

Build a school in the cloud

Based on the title of the talk, the information about the speaker, and his *idea worth spreading*, what do you think he means when he says, "Schools are obsolete"? Which of the following do you think the speaker will mention to support this position?

- classroom equipment
- how much time is spent in school
- the teacher's role
- the student's role
- textbooks
- how a classroom is set up (for example, the placement of the desks)
- what is taught in school

 **2.30** The sentences below will help you learn words and phrases in the edited TED Talk. Read and listen to the sentences. Choose the correct meaning of each word or phrase in bold.

1. All of the classrooms in my son's school look **identical**. The walls are painted yellow and the teacher's desk is at the front of the room.
a. exactly the same b. important c. not very active
2. The economy in this part of the country is **robust**. Most people have jobs.
a. unchanging b. very interesting c. working effectively
3. He thinks that schools today are **obsolete**. He thinks they should be replaced by schools that are better suited to today's world.
a. not useful anymore b. too modern c. very difficult
4. All public schools must meet the performance **standards** established by the local government. For example, all children must learn to read by the end of the third grade.
a. a building that has been inspected and found to be safe
b. books and other materials required for learning
c. something against which skills or ideas are measured

5. My **hypothesis** was that students could teach themselves if they had access to computers. The results of my first experiment suggest that my **hypothesis** is correct, but I need to collect more data.

a. experiment b. strong opinion c. working theory

6. There are very good **pedagogical** reasons for using computers in the classroom. One of the most important is that computers motivate students to learn.

a. related to the theory and method of teaching
b. related to the theory of economics
c. related to theories of science

7. Right now, children in wealthy school districts have the best teachers and resources. The government should **level the playing field** to enable poorer students to receive the same education as richer students.

a. build better facilities b. make things equal c. spend money on sports

8. As a result of hours of discussion among experts, a solution finally **emerged**.

a. appeared b. left c. resolved

9. Children learn best when they **tap into** their own creativity. Then they learn naturally, with very little help.

a. force open b. make use of c. take away

10. The **facilities** at our new school are incredible. There's a gym with a pool, several computer labs with the latest technology, and a new cafeteria.

a. modern buildings that are designed as classroom space for university students
b. services, including the physical area, provided by an organization
c. the most essential people who work at an academic institution

► **1.35 WATCH FOR DETAILS** Watch the segment from the edited TED Talk. Put the events in order. Write 1 next to the first thing that happened, 2 next to the next thing, etc.

a. _____ Mitra decided to try the Hole-in-the-Wall experiment in a small village 300 miles away from New Delhi.

b. _____ Mitra returned a couple of months later and found children there playing games on the computer.

c. _____ Mitra put a computer in a hole in a wall next to his office in New Delhi.

d. _____ Mitra published many academic papers on his experiments.

e. _____ Mitra decided to challenge his hypothesis by making the learning task more difficult.

f. _____ Mitra returned eight hours later and found children browsing the Internet.

g. _____ Mitra discovered that children could learn even difficult scientific concepts if they worked together and received encouragement.

h. _____ Mitra repeated the experiment many times.