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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/07/15

Education in the UK today

Today, let's talk about education in the UK. The framework is different to that of Continental Europe.

To begin with there is *nursery school*. This is for children aged 3-5. *Primary school* follows for children aged 5-11. This is split into two segments; Infants aged 5-7 followed by Juniors aged 7-11. *Secondary school* is for students aged 11-18. Students take their GCSEs when they are 16. Students aged 16-18 can take their A levels for the next two years in the school 6th form.

Alternatively students may opt to go to college from the age of 16 years after their GCSEs. Following their secondary school education students aged 18 may opt to go onto university. These days many who follow this path also take a gap year before doing their university studies.

There is the *National Curriculum*, which was introduced back in 1988. It provides a framework for education in England and Wales for students aged 5-18.

There are about 20,000 State funded schools in England and Wales. Another type of secondary school is the *faith academy*. The Prime Minister David Cameron is now pushing *Free Schools*. A Free School is a type of academy. They are non-profit making, independent and are not controlled by a local authority. Over the last five years more than 400 Free Schools were approved by the former coalition government. Academy schools are funded by the Department of Education and are independent of local authority control. Most are secondary schools but some primary schools have academy status.

England and Wales used to have many *grammar schools*. Unfortunately the socialists (Labour Party) back in the mid-1970s abolished the majority of them, forcing many to become comprehensive secondary schools. Some grammar schools survived. Today there are 164 grammar schools, which still require students to take an 11 plus entrance exam. Today, many parents would dearly love to send their children to a grammar school. Respective governments in England and Wales continue to resist their requests.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about education in the UK. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is a grammar school?
- 2) What is an academy school?
- 3) What is a faith academy?
- 4) Name the countries.
- 5) What is a GCSE? (Answer is below!)

Student B questions

- 1) What is the 11 plus exam?
- 2) What are socialists?
- 3) What is a primary school?
- 4) What is a secondary school?
- 5) What is a gap year?

Note: A GCSE is a General Certificate of Secondary Education.

Note: Due to lack of space this article has not discussed private schools nor public schools.

Category: UK / Education / Choices

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about '**Education**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. Write down the name of your nursery, primary and secondary schools. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Find out what you can about the following types of school in the UK. Google it all to help you! *5-10 mins.*

- 1) A secondary school.
- 2) A faith school.
- 3) An academy school.
- 4) A Free School.
- 5) A grammar school.

The teacher can select some students to hear their results.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. **THE A-Z of Education!** Write down 26 different things associated with education using the letters of the alphabet! E.g. A...Academy etc...

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What is the state of education like in your country?
- 3) Do you think grammar schools should be brought back in the UK? Explain.
- 4) Why has the British government rolled out Free Schools and academies, over say, grammar schools? Is this right?
- 5) What is wrong with grammar schools?
- 6) What was the best thing about being at primary school?
- 7) Did you go to a nursery school? Explain.
- 8) What was the lunch like at primary school?
- 9) What three things do you remember about secondary school?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Education in the UK today.*

- 1) A spokesperson for the Department of Education.
- 2) A grammar school Headmaster.
- 3) A student who went to secondary school.
- 4) An educational journalist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING 1

2-4 students. One student is an educational journalist. You are interviewing students who go to a grammar school, a faith school, an academy or an ordinary secondary school.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Education in the UK today
What changes would you make?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you have a National Curriculum in your country?
- 3) Have your governments changed your country's education system? Explain.
- 4) Which country in the world do you think has the best education system? Why? Explain.
- 5) Which are the best universities to go to in the world?
- 6) Which is the best university in your country? Why? Explain.
- 7) What was the name of your secondary school?
- 8) What were the teachers like at your secondary school?
- 9) What did you hate at secondary school?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Education in the UK today

Today, let's talk about education in the UK. The (1)___ is different to that of Continental Europe.

To begin with there is (2)___ *school*. This is for children aged 3-5. *Primary school* follows for children aged 5-11. This is (3)___ into two segments; Infants aged 5-7 followed by Juniors aged 7-11. *Secondary school* is for students aged 11-18. Students take their GCSEs when they are 16. (4)___ aged 16-18 can take their A levels for the next two years in the school 6th form.

(5)___ students may opt to go to college from the age of 16 years after their GCSEs. Following their secondary school education students aged 18 may opt to go onto university. These days many who follow this (6)___ also take a (7)___ before doing their (8)___ studies.

university / students / alternatively / gap year / nursery / framework / path / split

There is the *National* (1)___, which was introduced back in 1988. It provides a framework for education in England and Wales for students aged 5-18.

There are about 20,000 State funded (2)___ in England and Wales. Another type of secondary school is the *faith academy*. The Prime Minister David Cameron is now pushing *Free Schools*. A Free School is a type of academy. They are non-profit making, independent and are not controlled by a local authority. (3)___ the last five years more than 400 (4)___ Schools were approved by the (5)___ coalition government. Academy schools are funded by the Department of Education and are independent of (6)___ control. Most are secondary schools but some primary schools have (7)___ (8)___.

academy / curriculum / former / free / status / local authority / over / schools

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Education in the UK today

Today, let's talk about education in the UK. The framework is different to (1)___ of Continental Europe.

To begin (2)___ there is *nursery school*. (3)___ is for children aged 3-5. *Primary school* follows for children aged 5-11. This is split (4)___ two segments; Infants aged 5-7 followed by Juniors aged 7-11. *Secondary school* is for students aged 11-18. Students take their GCSEs (5)___ they are 16. Students aged 16-18 can take their A levels for the next two years in the school 6th form.

Alternatively students may opt to go to college from the age of 16 years after their GCSEs. Following their secondary school education students aged 18 may opt to go (6)___ university. These days (7)___ who follow this path also take a gap year before doing (8)___ university studies.

many / their / with / onto / that / into / this / when

There is the *National Curriculum*, which was introduced back in 1988. (1)___ provides a framework (2)___ education in England and Wales for students aged 5-18.

There are about 20,000 State funded schools (3)___ England (4)___ Wales. Another type of secondary school is the *faith academy*. (5)___ Prime Minister David Cameron is now pushing *Free Schools*. A Free School is a type of academy. They are non-profit making, independent and are not controlled by a local authority. Over the last five years more than 400 Free Schools were approved by the former coalition government. Academy schools are funded (6)___ the Department (7)___ Education and are independent of local authority control. Most are secondary schools (8)___ some primary schools have academy status.

but / for / and / the / of / in / it / by

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Education in the UK today

Today, let's talk about _____. The framework is different to that of Continental Europe.

To begin with there is *nursery school*. This is for children aged 3-5. *Primary school* follows for children aged 5-11. This is split _____; Infants aged 5-7 followed by Juniors aged 7-11. *Secondary school* is for students aged 11-18. Students take their GCSEs when they are 16. Students aged 16-18 can take their A levels _____ in the school 6th form.

_____ may opt to go to college from the age of 16 years after their GCSEs. Following their secondary school education students aged 18 may opt to go onto university. These days many who follow this path _____ before doing their university studies. There is the *National Curriculum*, which was introduced back in 1988.

It provides a _____ in England and Wales for students aged 5-18. There are about 20,000 State funded schools in England and Wales. Another type of secondary school is the *faith academy*. The _____ Cameron is now pushing *Free Schools*. A Free School is a type of academy. They are non-profit making, independent and are not controlled by a local authority. Over the last five years more than 400 Free Schools were approved by the former _____. Academy schools are funded by the _____ and are independent of local authority control. Most are secondary schools but some primary schools have academy status.

England and Wales used to have many *grammar schools*. Unfortunately the socialists (Labour Party) back in the mid-1970s abolished the majority of them, forcing many to become _____ schools.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list 10 things you remember about primary school. Add another 10 things you remember about secondary school. Talk about each of them. *5-7 minutes*.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) I went to _____
- 2) Secondary school _____
- 3) Education _____

3) On the board – Write 50 words about **Education in my country**. *The teacher can select students to hear what they have written*.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Education in my country today**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) framework
- 2) nursery
- 3) split
- 4) students
- 5) alternatively
- 6) path
- 7) gap year
- 8) university

ANSWERS

- 1) curriculum
- 2) schools
- 3) over
- 4) free
- 5) former
- 6) authority
- 7) academy
- 8) status

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) unfortunately
- 2) socialists
- 3) majority
- 4) comprehensive
- 5) respective
- 6) resist
- 7) requests
- 8) education
- 9) continental
- 10) nursery

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) juniors
- 12) alternatively
- 13) opt
- 14) college
- 15) curriculum
- 16) framework
- 17) another
- 18) type
- 19) academy
- 20) independent

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