

STUDY – School days

TRANSCRIPT

They say your school days are the best of your life but I **couldn't wait to leave** school. **I was never a big fan of** school and I didn't miss it after I left. In fact the best time for me was break time when I **used to play** football with my friends. And then home time, of course!

Compulsory education starts in the UK at the age of five and finishes at sixteen years old. That's when you can leave school legally and get a job. But a lot of small **kids** in the UK start **nursery school** around the age of three, which is great because it gives you the chance to start developing **social skills** and **engage with the world around you**. We did fun things like play games, sing songs, do painting, so quite artistic things. I think that was my favourite thing. I **loved painting** at nursery school. In fact, I **carried on painting** throughout school until I was sixteen.

In the UK, from 5 to 8 years old, we have **infant school**, where children start to learn basic **literacy** and **numeracy** skills. We have **junior school** from 8 to 11 years old, and this is where children continue to develop these skills, and finally from 11 to 16 years old we have **senior school**, also known as **secondary education**. Here we learn a wide variety of subjects that **help to prepare** us for **further education** or for **the world of work**.

Most schools in the UK are **co-educational** now, so that means that boys and girls study together, but I think that there are still a few **single sex** I think. I **avoided going** to a boys' school because I **preferred to study** at a mixed school with girls, although I have to admit as I got older I **struggled to concentrate**! Girls are always a lot more interesting than schoolwork if you're a teenage boy!

School is divided into three **terms**. We **break up** for the winter holiday, that's around Christmas, then the Easter holiday and finally for the summer holiday, which is the longest holiday. The summer holidays seemed to last forever when I was a kid. I really miss that now! Then we always **used to go back** to school in the autumn, around September, which always seemed like the worst time of year for me. I **hated going** back to school after the holiday.

VOCABULARY

compulsory education – by law you must do this
kids – children (very informal)
nursery school – pre-school up to 3-years-old, not compulsory
social skills – learning how to interact with other people
engage with the world – connect, communicate with other people
carry on – continue
infant school – school from 4 to 7 years old
literacy – the ability to read and write
numeracy – the ability to do basic mathematics
junior school – school from 7 to 11 years old
senior school – school from 11 to 16 years old
secondary education – education from 11 to 16 years old
co-educational – teaching boys and girls together
single sex – either male or female, not both together
terms – the periods a school year is divided into
break up – end a school term, start a school holiday

GRAMMAR

Verb patterns

I preferred to study with girls

I preferred studying with girls

some verbs can be followed by the infinitive with 'to' or the gerund (-ing) form of the verb with little difference in meaning

I struggled to concentrate

the holidays seemed to last forever

some verbs can only be followed by the infinitive with 'to'

I avoided going to a boys school

some verbs can only be followed by the gerund (-ing) form of the verb

we always used to go back to school in the autumn

always use the bare infinitive after 'used to'

I carried on painting until I was sixteen

always use the gerund (-ing) form of the verb after a preposition