

5 Student life

Study, education, research

Study

1.1 Before you read the text, answer these questions.

- 1 Do you prefer to study
A at school or college B in a library C at home?
- 2 Do you study best
A early in the morning B during the day C at night?
- 3 Do you prefer to work
A with friends B with background music C in silence?



1.2 Now complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the box. There may be more than one possible answer so try to use each verb once only.

concentrate do learn overcome organise study take teach review revise

Even the most studious among you will probably have difficulty studying at some stage in your academic career. If or when this happens, the only way to (1)..... this problem is to go back to basics. First, make sure you have a comfortable environment to (2)..... in. Some students need to have a quiet space to themselves and can't (3)..... if there are too many distractions. Others need some sort of background noise, such as music or the company of friends. Whatever your personal preference is, you need to (4)..... this first of all. Next, make sure you have all of the equipment or tools that you need. For example, if you are (5)..... a geography course and you have to (6)..... about countries and their capital cities then you will need to have your atlas to hand. If you're (7)..... your maths homework then be sure to find your calculator, ruler, protractor and compass before you start. Perhaps you're not preparing a homework assignment or project, but are trying to (8)..... for an exam. If so, you need to know exactly what is on your curriculum. You should also (9)..... your notes and make sure that you have a clear understanding of what your lecturers have (10)..... you. Of course, people with a learning disorder such as dyslexia may need to work harder than others at their studies as they often struggle to read even relatively simple texts.

1.3 Now read the text again and find a word or phrase to match these definitions.

- 1 describes someone who studies a lot
- 2 things that stop you from working
- 3 a sound you can hear, but do not actively listen to
- 4 two different types of homework or school task and
- 5 to study for an exam
- 6 another word for *syllabus*
- 7 to check your work
- 8 to do something with great difficulty

1.4 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- I would really like to learn about / study about the ancient Egyptians.
- We need to find out / know where to buy the tickets for the concert.
- I got into trouble at school because I didn't know / find out my multiplication tables.
- I did well in the test because I had known / learned how to spell all of the words on the list.
- Excuse me, do you find out / know where the nearest post office is?
- It was difficult for me to learn / study at home, because we didn't have a lot of space.
- I want to learn how / study how to drive a car.
- I think you can only really learn from / learn with experience.

Error warning

Know = already have the information; **find out** = get the information.

Study = learn about a subject through books / a course: *I'm studying law; I'm studying for my exams.* We don't use any other prepositions after **study**. NOT *I am studying about law*.

Learn = get new knowledge or skills: *I'm learning English; I'm learning to knit.* Note that we say you are *taking a course*, NOT *learning a course*.

NB Prepositions after **learn**: *learn about, learn from, learn to: I learned a lot from this course.* NOT *Learned a lot with this course*.

Education**2.1**  **5a** Replace the words in *italics* below with ONE word.
Then listen to the recording and check your answers.

Teacher Can you tell me about your early education?

Student Well, I went to ¹ *a school for very young children* from the age of four and I remember that I didn't enjoy it very much at all. My ² *from the age of 5 to 11* school was a little better, especially because my mum was a teacher in the school. She taught in the ³ *younger part of the school* and she was actually my teacher in first ⁴ *level*, but when I went up to the ⁵ *older part of the school* I didn't see very much of her. After that I was lucky enough to receive a ⁶ *chance to go to school without paying fees* for a very good ⁷ *from age 11 to 18* school. My parents couldn't have afforded to send me to a ⁸ *not free* school so it was a really great opportunity for me. It was a ⁹ *only for one sex* school, so there were no boys. I'm glad I didn't go to a ¹⁰ *for boys and girls* school because I think there are fewer distractions so everyone can just concentrate on their studies.

1	kindergarten	6	.....
2	.....	7	.....
3	.....	8	.....
4	.....	9	.....
5	.....	10	.....

**Vocabulary note**

Words ending in **-ist** are usually used to describe a person who studies a particular subject or who holds a particular set of beliefs: *economist, scientist, feminist, Marxist*.

2.2 WORD BUILDING Complete the table.

Subject	Person	Adjective
<i>architecture</i>		
		<i>archaeological</i>
<i>biology</i>		
<i>economics</i>		
<i>geology</i>		
	<i>geographer</i>	
	<i>journalist</i>	
<i>languages</i>		
	<i>lawyer</i>	
		<i>mathematical</i>
<i>science</i>		

2.3 Complete the sentences with suitable words from the table.

- 1 I've always wanted to go on an archaeological dig to try to find fossils and ancient artefacts.
- 2 Have you seen a copy of the a..... plan for the new building?
- 3 My daughter is a l.....; she speaks six different languages.
- 4 The government has a good e..... policy. I'm sure the recession will be over soon.
- 5 I'm studying j....., I've always wanted to be a political writer.
- 6 I'm not very familiar with the g..... of that part of the world.

Research

3.1  **5b** You will hear part of a talk for students. Listen and complete the notes below. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Continuing your studies *after graduation* Writing your *dissertation*

Important considerations:

- Many students struggle to find a research (1).....
- Writing a (2)..... is easier if you make the right choice.

You need to:

- Study the (3).....
- Have a wide (4)..... of your *field of study*.
- Establish what is (5)..... in your field.
- Have a clear idea of the (6)..... of your study.
- Consider whether there are any (7)..... in existing research.
- Think about your (8)..... carefully.
- Ask about (9)..... from outside sources.
- Ask your (10)..... to check your *results*.

3.2 5b Listen to the talk again and write synonyms for the words in *italics* in 3.1.

after graduation = postgraduate,

4 PRONUNCIATION 5c

academic	assignment	consideration
concentrate	controversy	conduct (v)
distraction	dissertation	economist
educational	educated	research (n)
thesis	theory	theoretical

Test practice

General Training Reading Section 2

Work experience and internship programs

Through our student work experience program, the education authority provides over 9,000 work experience placements for young people each year. Our program is designed to offer employment opportunities for students that will enrich their academic studies and help them gain valuable work-related skills thereby improving their chances of finding a good job after graduation. A placement does not need to be related to a particular field of study and so participants may even discover areas of work they have never considered before.

All secondary and post-secondary school students in full-time education are eligible to apply for the program. Individual case managers will determine the minimum level of academic achievement required for each job. During an academic term, a student may work part-time. During the summer holidays a student may work full-time or part-time. The education authority is responsible for the recruitment of all students under the work experience program. Applicants apply in person to our office and we refer candidates to the appropriate department.

Our internship program is designed specifically for post-secondary students, whether part-time or full-time. Students on the internship program are given an assignment related to their research area offering them the chance to use their academic knowledge in an actual work setting. The academic institution plays an important role in the placement of students under this program and they will determine the duration of a work assignment. These traditionally last four months but internship assignments may vary from 4 to 18 months. Students in this program normally work full-time.

Questions 1–3

Complete the sentence with the correct ending A–E.

Write the correct letter, A–E, next to questions 1 – 3.

- 1 You can apply for the work experience program
- 2 You can work on the student work experience program full-time
- 3 You can only join the internship program

Questions 4–8

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.

To take part in the work experience program, first you need to apply to the (4)..... Your (5)..... will tell you what qualifications you need. The internship program allows undergraduates to gain work experience in their (6)..... The maximum length of an internship assignment is (7)..... This is decided by the (8).....

- A if you have high academic results from your educational institution.
- B if you are a full-time student.
- C outside of normal term time.
- D when you have graduated from university.
- E if you have finished your secondary education.

Test Tip

The information in the summary may not be in the same order as in the reading text.

