



The education system

Lesson code: UDSI-CX9H-7H5

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

1 The UK/US education system

Study the table below.

Age range	British English	American English
2-5	nursery school / kindergarten	preschool
5-11	primary school	kindergarten (5-6) elementary school (5-11)
11-18	secondary school	junior high school (11-14) high school (14-18)
18+	university	college/university

Describe the education system in your country using British or American English.

What else do you know about the British and American education systems? Complete the sentences below:

A levels	comprehensive	majors	principal
public	revise	school	sit

1. The term '______ school' has opposite meanings in the UK and US. In the UK, it refers to a private independent school. In the US, it means a school that is funded by the state.

2. In the UK, a ______ school refers to a typical state secondary school.

- 3. In the UK, the school-leaving exams are known as ______.
- 4. In the US, the person in charge of a high school is a ______. In the UK, it is a *headteacher* or *headmaster/headmistress*.
- 5. At an American university, a student studies or _____ in a subject.
- 6. When preparing for an exam, students in the UK ______ what they have studied. In the US, they *review* for an exam.
- 7. In the UK and US, students *take* exams. However, in the UK they can also ______ exams.
- 8. In the US, Americans can use the expression 'go to ______' even if they are at university.

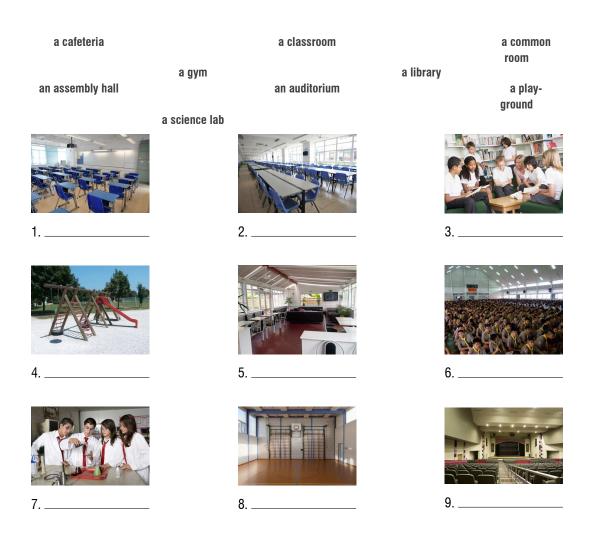






2 Places in a school

Label the pictures with the words below.



Describe the school you went to. Which places and facilities did you have?







3 Education idioms

Read the sentences and match each underlined idiom to its correct meaning:

- 1. Paul decided to cut class in order to smoke a cigarette.
- 2. Ken wanted to drop out of school in order to work in his family business.
- 3. Mario remembered all the words in his test because he managed to learn them by heart.
- 4. I was able to pass my science test with flying colors.
- 5. The boy decided to put on his thinking cap and come up with a new name for his school.
- 6. There are many schools of thought about how to learn a foreign language.
- 7. My friend Joe is always late so I decided to teach him a lesson this time and arrive 20 minutes late.
- 8. Jane was <u>the teacher's pet</u> at her school. She always sat at the front of the class and put her hand up for everything.
- a. do something to somebody in order to punish them for their bad behavior
- b. memorize something so that you can repeat it without thinking
- c. not go to class
- d. particular ways or philosophies of thinking about something
- e. start thinking in a serious manner
- f. stop attending school
- g. the teacher's favourite student
- h. very easily and with a high score

4 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below.

- 1. Was there a teacher's pet at your school?
- 2. How easy is it to pass school-leaving exams with flying colours?
- 3. Did you ever cut class at school? For what reasons?
- 4. For what reasons do pupils drop out of school in your country?
- 5. How effective is the education system in your country?

5 Flashcard review

Don't forget what you learned in this lesson! Go to www.linguahouse.com/ex and enter Lesson code: QWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNM1234567890-.



