Education at home, or at school?

Most students have had experience of both school and home learning – thanks to the Covid-19 lockdown. What are the pros and cons of each? How was/is home schooling for you? Which learning environment do you prefer? Let's have a look at some of the issues involved.

Match the pictures up with what they are expressing.



1 I hate being at home: it is hell! I can't wait to get back to school! I miss my friends; I argue with my family. I want to be in school!



2 Some mothers took it upon themselves to be the teacher. They also had their own job to do. They ended up being driven crazy by their kids. It was all too much for them.



3 Some students really tried, but it was hard to be motivated while they were at home. No teacher to remind them to stay on task – they didn't focus; they just day dreamed.



4 Trying to keep up with school work at home was difficult. My parents were not around to ask questions and I found a lot of the work too challenging.



5 I think going back to school is the right thing. We must be responsible and keep a good distance from our friends. The desks shouldn't be too close.



Hi, I'm Eddy. I have been at home now for eight weeks. I am doing the lessons that the teachers send. Most of the time!:-) I have also had two online maths lessons, with my teacher. I am an average student, but I am ambitious. I want to be a civil engineer, my dream is to build bridges, real ones, not metaphorical ones! Being at home hasn't been too bad, but I'm fed-up now. I quite enjoyed the first few weeks, but after that, quite honestly, I have been bored. You can't learn science in your living room: you need to be carrying out experiments. That's the second reason I want to get back to school. The first is - I want to see my mates. I want to play footie with them; just hang out with my mates! I can't wait!

How does your experience compare with Eddy's? Write a paragraph about it, as he has done.

*This task: read the arguments below and decide: is it pro (in favour) or con (against) and is it about **home** or **school**?*

e.g. Lack of socializing with peers. CON HOME

1) Better relationships can be made with family members because they have to co-operate. ____ _____
2) A proper timetable, with qualified teachers, guarantees a good, all-round education. ____ _____
3) Left to their own devices, kids will just play computer games or spend all their time on social media. ____ _____
4) Isolation can cause mental distress and even mental illness. Kids need to be socializing. ____ _____
5) Most accidents with kids involve school. At the best of times, this is not a safe environment. ____ _____
6) You can learn at your own pace, be your own boss; there is no external pressure. ____ _____
7) Lunch-time clubs and afternoon sports clubs are available; in fact, activities in most areas are freely available ____ _____
8) No grades, no deadlines, freedom! ____ _____
9) You can take a break when you like and pace your activities as you like. ____ _____
10) Competition with peers can be really motivational for many students; striving for that top grade can inspire you and really make you focus. ____ _____
11) Boredom can easily set in and there is no-one to stop you wasting your time. ____ _____
12) All students are placed in equal position and the gifted and talented learners have to wait for others. ____ _____
13) Usually, there are lots of facilities: computers, interactive whiteboards and great sports facilities ____ _____
14) Total freedom makes you focus better. You gain a higher level of discipline and self-organisation ____ _____
15) You have lots of people your own age around you. You can make many friends. ____ _____
16) My diet has suffered! The fridge is just too close. Also, we have a biscuit tin and a chocolate drawer! Fatal! ____ _____
17) I miss debating. I love it when we have whole-class debates. Sometimes it gets a bit rowdy, but it's such fun. ____ _____
18) It's much better having a set timetable for the day. When you have to be out of bed and dressed by a certain time, it is actually very good for you. ____ _____
19) Teachers offer a variety of learning methods and approaches, which ensures student participation. ____ _____
20) It's just not natural being cooped up away from your friends and all the fun things you enjoy. ____ _____

Have you got any more arguments to add to the list? Now that you have looked at them, choose TWO in favour of HOME LEARNING and TWO in favour of SCHOOL LEARNING. Choose the arguments which you feel are the strongest/most important. Justify your choices.

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Hi,

I'm_____

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Home Learning	School Learning
1.	1.
2.	2.

LIVEWORKSHEETS