialized courses, such as medicine, engineering and law, need to cover a lot of specific subjects. But some of their learning also needs to be "softer", to give them more possibilities as their careers progress and, perhaps, change direction.

→ **The advantages of soft skills are clear.** ←  
**However, identifying and prioritizing them is much less obvious.**



## 2.3 Follow-up

Answer the questions below about the article in Reading 2.3.

- 1 What are "soft skills"?

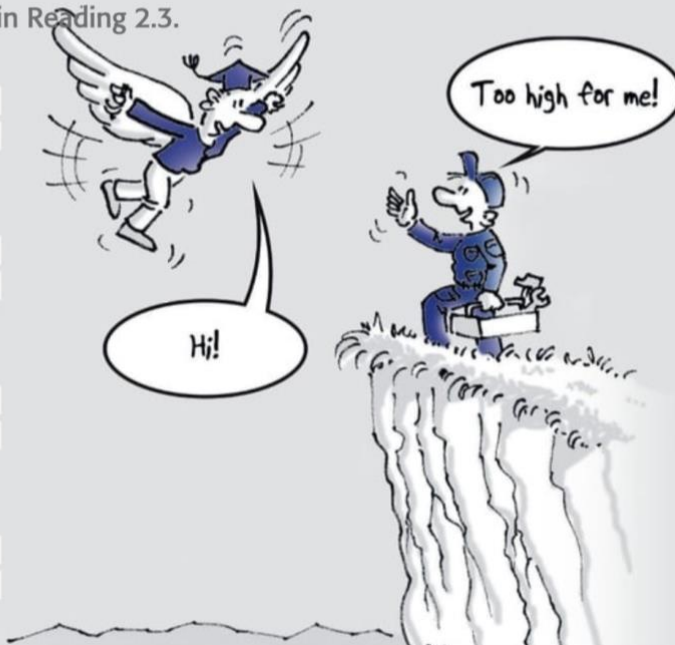
- 2 What "soft skill" does the article mention which is connected to language?

- 3 The article mentions five subjects that children study at school. What are they?

- 4 The article mentions two college subjects that are connected with science. What are they?

### Practice Exercise 1

Match the education subjects in 1–6 to the descriptions in A–F.

mathematics	1	A	studying a language
history	2	B	studying creative works, such as paintings
geography	3	C	studying of numbers
art	4	D	studying the natural and political world
science	5	E	studying the past
English	6	F	studying areas such as physics, chemistry and biology

## Practice Exercise 2

Audio link: <https://www.inlingua.com/audios>

### 2.3 Listening (Track 07)



**Part A** You are going to hear Paula Kraemer, a manager, answering the question below. Before you listen, answer the question in your opinion.

**Question:** How much of what you learned at school was useful for your career, and how much wasn't?

**Part B** Now listen to Paula Kraemer's answer. She uses the three examples below to make three different points. What points does she make?

1 biology 2 literature 3 computers

**Part C** Complete the extract from the interview below, using the correct forms of the words in the past.

"I 1 \_\_\_\_\_ it difficult. But it 2 \_\_\_\_\_ me a lesson. It 3 \_\_\_\_\_ good experience."



## Practice Exercise 3

Based on Paula Kramer's views in the listening track, mark the following as true or false:

1. Some of the things Paula learned at school were useful, others were less useful, and some were no use at all.	T	F
2. She thinks it's a good idea to directly compare school subjects with work skills.	T	F
3. Doing all the main subjects at school helps students understand what they like and what they don't like.	T	F
4. Paula liked biology and found it easy.	T	F
5. She decided not to become a doctor because they didn't like biology.	T	F
6. School only prepares students for work, not for life in general.	T	F
7. Studying literature was an important part of the Paula's culture and general education.	T	F
8. She believes that having a good general education is not essential.	T	F
9. Technology and the way people work change very quickly.	T	F
10. She believes that it's easy to teach children very specific skills for their careers.	T	F

## ANSWERS

### Follow-up 2.3

1. Areas of knowledge that are useful in many different professions
2. Communication
3. Mathematics, science, geography, art, history
4. Medicine, engineering

### Practice Exercise 1

1. C
2. E
3. D
4. B
5. F
6. A

### Practice Exercise 2 Listening Part C

- 1: Found
2. Taught
3. Was

### Practice Exercise 3

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. F