

READING PRACTICE - 8 ICP

Going to school is normal for Australian children who live near big cities and town. However, some children live on farm in the outback, a long way from the nearest school. Thanks to the School of the Air, they are still able to get an education. How does it work?

Lessons are given by a teacher who is in a studio. The lessons are sent to the students by satellite, so that they can access them on their computers. They take part in the lessons in real time using a webcam.

"Hi, I'm Jane. I live on a cattle farm on Western Australia. I do all my lessons on my laptop at home. I have four lessons a day. There's a webcam and a microphone on the computer, so that I can talk to the teacher and other students. The teacher uses an interactive whiteboard in the studio, so we can type in our answers to the questions, which is fun. I send my homework by email. We all have a chance to meet at sports day which happen once a year. I'm really looking forward to it."

Perhaps the School of the Air is showing how education will work in the future, not just for children who live in remote areas but for all of us. Perhaps students will work from home and lessons will be given over the internet. Schools with classrooms, libraries, music rooms, and science laboratories won't be needed. And you'll have no excuse for being late for school.

Text taken from Cambridge Global English Coursebook 8, written by Chris Barker and Libby Mitchell.

Match the words below with their meaning.

outback

a room with special equipment where television or radio program or music recordings are made

studio

a device sent up into space to travel around the earth, used for collecting information or communicating by radio, television, etc.

satellite

a camera that records moving pictures and sound and allows these to be broadcast on the internet as they happen

cattle

the areas of Australia that are far away towns and cities, especially the desert areas in central Australia

webcam

the large system of connected computers around the world that allows people to share information and communicate each other

email

a group of animals that includes cows, buffalo, and bison, that are often kept for their milk or meat

internet

the system for using computers to send messages over the internet