

Reading comprehension

founded is state significantly federal names means higher level of the their into range describe several provides than take from how general educates enter individual hands not different age kindergarten all attend which compulsory opposite are from middle national own called years high includes each like free elementary religious

In the United States, _____ in most developed nations in _____ world, the education system is divided _____ two levels: _____ education (for children below 18) and _____ education (for adults over 18). But the US system differs _____ those of most other developed nations in _____ crucial ways. First of _____, the US does _____ have a _____ system of education. Since the Constitution does not _____ that education is a responsibility of the _____ government, all educational matters _____ left to the _____ states. The control and regulation of education at any level is in the _____ of the states. Each of the 50 state sets its _____ requirements for schools and teachers, and it _____ its own funding for public education.

Therefore, it is extremely difficult to _____ American education in general terms. The system of education varies _____ state to state. Children switch schools at _____ ages, their schools have different _____, and they learn a wide _____ of different subjects at school in various states. Attending school is _____ up to the _____ of 16. Public education normally begins at age 4 or 5, with _____. Kindergarten consists of one or two preparatory _____ at school before proper teaching begins. After kindergarten, students _____ grade 1 (also called first grade) and they normally continue until grade 12. The so-called K-12 system (from kindergarten to grade 12) is _____, financed by the taxpayers' money in all states. Schools that are part _____ the K-12 system are normally _____ public schools by Americans; the term simply _____ 'schools open to the public', where no tuition is required. (Note that the term 'public school' has the _____ meaning in Britain!)

There _____ considerable variety, however, in _____ the 12 grades are divided up between schools in _____ state. The lowest _____ is usually called _____ school in the US, and it may include grades 1–4 (age 6–10) or grades 1–6 (age 6–12). The next level may be called _____ school in some states or junior _____ school in others; a middle school typically _____ grades 5–8 (age 11–14), whereas a junior high school _____ children in grades 7–9 (age 13–15). The highest level of the public school

system is the high school, which may _____ four years after middle school, grades 9–12 (age 15–18), or three years after junior high school, grades 10–12 (age 16–18).

About 88% of all children _____ public elementary and high schools. There are also more _____ 29,000 private primary and secondary schools, _____ are attended by 12% of the school-age population. Private schools are not uncommon in the US, but _____ character is _____ different from the exclusive and often elitist atmosphere of most British independent schools. About 75% of private schools are sectarian schools, _____ and maintained by a _____ denomination. Catholic schools alone represent 28% of all private schools in the US.