

Reading and Use of English Part 2

For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A different approach to education in Tamil Nadu, India

Kaumaram Sushila International Residential School is a school

(0) with a difference. Every academic year, it makes a point of informing parents (1) that children are seeking admission that it gives more importance to organic farming and productive work (2) rather than to formal marks-based education. This is (3) one of those rare schools where children can ride horses as well as do some mountaineering and keep ducks, goats and bees. It is pointed (4) out to parents that if they are only keen on their children getting top marks in exams, the school may (5) not be suitable for them.



A small portion of the playground has (6) been turned into an area for growing vegetables, with students aged 4–8 being taught the importance of consuming healthy food. Organic farmers also come and talk to pupils about (7) how important it is to preserve the local environment. Finally, all children are encouraged to take responsibility (8) for the animals and crops in their care, and to understand the complex relationships of the natural world.

SPEAKING PRACTICE

Topic focus

- 1 Read the passage about Finland's school system. Underline parts that are similar to schools in your country. Circle parts that are different.

Pupils from Finnish schools gain some of the highest grades in the world in reading, mathematics, and sciences. Children do not start school until the age of seven and **primary school** and **secondary school** are combined, so pupils do not change school until they are sixteen. The school system uses the same **curriculum** for everyone for the first nine years. Most schools are **state** schools, run by the government, and very few **private** fee-paying schools exist. Every pupil studies the same **compulsory** subjects: Finnish, the country's other official language (Swedish), one foreign language, mathematics, natural sciences, history, social studies, religion or ethics, health education, music; they also do arts and crafts, home economics, and physical education. When they are sixteen, pupils are separated into an **academic** stream (traditional school subjects) and a **vocational** stream (practical work-based subjects) for their last three years of schooling. About 50% go into each stream. Apart from that, there are no special classes for **talented** pupils. In fact, formal grades (e.g. A, B, C, or percentages) are not given until high school. The environment is relaxed: pupils don't have to do much **homework** and they don't do compulsory **exams** until they are at least seventeen.

- 2 Which parts of Finland's school system do you think are the best?

Vocabulary

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- 3 Complete questions 1–8 with the words in bold from the text in exercise 1.

- 1 Does everyone follow the same _____ in all schools in your country?
 - 2 What subjects are _____ for all students at school in your country?
 - 3 At what age do you move from _____ to _____?
 - 4 Did you go to a _____ or _____ school?
 - 5 Do you have an _____ stream and a _____ stream?
 - 6 Are _____ students put in a higher class?
 - 7 Do teachers give _____ a lot of _____ each day?
 - 8 When do you take compulsory _____?
- 4 Choose four questions from exercise 3 to ask a partner.

- 5 Which of the subjects below are studied at university and which are studied at both university and school? Write U (university) or U/S (university/school).

psychology geology chemistry geography literature biology
medicine engineering economics physics management history

University	School

- 6 1.1 Listen to three students talking about their favourite subjects. Which subjects in exercise 5 does each student mention?

- 7 1.2 Look at the examples of word stress in the table below. Listen again and add the other subjects in exercise 5 to the table.

● ...	• ● ...	● ● ..
literature	geology	physics	engineering