



# 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  
public

comprehensive  
revise

majors  
school

principal  
sit

- 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.
- In the UK, a \_\_\_\_\_ school refers to a typical state secondary school.
- In the UK, the school-leaving exams are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the US, the person in charge of a high school is a \_\_\_\_\_. In the UK, it is a *headteacher* or *headmaster/headmistress*.
- At an American university, a student studies or \_\_\_\_\_ in a subject.
- When preparing for an exam, students in the UK \_\_\_\_\_ what they have studied. In the US, they *review* for an exam.
- In the UK and US, students *take* exams. However, in the UK they can also \_\_\_\_\_ exams.
- 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.

a cafeteria

a classroom

a common  
room

a gym

a library

an assembly hall

an auditorium

a play-  
ground

a science lab



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_

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 the teacher's pet 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](http://www.linguahouse.com/ex) and enter Lesson code: QWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNM1234567890-.

