

boarding /'bɔːdɪŋ/ degree /di'ɡriː/ head /hed/ nursery /'nɜːsəri/
primary /'praɪməri/ private /'praɪvɪt/ pupils /'pjuːplz/
secondary /'sekəndri/ state /steɪt/ students /'stjuːdnts/
terms /tɜːmz/

In the UK

Children start ¹ primary school when they're five. Before that, many children go to ² nursery school, e.g. between the ages of two and four, but this is not compulsory. From 11–18, children go to ³ secondary school. The majority of schools in the UK (about 90%) are ⁴ state schools, which means that they are paid for by the government and education is free. The other 10% are ⁵ private schools, where parents have to pay. A few of these are ⁶ boarding schools, where children study, eat, and sleep. Children at primary school are often called ⁷ pupils and children at secondary school are usually called ⁸ students, as are people who are studying at university. The person who is in charge of a school is called the ⁹ head teacher. The school year is divided into three ¹⁰ terms.



If you want to go to university, you have to take exams called A levels in your last year at school. If your results are good enough, you get a place. A person who has finished university and has a ¹¹ degree is called a graduate.



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