

Read the text and choose the right answer



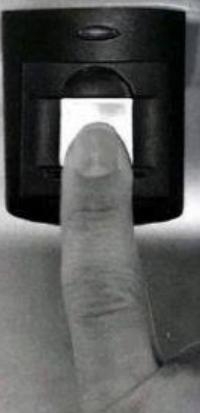
**T**he law in the UK and many other countries says that children under 16 need to go to school. When they don't go to school, it's a crime. It's called 'truancy'. Students miss school for a variety of reasons. Perhaps some are bored or perhaps the work is too hard. Some students stay away because their classmates bully them. However, education is very important and students should not miss school.

It isn't easy to stop truancy. Sometimes schools are so big that it is difficult to know who is playing truant. Advanced technology is helping a lot. Many schools are changing their systems for recording who is present and who is absent. In the past teachers always wrote it down, but now it's becoming more common to use computers. In a group of private schools in Tokyo, students put out their hands for examination every morning. A special computer looks at each student's fingers to check their fingerprints. Prison officers use the same technique with criminals in prison. It means that teachers know exactly who is in class and who isn't.

Schools also use technology to tell parents. A school in Scotland uses a system from the US called Phonemaster. It automatically telephones parents when a student is 30 minutes late for school. The phone doesn't stop ringing until someone answers it. In other countries, like Australia, the school automatically sends a text message to parents when their child is not at school.

In some countries, truancy is the parents' responsibility. In the UK, parents pay a fine when their children are often absent from school for no good reason. Last year over 50,000 parents paid fines of more than £60. In the US, Miami police arrested one parent, Mindy Pearl Viera, because her teenage daughters didn't go to school more than 100 times that year.

The police in the Malaysian town of Seremban have a more 'educational' approach. When they find a student who is in the street and not at school, they take them to the police station where there is now a special 'reading room'. The students read books while they are waiting for their parents to come and take them home. Students who don't finish the book take it home and then write a summary of it.



### 1. Truancy is when...

- a. adolescents don't go to school because of an illness.
- b. teachers send bullies home.
- c. children miss school without a good reason.

### 2. How do many teachers check their students are in class these days?

- a. They write their names down.
- b. They use computers.
- c. They use fingerprinting.

### 3. When does Phonemaster call a parent?

- a. when a student misses a day at school.
- b. when a student is half an hour late.
- c. when they don't answer the phone.

### 4. In which country do parents pay money for truancy?

- a. The US.
- b. Australia.
- c. The UK.

Listen to five people talking about being part of a big family. Match the speakers (1 - 5) with what they say (a-j).

1. Taylor: .....

4. Miranda: .....

2. Cristina: .....

5. Mark: .....

3. Ella: .....

a. thinks their parents expect too much from them.	f. comes from a musical family.
b. has more freedom than their brothers and sisters.	g. doesn't go into other people's bedroom without an invitation.
c. would enjoy some time on their own.	h. gets a lot of things.
d. has a wider circle of friends because of their family.	i. is not afraid of bullies.
e. gets annoyed by something a member of their family does.	j. is an average student.

Complete the text with the appropriate words.

Last month I (a) \_\_\_\_\_ to Spain with my mum and dad. It was great. But then, when we came back (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday morning, we saw that (c) \_\_\_\_\_ front door of our house was open. We went into the house and all our things (d) \_\_\_\_\_ lying on the floor in (e) \_\_\_\_\_ terrible mess. Our TV was (f) \_\_\_\_\_ there and some of Mum's jewellery was missing. There (g) \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful, expensive painting on the wall – but that was gone too. While we were sunbathing on (h) \_\_\_\_\_ beach in front of our hotel in Spain, a burglar (i) \_\_\_\_\_ stealing all our valuable things. We told the police about the burglary but they (j) \_\_\_\_\_ not seem optimistic about finding the thief. They've had lots of burglaries in this area and they are still looking (k) \_\_\_\_\_ the burglars. Unfortunately, they don't know who (l) \_\_\_\_\_ doing them all.

Write an email to a friend. You went on holiday and met an interesting person. Tell your friend about this person. In your email you should:

\*say where and when you met this person

\*give some basic personal information about them and their family

\*give information about their main hobby and favourite subject at school

\*say why this person is interesting

