

4. Education

WARM-UP QUESTIONS

- What are/were your favorite school subjects? Why?
- What was/has been your favorite year at school? Why?
- What things make/made you study hard?
- What changes would you like to see in schools?

VOCABULARY

Here are some words and expressions that will be useful in this unit.
How many do you know?

rules	memorize	motivation
graduate	co-education	student-centered
syllabus	curriculum	compulsory
bullying	subjects	single sex

Discuss which of the above words and expressions could fit in the following gaps.

- Carlos:** I only went to ___ schools. There were no girls at all. It was so unnatural! And the style of teaching was so old-fashioned! The ___ wasn't flexible at all. All ___ were ___ until we were seventeen, and then we could make a few choices.
- Annan:** I bet you studied many ___ that I'll never get a chance to know much about. At the schools I went to, we had a lot of freedom of choice, but I often wonder if we learned enough. One very good thing was that lessons tended to be ___, so most of us were motivated to study at home by ourselves.
- Carlos:** That's great! Your teachers obviously understood the importance of self- ___. We just followed ___ and did what we were told. There was nothing to entice us to study for ourselves. And the strictness and hierarchy led to a lot of ___ as well.

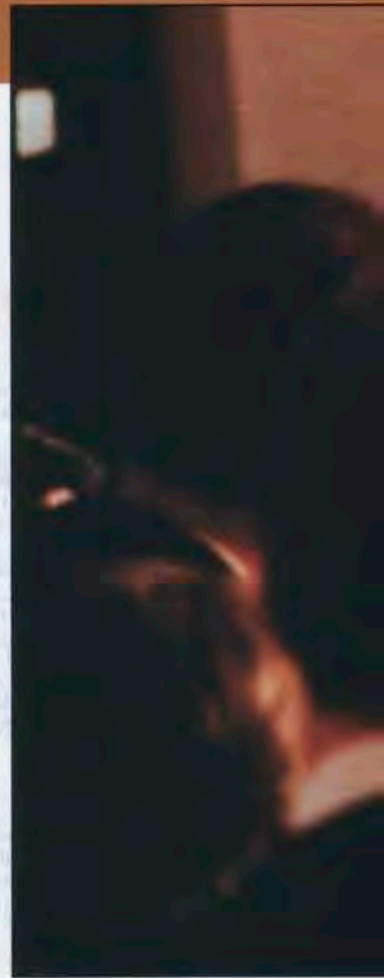
What words and expressions that are not in the list can you think of that might be useful when talking about education?

MIND MAP

Here is Carlos' mind map starting from 'my school'.



Now make your own mind map with 'my school', 'a good teacher', 'school subjects', or 'school rules' in the center. Talk about your mind map with another student or the rest of the class.





POINTS OF VIEW - TEACHERS SHOULD LET STUDENTS LEARN



Why do teachers like to talk so much? I'm fed up with listening to them. I want to find things out for myself, but most of my teachers never give me a chance. Even when they do, it's only for a short time. All they have to do is stop explaining, stop telling me what to do, and let me think things through for myself. I'd learn a lot more that way.

It's all because of the syllabus. If we are given a lot of time to discover things for ourselves, the teacher would never get through the syllabus. So we have to just memorize a lot of facts for exams, and when we're older we'll have more time to choose the things we want to learn.



By that time I probably won't be so interested in learning new things. It'll all feel like studying. The school system just destroys our curiosity and creativity. After studying at school for a few years, the only things most of us are really interested in have nothing to do with school, like music, bikes, or sport. It's all because of the way we are taught.



Well, I think the system works well. I love mathematics, and after I graduate I'm going to become a mathematics teacher, and I'll teach in exactly the same way we have been taught. It's worked for me, so it should work for everybody else.



4. Education

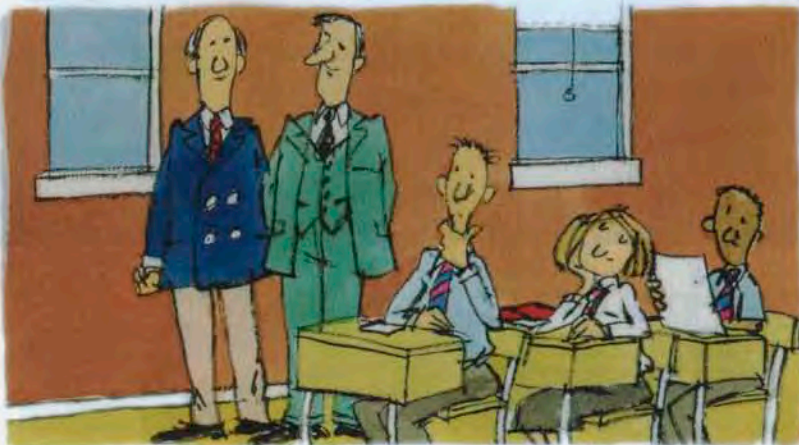
Practice and Discussion

PERSONALIZATION

Complete these sentences with your own ideas.

- I want to find out ... for myself.
- ... never give me a chance to ...
- I need to think things through when ...
- If I had a lot of time to ... I'd ...
- By the time I'm ... I ... any more.
- ... nothing to do with ...
- I ... in exactly the same way as ...
- ... works/has worked for me.

He said it had nothing to do with race, but I doubt it.



*"One of the students has just swallowed his pencil. What should I do?"
"Let him use a pen."*



DISCUSSION

At the end of the day, it all comes down to money.



DISCUSSION STRATEGIES

- It's all because ...
- It all comes down to ...
- All ... have/has to do is ...

Try to include the discussion strategies and the patterns from the personalization section in the following discussions.

- Why do some teachers talk so much?
- In what ways can teachers encourage students to think things through more?
- How important is it to memorize facts?
- Do you agree that the school system tends to destroy curiosity and creativity?
- Do you think the education system in your country works well?
- How could the way of teaching English be improved?
- Which of the students on page 27 do you agree with most? Why?

Activities

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

List three qualities of a good teacher.

Example: A good teacher shouldn't have favorite students.

Now talk to another student and ask at least two follow-up questions about each point.

Examples:

A: Don't you think it's natural for a teacher to like some students better?

B: It's unprofessional and it can make other students feel insecure.

A: I think teachers should be humans, not robots.

B: Yes, sure. They should be as human as possible. But they should also be fair.

ROLE PLAY

Student A: You are a teacher trying to help Student A.

Student B: You are a student wondering what to do after graduating (choose whether you are graduating from high school or college).

Example questions:

What kind of life do you want to have ten years from now?

Have you considered studying to become a nurse?

SITUATION - HELPING A STUDENT

Brainstorming: Think of reasons why a student might be absent from school.
Think of rules a student might break.
Think of ways a teacher can help in each case.

Student A: You are a teacher talking to a student who is often absent from school and breaks many school rules.

Examples:

Why are you absent so often?

Don't you care if you fail your exams?

Has anybody been bullying you?

Student B: You are the problem student.

Examples:

I'm not interested in school any more.

I don't want to study medicine. I want to be an astronaut.

I don't care what happens to me in the future.



"I don't want to go to school! I'm so unpopular! The students bully me! The teachers don't like me! I want to stay home and play computer games."
"But Dad! You have to go! You're the Principal!"

4. Education

Further Activities

COLLOCATION SETS

Put the following into sentences or dialogues.

Exam (examination)

1. pass an exam
2. retake (resit) an exam
3. an oral exam

Example: She was sure she would fail the exam, but, in fact, she passed.

Student

1. a conscientious student
2. a student loan
3. a mature student

Example: She's one of the most conscientious students in the class. She always does her homework and tries hard.

Teacher

1. a qualified teacher
2. an experienced teacher
3. teacher-centered

Example: We only employ qualified teachers with a professional attitude.

SPEECHES

Prepare a short speech on one of these three topics.

School fees should vary according to the income of a student's parents.

There should be no school uniforms.

All schools should be co-educational.

EXTRA EXPRESSIONS

Put the following into short dialogues.

over ... head

with ... eyes closed

in a class of ... own

learn from experience

Example:

A: How was the lesson?

B: It was way over my head.



"You got '0' in your exam again! When I was your age, I could do tests like this with my eyes closed!"

"Yes, but you had a different teacher."

Consolidation & Recycling

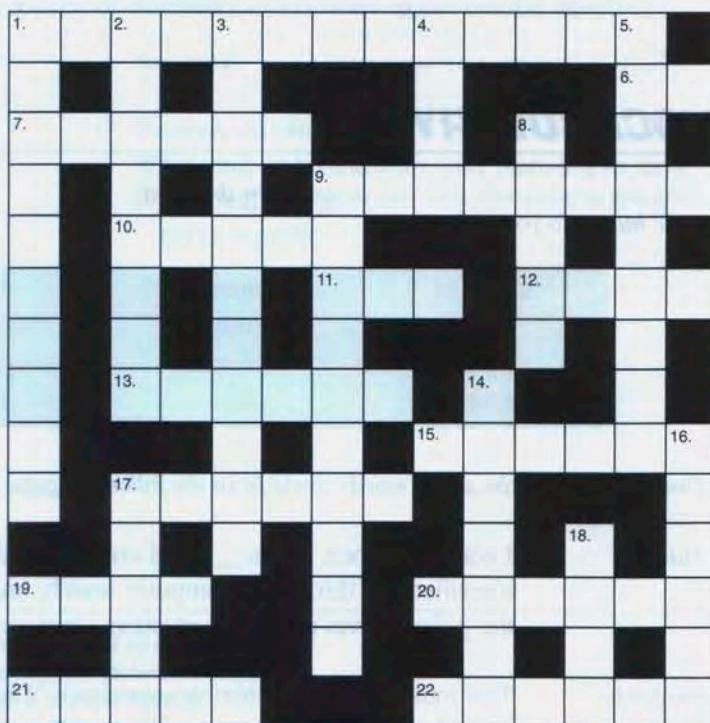
BUILDING VOCABULARY

Across

- 1 Cares and tries hard.
- 6 ___ reality, I'm pessimistic.
- 7 If I spend all my money, I may ___ it.
- 9 Our teachers needs to get through the ___.
- 10 I tend to ___ new people I meet.
- 11 ___ this cream into your legs every day.
- 12 Not everybody ___ a housing loan.
- 13 There was nothing to ___ us to study.
- 15 We should all get paid the same ___.
- 17 He doesn't play ___ with other girls.
- 19 I'm careful about the ___ I eat.
- 20 I don't know whether I'm ___ or going.
- 21 The teacher's attitude ___ a lot of bullying.
- 22 I couldn't accept her advice. I had to ___ it.

Down

- 1 The school ___ wasn't flexible at all.
- 2 I think you're being ___ and narrow-minded!
- 3 Educating boys and girls together.
- 4 Don't ___ me what to do!
- 5 In what kind of ___ are you optimistic?
- 8 It's out of the price ___ I can afford.
- 9 The ___ at school put pressure on everybody.
- 14 Make something better.
- 16 It's all because of the way we are ___ at school.
- 17 I ___ unhealthy food.
- 18 When I work too hard, the quality of my ___ suffers.



FOCUSING ON COLLOCATIONS

Write eight separate sentences, each of which includes both words in the pairs below.

qualified / teacher
conscientious / student
get / through
emergency / treatment

good / health
market / forces
student / loan
small / pay

WRITING OPINIONS

Write paragraphs about the following. Try to include words and patterns from this unit.

A teacher I respect.
School bullying.
How English could be taught more effectively.

REFLECTION

Which section of the unit did you find most interesting?
In which section of the unit did you learn the most?
Make a list of any new words and patterns from this unit that you want to try and remember.
You may find it helpful to write each word or pattern on a card.