THE AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Read the text.

In the United States, students have to attend school until they are 16 years old. In some states, however, most students continue studying until they finish high school at around 18. Children usually start Elementary School when they are six years old, and they study there from 1st to 5th grade. After this stage, they move on to Middle School, which includes 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The final part of their secondary education is High School, where students complete 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade. These four years also have special names: students in 9th grade are called freshmen, those in 10th grade are sophomores, those in 11th grade are juniors, and those in the final year, 12th grade, are seniors.

After finishing high school, students can choose to go to college or university. It is very expensive in America. On average, one year costs $50,000, with many degrees lasting for four years. Lots of families start saving for college before their child is even born. Some students also take out student loans, which they have to pay back.

In American schools, all students study English, math, science, and history. They also attend a PE class, where they participate in sports and physical activities. After high school, students take official exams called SATs or ACTs. They are marked on a scale from A to F, with A being the highest grade and F meaning they have failed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

American schools are usually very big. Many schools have more than 1,000 students, and they often have large outdoor areas, cafeterias, sports fields, and music theatres.

There are also many different clubs for students, such as sports, drama, art, or music clubs. These clubs are very important and help students develop their skills and interests.

Apart from lessons, social life and school spirit are essential. For example, Homecoming is a popular celebration in autumn with a football game and a dance. However, the most famous event is the Prom. This is a formal dance at the end of the year for older students. They wear elegant dresses or suits and celebrate the end of their high school journey together. It is one of the most memorable moments for any American teenager.

The school year in the U.S. usually starts at the end of August and ends in June. The school year is divided into four quarters, and the school day normally starts around 8 a.m. and ends around 3 p.m. However, many students stay at school after classes because they are members of a club or participate in extracurricular activities.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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1 Read the text and write True (T) or False (F).

- Students in the U.S. must attend school until they are 18 years old.
- Elementary School lasts from 1st to 5th grade.
- Seniors are students in 11th grade.
- College in the U.S. usually costs around $50,000 per year.
- Homecoming is a celebration at the end of the school year.

2 Match the words in column A with their correct definition in column B.

1. Freshmen	a) Final year of high school
2. Juniors	b) Students in 9th grade
3. Seniors	c) 11th grade students
4. PE	d) Physical Education class
5. SAT	e) Official exam for college admission

3 Complete the sentences with a word from the text.

1. Students usually start _____ School at six years old.
2. The last four years of high school have special names: freshman, _____, junior, and senior.
3. In American schools, students study English, math, science, and _____.
4. The most famous school dance is called the _____.
5. The school year starts at the end of August and ends in _____.

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4 **Choose the correct answer.**

- How long does Elementary School last?
  - a) 1st to 6th grade
  - b) 1st to 5th grade
  - c) 6th to 8th grade
- What is the name of 10th grade students?
  - a) Sophomores
  - b) Juniors
  - c) Freshmen
- Which subject do all students study in American schools?
  - a) Cooking
  - b) History
  - c) Spanish
- What is the most famous high school dance?
  - a) Homecoming
  - b) Prom
  - c) Graduation
- When does the school year usually end in the U.S.?
  - a) May
  - b) June
  - c) July

LIVEWORKSHEETS