

**LESSON School and Education**

In this lesson, you will read three texts about school timetables around the world. Then, you will answer questions and complete a task to show your understanding of the text.

**TEXT 1 School Days Around the World**

Education is not the same around the world. Day-to-day life can be very different in other countries. Some of the differences might seem strange to us, but some might seem **pretty** amazing. Here is a **glimpse** of what school looks like elsewhere in the world.

**Finland**

Students in Finland have seventy-five minutes' worth of breaks. It is believed that children do not learn if they do not play. Students have to play, even if it's cold. School principals in Finland believe play is more important than homework!

**United Kingdom**

Schools in the United Kingdom often start around 9am. One school in London even moved their start time to 0am after research showed that students learn better later in the morning. Once they get to school, students refer to their teachers as Mr or Ms and their **surname**. Teachers are never called by their first names.

**France**

The school day in France usually starts at 8am and ends at 4pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There is no school on Wednesday in France. However, students also have a half day in school on a Saturday. Students in France also have a two-hour break for lunch, every school day.



*Education can be very different around the world.*

**VOCABULARY**

**pretty:** quite but not extremely

**glimpse:** to see or experience something for a very short time

**surname:** a family name

**Instructions:** Use the information in **TEXT 1** to answer the questions below. Read the questions, and choose the correct answer, **A**, **B**, or **C**.

1	What do school principals in Finland believe? <b>A</b> Homework is more important than play <b>B</b> Play is more important than homework <b>C</b> There should be no school on Wednesday
2	In France, students have a half day in school on a _____. <b>A</b> Saturday <b>B</b> Friday <b>C</b> Wednesday

**TEXT 2** A School Day**Huda**

My name is Huda and I go to a girls' school in Oman. I usually wake up at 6am and arrive at school at 7:45am. The school is very close to my house, so I am able to walk there every day.

The first period starts at 8am. The lessons last forty-five minutes, which is great because I can stay **focused** for the entire lesson. During the day we have two short breaks of around 20 minutes where we can eat a snack and rest between periods.

In Oman, the school timetable becomes shorter during the holy month of Ramadan. We also do not attend school during the summer, which are the hottest months.

**Jane**

Hi. I'm Jane and I go to school in the United States. The school days here can feel very long because they start early and finish late.

I start school at 8am. Some days I have six one-hour classes, while on other days I have four ninety-minute classes.

After the ninety-minute classes all students get a ten-minute break. In the breaks, we can play or relax and prepare for our next period. There is also a lunch hour at 12pm every day. I usually make sandwiches at home and bring them to school.

On Tuesdays, after school ends at 4pm, I have **field hockey** practice with my friends for the school team. The practice can last between sixty to ninety minutes. I love playing hockey, so I always look forward to Tuesdays.



*Jane plays field hockey every Tuesday*

**VOCABULARY**

**focused:** to pay a lot of attention to something

**field hockey:** hockey played on grass or turf, not ice

**Instructions:** Use the information in **TEXT 2** to answer the questions below. Read the questions, and choose the correct answer, **A**, **B**, or **C**.

3	Huda's first lesson begins at _____. A 6am B 8am C 9am
4	Why does Jane look forward to Tuesday? A She loves ninety-minute lessons B She loves the breaks C She loves playing field hockey

**TEXT 3** School Duration**Number of school hours around the world**

	7:00 am	7:30 am	8:00 am	8:30 am	9:00 am	9:30 am	10:00 am	10:30 am	11:00 am	11:30 am	12:00 pm	12:30 pm	1:00 pm	1:30 pm	2:00 pm	2:30 pm	3:00 pm	3:30 pm	
France																			8 hours
Australia																			6.5 hours
UK																			6.5 hours
Japan																			6.5 hours
Russia																			6.5 hours
Brazil																			5 hours

**Instructions:** Use the information in **TEXT 3** to answer the questions below. Read the questions, and choose the correct answer, **A**, **B**, or **C**.

- 5 Which country has 5.5 hours of class time and 1 hour of break time?  
**A** Russia  
**B** Brazil  
**C** Japan

**Instructions:** Use the information in **TEXTS 1 & 2** to answer the questions below. Read the questions, and choose the correct answer, **A**, **B**, or **C**.

- 6 According to **TEXTS 1 & 2**, schools in which country start at the latest time?  
**A** United Kingdom  
**B** France  
**C** Oman

- 7 The main idea across Text 1 & 2 is that \_\_\_\_\_  
**A** day-to-day school life around the world is the same.  
**B** day-to-day school life around the world is different.  
**C** schools all have 90 minutes classes.

**Instructions:** Use the information in **TEXTS 1, 2 and 3** to complete the task below.

- 8 Write a short letter to Jane telling her about your normal school day. What time do you start and finish? How long are the periods and breaks? What do you do after school?

