

8.2 The secrets of a successful education

GOALS ■ Talk about obligation, necessity and permission ■ Talk about education

Vocabulary & Speaking education

- 1 Work with a partner. Look at the subjects in the box and discuss the questions.

maths science PE (Physical Education) art
drama IT (Information Technology) literature
history languages economics

- 1 Which of these subjects did you do at school?
- 2 Which did you most/least enjoy?
- 3 Which do you think are the most/least useful?

- 2a Match questions 1–8 to answers a–h. Check the meaning of any words and phrases in **bold** that you don't know.

- 1 Which subjects did you **do well in** when you were at school?
- 2 Was your school **strict**?
- 3 Did you have to wear a **uniform** at school?
- 4 Do you think **private schools** offer the best **education**?
- 5 Do you think a university **degree** is necessary for **success** in life?
- 6 What **qualifications** do you have?
- 7 How do you feel about **taking exams**?
- 8 Do you know anyone who has done or is doing a **Master's degree** (MA = Master of Arts, MSc = Master of Science)?

- a No, it was quite **relaxed**.
- b It depends which **career** you want later on.
- c I get very nervous.
- d No, I don't. I think **state schools** are just as good.
- e Yes, my brother. He's doing an MSc in **psychology**.
- f I was good at maths, science and IT, but my **grades** in literature and languages weren't great.
- g I **trained** as a chef and I have a **diploma** in food safety.
- h Yes, I did. Until the age of sixteen.

- b Work with a partner and ask and answer the questions. Ask for more information.

Grammar & Reading obligation, necessity and permission (*must, have to, can*)

- 3 Work in a group. Discuss which of these things are important for a good education. Give each one a score from 1–5. (5 = very important)

- regular exams
- use of latest technology
- lots of homework
- an enjoyment of learning
- studying for many hours a day
- small classes
- well-qualified teachers
- regular sport/exercise
- strict rules

- 4 Read the article about two different education systems. Which of the things in exercise 3 are mentioned?

Top of the class

Lessons from Finland and Shanghai

An international study called PISA (Program for International Assessment) tests 500,000 students from over 60 countries in maths, science and reading. In the last few years, Finland and Shanghai have achieved the highest grades in the tests. But what is it about their education systems that produces these great results?

FACTFILE Finland

- ▶ Children don't have to go to school until they are seven and don't take any exams before they are eighteen.
- ▶ School generally starts at 8 a.m. and finishes at 2 p.m. After that, all students go home. There are no after-school activities. Students only have to do a maximum of half an hour's homework a day.
- ▶ All education must be completely free. Schools can't charge money for anything, including books or meals.
- ▶ The atmosphere is relaxed. Students don't have to wear uniforms and can call their teachers by their first names.
- ▶ All teachers must have a Master's degree. Teaching is a well-respected and well-paid profession.
- ▶ Students do physical exercise (PE), but schools generally don't encourage competition in sport.



- 5 Read the article again. Decide if the sentences below are true (T), false (F) or we don't know (?).

In Finland ...

- 1 parents can pay for their children's school education.
- 2 school lunches are free.
- 3 teachers can earn a lot of money.

In Shanghai ...

- 4 many students want to go to university.
- 5 teachers must have a Master's degree.
- 6 students can't do PE for more than an hour a day.

- 6 What did you find most surprising about education in the two countries?



FACTFILE Shanghai

- ▶ Education is free, but parents have to pay a small fee for books and uniforms.
- ▶ Schools finish late in the afternoon. Students can go home, but 80% of students then go to private colleges or *buxibans* to do extra work to help them pass exams. Many students study for 16 hours a day.
- ▶ Students are willing to work extremely hard to prepare for their exams. They know there is strong competition for university places and their future depends on their university education.
- ▶ The university/college entrance exam is called the *gao kao*. The night before the exam, builders mustn't make noise so that students are able to get a good night's sleep. On the day of the *gao kao*, roads are closed near schools so students can arrive on time.
- ▶ The government has passed some laws to protect students' mental and physical health. All *buxibans* must close at 10 p.m. Teachers can't give more than an hour and a half of homework a day and students must do physical activity for at least an hour a day.

- 7 Read the rules in the Grammar focus box. Then underline more examples of *must*, *have to*, *mustn't*, *can't* and *don't have to* in the article and match them to the rules.

GRAMMAR FOCUS obligation, necessity and permission (*must*, *have to*, *can*)

- 1 We use *must* or *have to* to talk about things that are necessary. *All teachers must have a Master's degree.*
- 2 We use *don't have to* to talk about things that are not necessary. *Children don't have to go to school until they are 7.*
- 3 We use *can* to say it is OK to do something: it is allowed. *Students can call teachers by their first names.*
- 4 We use *can't* or *mustn't* when we mean 'Don't do this'. *Teachers can't give more than half an hour's homework a day.*

→ Grammar Reference page 149

- 8a Choose the correct option to complete the facts about education systems around the world.
- 1 In many traditional Japanese schools, pupils *can* / *must* clean their school at the end of the day.
 - 2 Students in England *can't* / *have to* leave school until they are sixteen.
 - 3 In Argentina, students *don't have to* / *mustn't* pay to go to university. It's free.
 - 4 In Sweden, all eleven-year-old children *can* / *must be able to* swim 200 metres.
 - 5 In Hong Kong, there are often more than forty students in a class so teachers often *can* / *have to* use microphones.
- b Work with a partner. Are any of the things above true in your country?
- 9 Complete the sentences about the education system in your country. Then compare your answers with a partner.
- 1 Children _____ wear a school uniform.
 - 2 Students _____ use mobile phones in class.
 - 3 Parents _____ pay for school meals.
 - 4 All students _____ study English.
 - 5 Schools _____ offer classes in PE.
 - 6 Students _____ wear jewellery.

- 10a **TASK** Work in a group. Write some rules for a perfect education system.

Students can use mobile phones and tablets for studying. They don't have to do end-of-year exams.

- b Present your ideas to the class.

▶ VOX POPS VIDEO 8.2