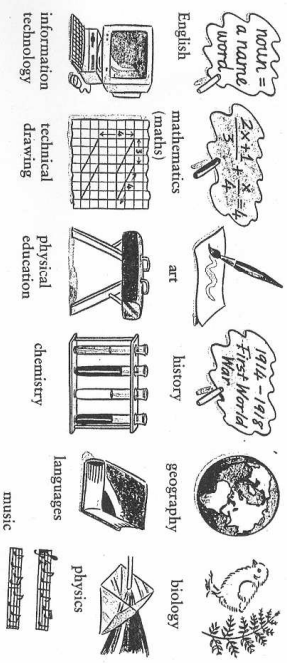


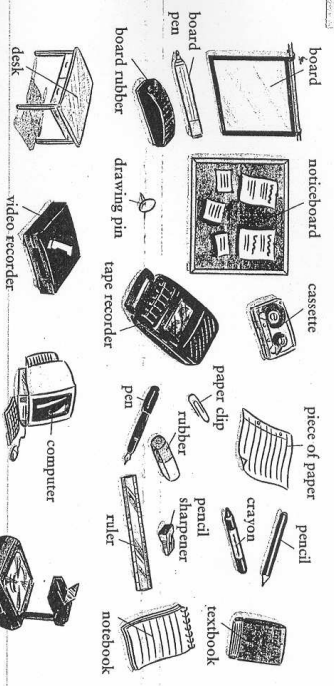
100

# 48 At school and university

## Subjects



## B Useful things



## C Useful verbs

A maths teacher teaches maths. Her students study maths. After school, students do homework. At primary school, children learn to read and write. A university teacher gives a lecture on chemistry and the students take notes. Students can do an (English) course in many colleges and schools. At the end of a course, you often have to take/do an exam. You hope to pass your exams. You don't want to fail your exams. If you pass your final exams at university, you get a degree.



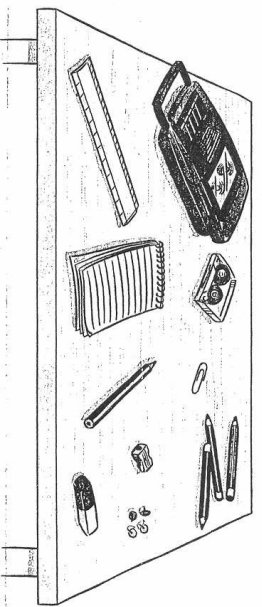
## Exercises

48.1 Match the subject on the left with the topic on the right.

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 maths                  | a animals                    |
| 2 physics                | b gymnastics                 |
| 3 history                | c $25y + 3z \cdot x = 51z$   |
| 4 geography              | d $e = mc^2$                 |
| 5 physical education     | e $H_2O$                     |
| 6 English                | f the countries of the world |
| 7 chemistry              | g the 15th century           |
| 8 biology                | h computers                  |
| 9 information technology | i spelling                   |

48.2 Look at the subjects in A. Which were your favourite subjects? Which did you not like?

48.3 Look at the picture for 30 seconds. Then cover it. How many of the ten objects can you remember? Write them down in English.



48.4 Which of the things in B opposite have you got in the room where you study English? Write down the words for everything you can see.

48.5 Choose a verb from C opposite to fill the gaps below. Put the verb in the correct form. John did well at school. He always found it easy to (1) ..... learn, and he always (2) ..... all his school exams. Now he (3) ..... his homework. He is (4) ..... a special geology course. He enjoys sitting in lectures, listening to the lecturer and (5) ..... notes. He will (6) ..... his final exams next year. If he (8) ..... he will (9) ..... a degree in geography. If he (10) ..... he will be very sad. He would like to become a geography lecturer. He would like to (11) ..... lectures.

48.6 Choose the ten words from the opposite page which you most want to learn. Write them down in one column on a piece of paper and in a second column put a drawing (or a translation or a definition). Cover the words in the first column and look at the second column. Can you remember the words?

# 78 Education: school

## A

### The system

Most children in England and Wales follow this route in the state system (= free education).

Age

- 3 some go to nursery school
- 5 everyone starts primary school
- 11 pupils go to a secondary school (A-level = high school). This may be a comprehensive (= mixed ability) or a grammar school (= children selected for their academic ability)
- 16 they leave school and get a job, or go to a college for vocational (= job) training, e.g. hotel management, secretarial courses; or stay at school for two more years
- 18 they leave school and get a job or ~~go to university~~ go to a college for further education/training, e.g. teaching, business studies.

Note:

- You go to school (as a pupil to study) and go to university (as a student to study). You don't use the definite article 'the' here. Other expressions like this are go to bed (to sleep); go into hospital (when you are ill); go to church (to pray / to worship).
- In some areas of the UK there are not many grammar schools.
- There are also public schools. In fact, these are private, and parents pay to send their children there. Some are expensive. About 5% of the population go to public schools.

## B

### A school timetable

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Lesson 1	Religious Education	Maths	Social Education	English	Visual Art
(Break)					
Lesson 2	History	Science	Music	Science	Geography
Lesson 3	English		French	Physical Education (PE)	Maths
(Lunch)					
Lesson 4	Maths	History	Information Technology	Maths	Physical Education
Lesson 5	Geography	Visual Art		French	English

\* Maths is an abbreviation of mathematics.

As you can see, the pupils have five lessons every day, and altogether they do (= study) eleven subjects a week plus Physical Education (PE). Every morning they have a twenty-minute break. There are three terms (= periods of continuous work) in a school year, and the timetable changes every year.

Note: Some words in English which end in 's' look plural, but in fact they are singular: Maths isn't my favourite subject, and physics is very difficult.

Most nouns of this type refer to subjects; other examples are economics and politics.

## Exercises

### 78.1

Here are some school subjects but the letters are mixed up. What are the subjects?

Example: MGRKAN *German*

- 1 TANHMS .....
- 2 IRTHOSY .....
- 3 ONECSSE .....
- 4 NISGHEH .....
- 5 HOGCEVNILO .....
- 6 EHGORAGPY .....
- 7 RAT .....
- 8 SIMCU .....
- 9 EHNFCR .....
- 10 NEOCCIOSM .....

### 78.2

How much can you remember? Try to answer these questions or complete the sentences without looking at the opposite page.

- 1 At what age do children go to nursery school?
- 2 At what age do they start primary school?
- 3 When they go to secondary school it is either a grammar school or a .....
- 4 At what age can English and Welsh children leave school?
- 5 According to the timetable the foreign languages studied is .....
- 6 Not including PE, how many subjects do the children do?
- 7 What happens if children fail all the exams they take at the age of 16?
- 8 What can they do if they pass all their exams at the age of 18?

### 78.3

What about you and your country? Answer these questions.

- 1 Did you go to nursery school?
- 2 Do most children start primary school at the age of five?
- 3 Is the secondary school system similar or different?
- 4 How many subjects did/do you study at secondary school?
- 5 Did/do you study any subjects which are not included opposite?
- 6 What was/is your favourite subject?
- 7 How many lessons did/do you have every day?
- 8 Is/was your school a state school or public school?
- 9 At what age can you leave school?
- 10 How many terms are there in a school year?

### 78.4

Complete these sentences with the correct expression.

- 1 When she was a child she went ..... in a small village with only fifty other pupils.
- 2 He didn't go to school last term because he was very ill and he had to go .....
- 3 I was very tired, so after I finished my homework I went .....
- 4 When I left school I went ..... and studied medicine.
- 5 It was a religious school, so we had to go ..... quite a lot.

### 78.5

The next unit is about university and further education. Can you think of six subjects you can study at university which you do not usually study at school? Write down your answers, then turn to the next page.

# 13.1

## UNIT 13 Education My first school

**Level**

**Time**

**Aim**

To practise vocabulary for describing what you remember about your first school

**Materials**

One copy of Text A for half the students in the class  
One copy of Text B for half the students in the class  
One enlarged copy each of Texts A and B for the classroom wall. You may need more copies for larger classes  
For Variation, one copy of Text A for each pair of students and several enlarged copies of Text B  
Sticky tape or drawing pins

**Key vocabulary**

on board, book, break, canteen, classroom, clock, corridor, desk, first floor, hand of, frightened, geography, ground floor, headteacher, history, kind lesson, map, miss, packed lunch, pencil, game, reading row, share, see, stick, teacher, writing

**Answers**

1. **Match**  
a. headteacher  
b. ground floor  
c. first floor  
d. corridor  
e. desk  
f. clock  
g. map  
h. game  
i. pencil  
j. book  
k. reading row  
l. share  
m. see  
n. stick  
o. teacher  
p. writing

2. **Write**  
a. headteacher  
b. ground floor  
c. first floor  
d. corridor  
e. desk  
f. clock  
g. map  
h. game  
i. pencil  
j. book  
k. reading row  
l. share  
m. see  
n. stick  
o. teacher  
p. writing

**Warm-up**

- Ask students to describe the classroom they are in. Write up a list of key classroom objects or furniture on the board.
- Ask them if their first school classroom was like this one. Discuss similarities and differences.
- Divide the class into two halves, A and B. Give a copy of Text A to each student in half A, and a copy of Text B to each student in half B. Tell them to read the text with another student from their half of the class and check that they understand it. Monitor and help as necessary.

**Main activity**

- Stick an enlarged copy of Text A to one wall of the classroom and an enlarged copy of Text B to another wall. For larger classes you may wish to have more copies on the wall.
- Divide group A into pairs and divide group B into pairs. Tell the pairs that one of them is the messenger and the other is the scribe (or writer). The scribe should have a copy of their own text in front of them. Explain that the messenger has to run to the wall and look at the other group's text. Let an A student go to look at Text B and vice versa. The messenger is not allowed to have a pen or paper.
- Explain that there are a number of differences between the two texts, but do not say how many. The messenger has to read the other text on the wall and memorise anything which seems to be different to their text, then go back and tell the scribe. The scribe notes this difference on their text. The messenger then returns to the wall and memorises the next difference, etc. until they think they have found all the differences.
- When all the pairs have finished, tell the A pairs to find a B pair, together they check to see how many differences they found.
- Check answers with the whole class and see which pair found the largest number of differences. The actual number of differences is 19. (The answers are under the Key vocabulary)

**Variation**

Divide students into pairs and ask them all to look at Text A. When they have read it, stick several enlarged copies of Text B on the wall. In their pairs, students take turns to go and look at Text B and report any differences to their partner. They note the differences on their copy of Text A. The first pair to find and note down all the differences is the winner.

**Follow-up**

Write the following questions on the board:  
How old were you when you started school? What do you remember about your first day at school? Who was your favourite teacher? What was your favourite lesson? Where did you sit, and who did you sit next to? Did you eat lunch at school or did you go home? What is your best and worst memory of that school?  
Ask students to talk about these questions in pairs or small groups.

**Homework**

- Write some sentences about your first school, using the questions from the Follow-up.
- Find someone outside of the class and ask them the questions from the Follow-up. If necessary, ask them the questions in your first language. Then write down their answers in English.

**Acknowledgement**

The idea of the messenger and the scribe comes from an activity of that name in *Dictionary* by Paul Davis and Malin Brinolfon (Cambridge University Press 1989).

My first school 13.1

*READ + prepare something similar about you!*

**Text A**

I remember my first school very well. The headteacher was called Mr Jennings. He was a strict man and everyone was very frightened of him. My classroom was on the first floor, at the end of a long corridor. It had thirty desks in rows, and I sat in the front row. There was a clock above the door. The clock was always slow, so we never knew what time it was.

We began the day with a reading lesson. Sometimes I forgot to bring my book to school, so I shared with my neighbour. We had a half-hour break at 10.30, and then we did our lunchtime. I usually brought a packed lunch.

My favourite teacher was Mrs Rose. She came in the afternoons and taught us geography. She smiled a lot and her lessons were never boring. She showed us lots of maps and we sometimes listened to cassettes about interesting places. I loved my first school.

**Text B**

I remember my first school very well. The headteacher was called Mr Jennings. He was a kind man and everyone was very fond of him. My classroom was on the ground floor, at the end of a long corridor. It had twenty desks in rows, and I sat in the back row. There was a clock above the board. The clock was always fast, so we never knew what time it was.

We began the day with a writing lesson. Sometimes I forgot to bring my pencils to school, so I shared with my neighbour. We had a fifteen-minute break at 11 o'clock, and then we did music until lunchtime. I usually had lunch in the school canteen.

My favourite teacher was Mrs Rose. She came in the afternoons and taught us history. She laughed a lot and her lessons were never difficult. She showed us lots of pictures and we sometimes watched videos about interesting people. I loved my first school.