



EDUCATION

"I never let my schooling interfere with my education."

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910), American writer

1. Education Discussion

1. Where did you go to school? Was it a good school?
2. Did you enjoy your time at school? Why or why not?
3. What was your favourite subject at school? Which subjects didn't you like? Why?
4. How can we stop children from becoming bored at school?
5. Did you have a favourite teacher? How about a least favourite? Can you describe these teachers? What are the best qualities in a teacher?
6. What were the most important things you learned at school?
7. Do you think the quality of education in schools is better today compared to when you went?
8. Do schools truly prepare children for their futures?

2. Education Vocabulary

- **pupil** (noun) – a person who is taught, especially a schoolchild.
- **teacher's pet (noun)** – the teacher's favourite pupil, or one that makes an effort for the teacher to like them.
- **extra-curricular activities** (noun) – an activity available at an educational institution not directly connected to the curriculum.
- **to drop out (of school/college)** (verb), **(school/college) dropout** (noun) – to end your participation in something, especially school or college; a person who ends their participation in school or college.
- **to play truant / play hooky** (AmE) / **wag off** (BrE) / **skive** (BrE) (verb) – to be absent when attendance is required, especially at school.
- **to flunk** (AmE) (verb) – to fail, especially an exam or course.

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. I can't believe I _____ math; I'd been studying so hard for weeks!
2. Kingston Grammar is a great school with many _____ including sports, music and debating societies.
3. Martin is such a _____! He even brought an apple in for Miss Cartwright yesterday!
4. Phil's mum was furious when she found out he had _____ every day last week.
5. In the mornings, all _____ attend an assembly with the headmaster.
6. Both Steve Jobs and Bill Gates became billionaires despite being _____. It just goes to show that you should never let school interfere with your education!

Education vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Were you a good pupil, or did you misbehave at school?
2. Were there any teacher's pets at your school?
3. Why might someone drop out of school?
4. What extra-curricular activities did you take part in at school?
5. Did you ever play truant at school?
6. Did you flunk any subjects at school?

3. Video: Education as a Human Right

You are going to watch a video by UNESCO called "Who is allowed to go to school?"

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-education/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Who would find it easier to access education around the world?
a) girls *b) women* *c) men*
2. Education is a fundamental human right for whom?
a) children *b) adults* *c) everyone*
3. What can an education help you achieve?
a) your potential *b) a well-paid job* *c) social status*
4. What can organisations like UNESCO set for education?
a) international standards *b) international laws* *c) national laws*

Sentence completion

5. UNESCO hosts _____ where leaders can discuss and develop educational conventions.
6. UNESCO monitors how countries implement the right to education and the _____ they adopt to ensure this.
7. UNESCO can request _____ from countries to check how they are guaranteeing the right to education.
8. In order to share best practice on how to guarantee the right to education around the world, UNESCO maintains an _____.

Short answer

9. UNESCO provides countries with tools to reinforce what?
10. UNESCO helps countries align their educational reforms with what?
11. How many countries can provide 12 years of free education?
12. In some countries, what contributes to girls, immigrants and people with disabilities finding it difficult to access education?

4. Education Conversation Questions

1. How would you describe the standard of education in your country? Does the standard of education need improving? How would you improve it?
2. In your country, is there a difference in the standard of education between private and public schools? If so, is this fair?
3. Are teachers in public schools paid a good wage in your country? If not, how does this affect the education of children? Is there a correlation between teachers' salaries and the level of education provided in schools?
4. Do you think the government provides sufficient funding for education? If not, would you be willing to pay more taxes to provide more educational funding? Why or why not?
5. Should parents be fined if their children do not attend school? Why or why not?
6. Do you think boys and girls should be taught in separate schools? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?
7. What do you think of religious schools? Are these a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
8. Do you agree that education should be a universal human right, where all children are provided with the same level of quality education for free? Why or why not?

5. Education Writing Task

Write about education in your country. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- How the standard of education is.
- If there are any differences in the standard of education between public and private schools.
- How the standard of education could be improved.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people say that education is the single biggest factor that determines the economic success of a country. Do you agree or disagree with this?