

Topic vocabulary: Learning

D Choose the correct word.

Letter to the editor

The Prime Minister's comments yesterday on education spending miss the point, as the secondary education system also needs a major overhaul. Firstly, the system only views the weakest learners as having special (1) The brightest and most (2) students are not encouraged to develop to their full potential. Secondly, there's too much testing and not enough learning. My fifteen-year-old daughter, for example, has just spent the last month or so (3) for exams. These aren't even real, important exams, as her GCSEs will be next year. They're just (4) exams. Is the work she's been doing really going to make her more (5) about her subjects, or will she forget it all tomorrow? I suspect the latter.

Thirdly, the standard (6) doesn't give students any (7) in developing practical work-related, living and social skills, or in skills necessary for higher education. How many students entering university have the first idea what the difference is between (8) someone else's work and making good use of someone else's ideas? Shouldn't they have been taught this at school? How many of them are really able to go about (9) — a skill that's essential at university because there are no teachers to tell you what to do — in an efficient way? Indeed, how many students (10) from university totally unable to spell even simple English words correctly? The system is letting our children down.

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|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 A requests | B desires | C needs | D wants |
| 2 A inattentive | B ignorant | C intensive | D conscientious |
| 3 A cramming | B lecturing | C reading | D practising |
| 4 A false | B mock | C fake | D artificial |
| 5 A knowledgeable | B intellectual | C academic | D intelligent |
| 6 A timetable | B lecture | C seminar | D curriculum |
| 7 A lesson | B subject | C tuition | D tutorial |
| 8 A writing | B going over | C plagiarising | D repeating |
| 9 A reviewing | B revision | C distance learning | D self-study |
| 10 A qualify | B graduate | C depart | D exit |

Phrasal verbs

E Match to make sentences.

- | | |
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| 1 I'm going to have to mull this | A together exactly what happened that evening. |
| 2 Detectives are still trying to piece | B in the fact that he'd never see her again. |
| 3 It took him a very long time to take | C up a brilliant excuse to tell Rachel. |
| 4 Tell us how you hit | D over for a while before I make a final decision. |
| 5 It took us ages to figure | E this through properly yet. |
| 6 I've just thought | F out how to get everyone to the sports centre without Phil knowing. |
| 7 I'm not sure we've thought | G upon such a great idea for a website. |

F Write one word in each gap so that each second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 I need to consider your offer very carefully before I make a decision.
I need to over your offer very carefully before I make a decision.
- 2 Lee had the brilliant idea of booking a clown for the end-of-term party.
Lee came the brilliant idea of booking a clown for the end-of-term party.
- 3 It's time you realised that you've got responsibilities now.
It's time you faced the fact that you've got responsibilities now.
- 4 I'm going to have to improve my spoken German before I go to Munich.
I'm going to have to brush my spoken German before I go to Munich.
- 5 I didn't like the idea at first but now I do.
I didn't like the idea at first but I've round it now.
- 6 It's a general knowledge quiz so you can't do any revision for it.
There's nothing to swot as it's a general knowledge quiz.
- 7 We were right at the back of the hall so I couldn't hear what the speaker was saying.
I was unable to out what the speaker was saying because we were right at the back of the hall.
- 8 We finally thought of a way to get the band into the hotel without the press knowing.
We finally puzzled a way to get the band into the hotel without the press knowing.
- 9 I've found out a lot of information about the history of English language teaching recently.
I've been up on the history of English language teaching recently.

G Phrasal verbs with **out**, such as **puzzle out**, are often connected to the idea of finding information. Which of these phrasal verbs with **out** are also connected to this idea?

- 1 Did you **find out** what time the parents' meeting is?
- 2 I've been **checking out** whether it's better to go by ferry or plane.
- 3 Susie reckons she's **sussed out** a great way to get into the club for free.
- 4 We all **piled out** into the playground.
- 5 I can't **figure out** how to change my password.
- 6 The band were completely **drowned out** by all the screaming fans.
- 7 I'm going to **sound Bob out** about his investing in the company.
- 8 Two essays really do **stand out** from the rest.
- 9 Jan's good at keeping secrets, so you'll have to **worm it out** of her!
- 10 None of us could **fathom out** why the experiment wasn't working.

Phrases, patterns and collocations

H Write one word in each gap.

- 1 Jim seems to be the misapprehension that tomorrow's a holiday. It isn't.
- 2 These findings cast doubt previous research done in this field.
- 3 This photo's a little of focus, but you can still see their faces.
- 4 Look the bright side – it's nearly the end of term.
- 5 I'm not against animal testing principle.
- 6 I think I'll always associate this song our holiday in Majorca.
- 7 You have to bear mind that there'll be quite a few children there.
- 8 Where did Susan's belief reincarnation come from?
- 9 Dad said that my borrowing the car tonight was of the question.

- 10 Hearing the news about Caroline put my small problems perspective.
- 11 What's the best course of action from your point view?
- 12 You were hired the basis that you would be able to work on Sundays.
- 13 balance, I think the government's doing a reasonable job.
- 14 We haven't taken Julie's thoughts account at all.
- 15 conclusion, I'd like to thank everyone who supported me during the early years.

I For each question, write one word which can be used in all three sentences.

- 1 I was so tired that I couldn't even think
I'll come to the point – you're fired!
It's time to set the record about what really happened that night.
- 2 She's only eight, but she has the age of an 18-year-old.
Many illnesses can be cured these days.
I'm not very good at arithmetic.
- 3 Philip does a very funny of Tony.
You really made an on Pete – he hasn't stopped talking about you!
Why was I under the that the exam was on Thursday?
- 4 Carter was the behind the whole criminal operation.
Could I just pick your about good places to eat around here?
We sat there racking our trying to think of a place to take Paul and Doug in the evening.
- 5 Someone with no of smell can't taste food well either.
I can't make of this film at all – what's going on?
Unplugging a toaster before you try to fix it is just common, isn't it?
- 6 I thought Gordon's new invention wouldn't work at all, but in fact it worked like a
Winning a cruise on the Queen Mary was a come true for me and Albert.
I've had the same recurring for four nights in a row.
- 7 Motorists should always show for pedestrians crossing the street at a zebra crossing.
I'll give some to your proposals and get back to you.
We stupidly didn't take changes in interest rates into when we got a mortgage for our house.

J Write one word in each gap.

I read this week that a new organisation called *Don't Trust Online Information* has been formed. The founder, Douglas Haverford-West, is quoted as saying, 'It's (1) my principles to trust anything I read on the Internet. I've started this organisation (2) the belief that there are millions like me who (3) their doubts about information presented as fact that has not gone through a thorough editorial process. There's no question (4) us shutting down the Internet – we don't want to do that – but DTOI has been set up with a (5) to raising awareness.' I sympathise with Haverford-West, but I believe he's wrong. I made up my (6) long ago not to completely trust anything I heard or read. Whether it's on the Internet or, say, in a newspaper, is irrelevant in my opinion.

K Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

- 1 I never thought that we'd have legal problems. **crossed**
It that we'd have legal problems.
- 2 I've decided that teaching is not the right profession for me. **conclusion**
I've that teaching is not the right profession for me.
- 3 Could you tell me where you were last night, Mr Johnson? **account**
Could you your whereabouts last night, Mr Johnson?
- 4 The journalist pretended that she was a parent of one of the children. **false**
The journalist that she was a parent of one of the children.
- 5 You have to use logic and lateral thinking in equal measure in this job. **strike**
You have to logic and lateral thinking in this job.
- 6 I didn't tell Angie because I didn't want to hurt Eddie's feelings. **consideration**
I didn't tell Angie Eddie.

Idioms

L Complete using the words in the box.

bell • bend • dark • hairs • head • leg • stock • two • uptake • what • wits • wood

- 1 The name Alan Hickson rings a , but I can't place him.
- 2 Stop wasting time splitting and look at the big picture.
- 3 Ask Simon about the sales targets. He always knows what's
- 4 You've got to have your about you to succeed in advertising.
- 5 Don't let success go to your , will you?
- 6 No one told us that Diana was leaving, but we all put two and together.
- 7 I'm going to go round the if they don't turn that music down soon.
- 8 Let's take of the situation before we make a final decision.
- 9 How did they manage to keep me completely in the about this for so long?
- 10 The problem with Jane is that sometimes she can't see the for the trees.
- 11 It took Dan a long time to understand what was going on. He's usually quicker on the than that, isn't he?
- 12 Frankly, you're completely wrong and you haven't got a to stand on.

Word formation

M Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in capitals.

- 1 There was quite a bit of because the examiner handed out the wrong exam papers. **CONFUSE**
- 2 You're acting completely Just calm down and pull yourself together. **RATIONAL**
- 3 Einstein's went unnoticed at school. **BRILLIANT**
- 4 This is generally considered to be the guide to Australia. **DEFINE**

