

Step 4

Functions

My School is Better

1. Disagreeing and contradicting politely. Complete the dialogues with B's replies a)-f).

- a) I don't agree. I'm half asleep in the morning. I'd miss the subjects I like best.
- b) Perhaps, but nobody would do boring subjects
- c) No, they aren't. We have modern computers, an art room, a music room ...
- d) I'm not so sure. Films and computers aren't my idea of an ideal school.
- e) Not necessarily. For one thing, the exams were different a few years ago.
- f) Not really. We only do four subjects after the age 16.

- (1) A: I wish we had all fun subjects in the morning and all the boring ones later.
B: I don't agree. I'm half asleep in the morning. I'd miss the subjects I like best.
- (2) A: We would get better exam results if we did more past papers.
B:
- (3) A: I think the facilities at our school are poor.
B:
- (4) A: Don't you think that we do too many subjects?
B:
- (5) A: My ideal school would have all the lessons taught on video or computer.
B:
- (6) A: At my ideal school you would only do the subjects you were interested in.
B:

2. Disagree with these opinions. Give reasons.

- 1. We should not have a school choir because singing is not a subject.
I don't agree. We learn a lot in the choir and have fun too.
- 2. State schools are better for teenagers than private boarding schools.
.....
- 3. Students should have to wear uniforms.
.....
- 4. School trips are not necessary and nobody likes them.
.....
- 5. We should not have to do homework.
.....
- 6. Science laboratories are more interesting places than libraries.
.....

4. Put the correct form of the multi-part verb in the text.

 fall behind • go over • take up • get on with • go on to • put off • get together •
 catch up with

Last year I (1) with my work because I was ill and away from school. I tried to (2) everything in all the subjects. One teacher who helped me a lot was Mrs Simpkins. She (3) everything in her subject (English). That was fine, but I (4) the work for science. I just didn't do it. Again, Mrs Simpkins helped me. She said we could (5) after school every Monday and I could show her my work. Sometimes I hadn't done the work. I was afraid to start. But Mrs Simpkins just sat in the library while I (6) it. In the end I finished the science I had missed and (7) do some extra work. I don't think I'll ever (8) science as a hobby or do it at university but I'm not afraid of it now. And that's thanks to Mrs Simpkins.

Grammar (Review. Articles)

5. Read the text and fill in the article (*a, an, the, no article*).

My children went to (1) private school only when we were in (2) Japan, because there was no alternative. So they went to (3) international school, (4) private one. I worked at (5) boarding schools. I know (6) advantages and disadvantages of (7) boarding schools. And I think although I personally happened to have gone to (8) boarding schools just for (9) sport - I was interested in sport — I didn't think it was good for my (10) children. I didn't want to send them there because of (11) long-term psychological damage I've seen done to many students in (12) private schools. I think it's rather (13) elite system that we have (14) Britain, and I wanted them to socialise with everyone in (15) village, from all socio-economic backgrounds.