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SCHOOL

In examinations, those who do not wish to know the answers ask questions of those who cannot tell.

SIR WALTER ALEXANDER RALEIGH (BRITISH LITERARY CRITIC, 1861–1922)



TYPES OF SCHOOL

1 Match pictures a–f to sentences 1–6.

- 1 The first year of primary school was fun. I was proud to be a schoolgirl.
- 2 I had to pass an entrance test to get into this secondary school.
- 3 I went to kindergarten when I was three. I hated it.
- 4 And then, if everything goes according to plan, I'll graduate from university in five years' time.
- 5 I'm taking the school-leaving exams this year. The stress is dreadful!
- 6 I hope to get a place at university to study literature.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Educational systems in Britain and the USA are not the same. In Britain currently there is only primary school (ages 5–11) and **secondary school** (12 to 16 or 18). The last two years are sometimes called **sixth form**, or **sixth-form college**. At the age of 18, students who want to go to university take **A-levels**, which are a type of national **school-leaving exam**. In the USA, primary school is followed by **middle school** or **junior high school** (ages differ, usually being 11–14 or 12–15). After that students can go on to **high school** or, more precisely, **senior high school**.

2 Read the Language & Culture box about education in Britain and in the USA. What are the following called in your country?

- 1 primary school - _____
- 2 junior high-school - _____
- 3 high school - _____
- 4 A-levels - _____

3 Now use the vocabulary from Exercises 1 and 2 to tell the story of your own education to another student.

PLACES IN A SCHOOL

4 Match sentences 1–8 to a–h, then tick (✓) the facilities your school has got.

- 1 Do you know what time the **library** opens?
- 2 Can you tell me where the **canteen** is?
- 3 Can you tell me where the **office** is?
- 4 Our school's got several **sports fields**.
- 5 I'm looking for the **computer room**.
- 6 Our school has a very well-equipped **science lab**.
- 7 Tommy's in the **gym**.
- 8 I'm looking for the **staffroom**.

- a I need to see the secretary about some papers.
- b We do all kinds of experiments there.
- c Where else can a sports maniac be at break?
- d I need to talk to the art teacher.
- e I'm hungry!
- f I need some books.
- g We can play all kinds of team games.
- h Has it got really fast Internet access?

PEOPLE IN A SCHOOL

5 Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

classmate deputy head examiner head teacher
lecturer students staff

- There are twenty-eight _____ in my class.
- Miss Hutchinson is a(n) _____ as well as a teacher. She knows all about the final exams.
- My father's a _____ at university.
- The _____ is away at a conference this week. In her absence, the _____ is in charge of the school.
- Uncle Gerald is not really my uncle. He's my dad's old _____. They went to school together thirty years ago.
- Our school is big. There is a teaching _____ of more than 100.

SCHOOL SUBJECTS

6 Match the subjects to the activities. Tick (✓) the activities you enjoy and put a cross (X) next to the ones you dislike. Tell another student about your choices.

SUBJECT

- Maths
- Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)
- Geography
- History
- Language and literature
- Foreign languages
- PE (Physical Education)
- IT (Information Technology)
- Art

WHAT DO WE DO DURING LESSONS?

- play team sports
- learn to use software
- solve problems
- do vocabulary exercises like this one
- draw or paint
- study maps
- read and discuss set books
- learn about the past
- do experiments

SCHOOL OBJECTS

7 Complete the sentences with names of school objects.

- Adam, can you please wipe the **b** _____ for me? And could you also go and fetch some **ch** _____?
- Would everybody please put their **n** _____ on their desks so that I can collect them?
- Don't lose this material. Put it in your **f** _____ now.
- This year, we're going to use a new English **t** _____. There are tons of vocabulary exercises in it!
- 'Has anyone got a **r** _____? I need to correct something.' 'There is one in my **p** _____ **c** _____. Help yourself.'
- I need to go to my **l** _____. I've left my Maths book in it.

EXAMS

8 Arrange the verbs from the box to tell the story of someone who took an exam, but didn't succeed the first time.

failed passed retook prepared for took

He _____
_____ the exam.

9 Use the verbs from Exercise 8 to tell a real story of how you or someone you know had difficulty passing an exam (for example, the driving test!)

10 Circle the correct answer.

- The teacher who is responsible for a whole class of students is called a **form/head** teacher.
- If a child goes to an independent school, the parents must pay school **fares/fees**.
- If you are good at adding, deducting and multiplying, you should take part in a Maths **competition/course**.
- If you study hard every day and get good grades, you will get an impressive school **certificate/graduate** at the end of the school year.
- Teachers have many responsibilities: for instance, they must prepare lessons and **examine/mark** tests and essays.
- At the end of each term all the teachers at school gather together at a **staff/school** meeting and discuss important school issues.
- After taking the school-leaving exam, the students have to wait for the exam **papers/results** to be announced before they can apply to a university.

USEFUL PHRASES

11 Zoe's in a new boarding school. Read her letter to her parents and complete the sentences with **make** or **do** in the correct form.

Hi Mum and Dad,
They're making us work really hard in this school. If you don't pay attention in class and ¹ _____ notes, you're soon lost. Last week I didn't ² _____ my Latin homework and Miss Scott told me to ³ _____ fifteen exercises! But then when we had a test, I ⁴ _____ only two mistakes. On the whole, language lessons are fun. Most of the time we ⁵ _____ fun activities. And I think I'm really ⁶ _____ progress in Spanish. I understand much more now than a year ago. We're ⁷ _____ an interesting project on local history now. When we finish, we'll have to ⁸ _____ presentations about what we've found out. Some days I just want to scream: 'I can't work any harder! I'm already ⁹ _____ my best!' But then I think that at the end of it all I'll ¹⁰ _____ really well in the final exams and go to a good university. Give my love to Granny. I miss you all. See you at Christmas.
Love,
Zoe

