

5.4 Reading

Alternative education • phrases with prepositions • word families

Glossary

unprepared (adj) = not ready to deal with something
develop (v) = to grow or change into something
bigger, stronger, or more advanced

1 Read the text quickly and decide which classroom (A or B) is more similar to the Waldorf School.

A

B

2 Read the text again. Are statements 1–6 right (R), wrong (W) or does the text not say (DS)?

- 1 The writer gives four examples of how students and teachers can use technology.
- 2 The staff and parents agree about not using technology at school.
- 3 The children who attend the Waldorf School are not allowed to use computers at home.
- 4 Students mustn't leave their desks during lessons.
- 5 The students get better jobs after studying at these schools.
- 6 The lessons at the school are interesting for the students.
- 7 The writer says that 160 students go to the Waldorf School of the Peninsula.



Alternative Education

Technology is changing our lives and many people believe that school pupils should all have laptops, look at interactive whiteboards and do all their homework online. Los Altos, California, is a city in an area known as 'Silicon Valley' because it is home to many technology companies such as Google, Apple, Yahoo and Hewlett-Packard. So the Waldorf School of the Peninsula is a bit of a surprise.

The staff and parents here believe that there shouldn't be any technology in our schools. There are no computers in the classrooms. No screens at all. The teachers write on blackboards and the classrooms are full of books, posters and magazines. There are wooden desks and pupils write on paper with pens and pencils. This doesn't mean that the teachers just stand at the front of the class and the students quietly do exercises. They get up and do fun activities and play games that help them to learn and remember.

Are the methods successful? It's difficult to say for sure. Most of the students succeed in their exams but is this success because of the school or because they have parents who think education is important? People who like the school say that the students use their imagination more. The teachers certainly work hard to create imaginative lessons and the students enjoy them. Parents also say that learning without computers helps the children to develop better problem-solving skills and this actually helps them to use computers later in life.

However, others disagree. They say that students who study at the school are unprepared for our technological world when they leave. One thing is for sure. The schools are very popular. There are 160 Waldorf schools in the USA now and parents pay about \$20,000 a year to educate their children at them.

What do you think? Do you agree with the parents or do you

REMEMBER BETTER

Using words formed from the same base word can make your statements more varied and help you avoid repeating the same word.

Our school basketball team is usually very **successful**. We don't always **succeed** in competitions but we have more **successes** than failures.

3 Complete the table with the underlined words in the text. Two of the words are **not** in the text. Use a dictionary, if necessary, to find them.

Adjective	Noun	Verb
1 successful		
2		imagine
3 educated / al		
4 -	(dis) ment	/

4 Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in capitals.

1 SUCCESS

Our school basketball team is very **successful** and wins almost all their matches.

A Because of our students' _____ in their exams, lots of parents want to send their children here.
B Alex is very ambitious. He always wants to _____ in everything he does.

2 EDUCATE

A _____ should be free for all students at school and university.
B We don't need to go to school. Our parents can _____ us at home.
C There are a lot of _____ videos on YouTube, but you have to look for them carefully!
D My mum likes my new boyfriend. He's polite, smart and well-_____.

3 IMAGINE

A You've got a great _____. You should write books for children.
B This is a very interesting and _____ piece of writing. Can we put it in the school magazine?

4 AGREE

A I'm sorry but I _____ with you about school sports. I think students should do some kind of exercise, even at university.
B I don't think pupils should get homework until they are 12 years old. Do you _____?
C My parents and I are having a _____ about what time I come home on Friday evenings.

5 Look at the sentences from the text and choose the correct meanings A or B.

1 Los Altos, California, is a city in an area **known as** 'Silicon Valley'.
A Some people call the area 'Silicon Valley'.
B The area is officially named 'Silicon Valley'.
2 ... it is home to many technology companies **such as** Google, Apple, Yahoo and Hewlett-Packard.
A ... there are a number of technology companies in the area. Four of these are Google, Apple, Yahoo and Hewlett-Packard.
B ... there are four technology companies in the area: Google, Apple, Yahoo and Hewlett-Packard.
3 The Waldorf School of the Peninsula is **a bit of a surprise**.
A The school is different to how people expect it to be.
B The school is similar to the local companies.
4 It's difficult to **say for sure**.
A The writer doesn't want to say.
B The writer doesn't really know.

6 Complete the sentences with one of the underlined phrases from Exercise 5 in each gap.

0 I'm **known as** Spiderman at school because I'm very good at climbing in the gym.
1 I want to go to the party but I can't _____ that I'm going. I have to ask my parents first.
2 The end of this film is _____ but I can't tell you what happens. Go and see it!
3 We do a lot of different sports at school, _____ football, cricket, volleyball and running.

WORD STORE 5E

Compound nouns

7 Choose the correct options A, B or C.

BLOG

School (again!)

So, it's March. We have a lot of work to do and I don't get a lot of free ¹ _____. Summer is still a long way away and we are all a bit tired. Luckily, I go to a great school and have great teachers. They organise a lot of cultural ² _____ like concerts, talks and plays. They're OK but I prefer doing something outside school. Our Science teacher sometimes takes us on museum ³ _____. They're really great and much more interesting than lessons. Now, there are two more ideas for us. Our form teacher wants to take us on a camping ⁴ _____ in June. It sounds fun but I like sleeping in a real bed! Another idea is a home ⁵ _____ with a French family for two weeks after our end-of-year exams. I really want to go on one of them! I'd like a family in the south of France, on the Mediterranean because I love doing water ⁶ _____ such as swimming and sailing. A positive blog entry about school for once – that's a bit of a surprise!

1 A trips B time C events
2 A events B tours C time
3 A tours B stays C events
4 A stay B trip C time
5 A tri**LIVE** B sports C tours
6 A events B sports C tours