

Pre-Listening Exercises

Describe a normal school day in the life of a student in your country including hours, class subjects, meals, rules, dress, and extra-curricular activities. What options are there in your country to take online classes through distance learning, even for children?



Idioms

“crack the books” = start studying

“The reason why he isn’t doing very well is that he rarely cracks the books.”

“cut class” = miss school

“Although some of my daughter’s friends cut class a lot, she is at school every day.”

Listening Exercises

A. Listen to the interview and answer the questions.

How does Joshua go to school in Japan?

He takes a school bus every morning.

He walks with a group of friends.

He rides the subway at 8:00 AM.

Which item did Joshua NOT take to school?

a backpack

gym clothes

a school hat

What does Josh do first when he gets to school?

He practices his reading and writing.

He stands and bows to the teacher.

He puts on his gym clothes for class.

Where does Joshua eat lunch at school?

in the lunchroom

in his classroom

in the gymnasium

Joshua probably gets home from school between ____.

2:00 and 3:00 p.m.

3:00 and 4:00 p.m.

1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Fill in all the missing words below.

Randall: Hello. Today I'm _____ Joshua on his experiences going to a Japanese school. Now Joshua, _____ time do you _____ to school?

Joshua: Eight o'clock.

Randall: Eight o'clock. And do you go by _____, or on a school bus?

Joshua: No, I have a group that goes with me.

Randall: So you go with a group?

Joshua: Uh-huh.

Randall: Now what _____ of things do you take to school?

Joshua: I take my taiso fuku, that is _____ clothes, and I take my backpack and my books [Oh, okay.] and stuff like that.

Randall: Okay and what is the first _____ you do when you get to school?, or on a school bus?

Joshua: No, I have a group that goes with me.

Post-Listening Exercises

What thing did you most enjoy about your school life in your country? Talk with a partner. Explain and discuss some of these topics:

- the length of the school year
- a typical day at school
- teacher and student interaction
- extra activities after school

Online Investigations

Use the Internet to learn about the school system in another country and find the answers to these questions:

1. How do students get to school?
2. Do students meet inside a building or outside?
3. What subjects do students learn each day?
4. What time does school start and end?
5. What do students eat for lunch? Is it something they bring with them, or does the school have a cafeteria?
6. How many students are in a class?