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# Higher Education in South Korea

[view](#)





# INTRODUCTION

CEF Learning Goal:

Make comparisons / Discuss pros and cons

South Korea has one of the world's most competitive education systems. Some students are in classrooms for sixteen hours a day! In this lesson, we will discuss cram schools through universities in South Korea and some of the expectations students face.

START



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# VOCABULARY

Let's check whether you know each following word.





**cram school** (noun) a school that helps students get extra help studying one subject

**pressure** (noun) a difficult situation that makes you feel worried or unhappy

**equal** (adjective) the same as

**top** (adjective) the best

**status** (noun) the opinion people have about something

# Vocabulary

## 01 Cram Schools

Education and success is very important for Korean families. Most parents will spend a large amount of money on private tutoring or **cram schools** to help their children get high test scores. They do this in order to help their child get into famous universities. This means students go to private school after public school, giving them little time for other activities and a lot of **pressure** to do well.



## DISCUSSION

Is pressure a good thing to make students do well? Why or why not?

## 02 Universities of the SKY

Even though there are hundreds of universities to apply to in South Korea, students try their hardest to get into the three **top** universities in the country:

Seoul National University, Korea University, and Yonsei University. Altogether they are known as the SKY universities. South Koreans see getting into a good university as **equal** to being able to find a job after graduating, which is why they push their children to get accepted to the ones that have good **statuses**.





# DISCUSSION

Why do you think South Koreans believe that a good university means  
getting a good job?

## REVIEW DISCUSSION

With your class, discuss the pros and cons of such a competitive education system. In the end, does it benefit students? Why or why not?





# SPEAKING TASK

With a partner, pretend you are a South Korean university student and compare your school lives.



# ASSESSMENT

Complete the sentences using the vocabulary words

from this lesson:

## status / equal / top / pressure / cram schools

1. \_\_\_\_\_ can help students fail or succeed.
2. A family's \_\_\_\_\_ may increase if their child goes to a Sky university.
1. What are the \_\_\_\_\_ ten songs right now?
2. What does 10 plus 50 \_\_\_\_\_?
1. Are \_\_\_\_\_ common in Taiwan?





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# Thank you !

