

unit 1

ALL ABOUT SCHOOL



1:04

Read and listen to the statements. All of them are true! Talk about them with a partner. Which one is the most surprising? Why?

- 1 Some kids have *didaskaleinophobia*, which is the fear of going to school.
- 2 Richard Branson, creator of *Virgin Records* and the *Virgin Atlantic* airline, didn't finish secondary school.
- 3 There is an alternative school in Canada that doesn't test pupils and it doesn't follow a strict timetable, either. Pupils decide how to spend the school day and which activities to attend. They are grouped not by their age but by their interests.
- 4 Finnish pupils rarely take exams or do homework until they are into their teens. But they rank at the top or near the top in international tests in Science, Maths and Language.
- 5 China's got the longest school day in the world. A Chinese pupil spends almost eleven hours in the classroom each day!
- 6 In South Korea, secondary school pupils applying for university all take the same standardised test. On the day of the test, people come to the school to support pupils who are going to take the test. They give out sweets, tea and other treats to the pupils. Some taxis give pupils free rides and additional trains and buses run before and after the exam.





2 Read and listen to these bad excuses. Say what each person should have done. Use the phrases in the box.

been more careful done it earlier
done it again paid attention to the time
taken it away from her

1 Q: Have you done your homework yet?

A: No, I haven't...

She should have ?.

2 Q: Have you studied for the test yet?

A: No, I haven't...

She should have ?.

3 Q: Have you finished your project yet?

A: Yes, I have, but...

He should have ?.

4 Q: Have you handed in your essay yet?

A: No, I haven't...

He should have ?.

5 Q: Have you done your Maths homework yet?

A: No, I haven't...

He should have ?.



Work with a partner. Take turns making up your own bad excuses.



Have you finished your homework yet?

Why not?

No, I haven't.



There was a power cut and I couldn't find my torch.



When do we usually give excuses? What's the difference between an excuse and an explanation?

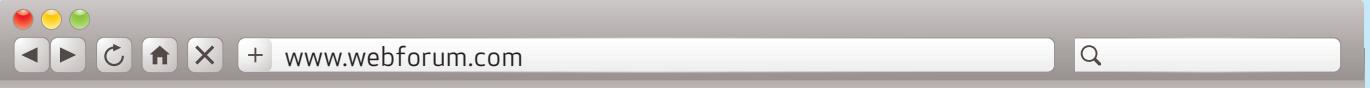


TIP

Use **should + have + past participle** form of the verb to give advice about something in the past.



1:07 Listen and read. What's the problem? What different advice is offered?

	
boy1_xyz	Hey, you guys. I'm only twelve years old and I'm already under so much stress. I think I'm developing didaskaleinophobia. Have you ever had it? It feels like school is one long punishment. I've got so much homework! I've barely got time to talk to my friends! What shall I do?
cookie48	Uh oh. That's not good. Have you told your parents? I told mine about my situation and we ended up having a meeting with my teacher. That might sound stressful but it was actually helpful. My teacher still gives a lot of homework but she helps me manage it. Things aren't perfect but I feel better.
34309843_kc	Take my advice, boy1_xyz: Don't tell your parents! Trust me – they'll think you just don't like studying. You'll end up in more trouble than you were in before.
imsoclever	I agree with cookie48. Tell your parents about your situation and about how it's making you feel. Show them all your homework.
cute_girl28	I disagree with 34309843_kc. I had the same problem. At first, I couldn't tell my parents but then every Sunday, I'd start feeling sick at the thought of going to school the next day. I finally told my parents. They talked to my teachers and it helped. At the end of the school year, I ended up transferring to an alternative school. My new school suits me much better. We've got much more freedom. We choose our subjects and school activities. I've been here for a month now and I'm MUCH happier.
citymouse1	Hey, cute_girl28. Your school sounds reaaaaally cool! Where is it?

techieboy03

I've already researched alternative schools, citymouse1. There are some great ones in the UK. I've also researched similar schools in Scotland. There are some really cool ones that are unusual and interesting. I'm guessing but I think your school might be in London, cute_girl28. Am I right?

cute_girl28

You're close, techieboy03. Good guess! You're a great detective. There are a lot of alternative schools in London. I know because I researched it, too! My school is in Brighton. I just love my school!

boy1_xyz

I like your idea. I think an alternative school would fix my problem. But those schools are difficult to get into and there are only a few of them.

rainbowgirl

Why not try homeschooling? I'm being homeschooled and I really like it. My mum teaches me all the subjects. We go on field trips a lot. And once a year, we go to an event just for homeschoolers. It's very exciting. I look forward to it every summer!

READING COMPREHENSION

5

Read and say yes, no or doesn't say.

- 1 Boy1_xyz has already told his parents about his problem.
- 2 Cookie48 has spoken to his teacher about his problem.
- 3 Imsoclever and cookie48 give the same advice.
- 4 Cute_girl28 lives in Scotland.
- 5 Techieboy03 likes being at a traditional school.

**THINK
BIG**

Who do you think gave the best advice to boy1_xyz?
Why/Why not? What advice would you give to boy1_xyz?

Language in Action

1:09



Listen and read. What have Peter and his mum already discussed?

Mum: Peter, I'm about to ask you a question. Can you guess what?

Peter: You're about to ask me if you can increase my pocket money.

Mum: Ha ha. Have you finished your homework yet?

Peter: Not exactly. I'm talking to Tessa.

Mum: Yes, I can see that. May I speak to you, please?

Peter: OK. [to phone] Tessa, I've got to go. I'll call you back later.

Mum: So you haven't 'exactly' finished your homework yet?

Peter: Yeah, well, I've finished my Maths homework and I've almost finished my English essay but I haven't started my History assignment yet.

Mum: We've been through this before, Peter. Homework first, phone calls later.

Peter: I know. Sorry, Mum. I'll do it now.



7

Practise the dialogue in 6 with a partner.

1:10



Listen and match. Then complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verb.

get his licence
see the music video

meet the new pupil
walk the dog



1 Mark's brother has already ?.

2 Stacey hasn't ? yet.

3 Roberto has already ?.

4 Dawn hasn't ? yet.

Has she done her solo yet?

Yes, she **has**. She **has** already done it.

No, she **hasn't**. She **hasn't done** it yet.

Have they ever won an award?

Yes, they **have**. / No, they **haven't**.

Tip: Use the present perfect to talk about an event that happened at an indefinite time in the past. The specific time is unknown or unimportant.

9

Make questions and answers. Follow the example.

1 Q: you/do/your homework/yet

Have you done your homework yet?

A: Yes, I've already done it.

A: No, I haven't done it yet.

2 Q: he/finish his project/yet

3 Q: they/ever/be on a field trip

4 Q: your parents/speak to the teacher/yet

5 Q: she/give the book back/yet

He **has** already finished the project.

He **finished** it yesterday.

He **hasn't finished** the project yet.

He **didn't finish** it yesterday.

Tip: Use the present perfect when no specific time is given. Use the past simple when giving a specific time in the past.

10

Look at Jan's to-do list. Then complete the questions about it and answer them. Follow the example.

1 (talk) Has Jan talked to Jenny yet?

Yes, she has. She talked to her at 4:00.

2 (check email) Has Jan ?

3 (start reading) Has Jan ?

4 (write essay) Has Jan ?

5 (finish Science project) Has Jan ?

Things to do:

1 Call Jenny at 4:00. ✓

2 Check email at 4:15. ✓

3 Start reading my book. ✗

4 Write essay. ✓

5 Finish Science project. ✗

1:13



11 Listen and read. How much free time is there in a Chinese pupil's typical school day?

CONTENT WORDS

daily free time period study period timetable typical

A Day in the Life of a Pupil in China

It's noon and the bell is ringing at your school. How many hours have you spent doing schoolwork by then?

Shall we take a look at a typical school day in China? Well the school day begins at 7:30 with a flag-raising ceremony and a speech from the head teacher. A pupil's daily timetable is packed. There is hardly any free time and pupils must work hard all day. Pupils, especially pupil leaders, have been trained from a young age to be good pupils, get good marks and help other pupils do the same. And school timetables show this. The school day is almost eleven hours long!

Look at a typical school timetable in China.

7:30-7:40 a.m.	flag-raising ceremony
7:40-7:45	prepare the classroom
7:45-8:30	1 st period
8:40-9:25	2 nd period
9:35-10:20	3 rd period
10:30-11:00	morning exercises
11:10-11:15	eye exercises
11:25-12:10 p.m.	4 th period
12:20-12:40	lunch
12:50-1:50	study period
2:00-2:15	free time
2:25-2:30	classroom prep
2:30-3:15	5 th period
3:25-3:30	eye exercises
3:40-4:25	6 th period
4:35-5:20	7 th period
5:30-6:10	8 th period or study period

12

Read 11 again and say true or false.

- 1 Chinese pupils prepare their classroom first thing in the morning.
- 2 Chinese pupils learn how to work hard and are usually good pupils.
- 3 A Chinese pupil's typical day at school is over twelve hours long.

13

Write your school timetable in a chart. Discuss it with a partner.

1:14

14

Listen and read. How do pupils at this school learn new things?

A Day at a School in Finland

"Moi, Sofia!" "Terve, Aleksi!" That's "hi" and "hello" in Finland. And that's how pupils and teachers greet each other at this Finnish school. Pupils call their teachers by their first names. Anna Hansson has gone to this school since Year 1 so she knows everybody. Anna shouts "Moi" to her fellow pupils as she arrives at 7:45 in the morning.

At her school, Anna and her classmates decide, along with their teacher, what their weekly objectives, tasks and activities will be. Pupils work at their own pace. They don't always study together. Some may be in their home classroom. Others might be in a workshop where they're learning by actually doing. Today, Anna's group is working on a magazine in a magazine workshop.

Anna and her classmates don't learn by memorising facts. Instead, they work together to gather information. They ask their teacher for help whenever they need to. At times, they even rest on the classroom sofa. The class is active and busy but the teacher is in full control and doesn't have to tell pupils to behave. Parents are welcome at the school and lend their expertise in workshops and evening classes.

After 90 minutes, pupils have a 30-minute break. Soon, it's lunchtime! At Anna's school, pupils get free hot meals every day. Today's lunch is everybody's favourite – meatballs and mashed potatoes. It is served with salad, bread and glasses of milk on tables with tablecloths and flowers in vases.

Chores have always been part of the curriculum at Anna's school. All pupils do chores, which include taking care of plants, collecting rubbish, recycling and composting. Pupils help in the library and in the kitchen.

School is over by 2 in the afternoon. Most parents work so in the afternoon, there are clubs and hobby groups. Pupils can study Japanese, learn to play instruments and do arts and crafts.

15 Read 14 again and match.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 memorise facts | a research and record details |
| 2 lend expertise | b learn and remember information |
| 3 gather information | c share knowledge and skills |

THINK BIG How is Anna's school the same as your school? How is it different?

Writing | Opinion paragraph

16

Read the opinion paragraph about homework.

Homework Does Not Make Pupils Learn Better

Does homework make pupils learn better? In my opinion, it does not. In fact, having a lot of homework makes pupils dislike school and become stressed. Pupils who are anxious and don't like school cannot learn well. Pupils who have got hours and hours of homework cannot relax and spend quality time with their families. I believe that school timetables should allow pupils to get most of their schoolwork done at school. In this way, when they get home, they can be free to enjoy time with their family or just relax. In my opinion, a more relaxed pupil will perform better in class. Too much homework prevents this!

17

Look at 16 again. Copy and complete the paragraph outline.

Title rewritten as question: ?

Main opinion: ?

Reason: ?

Suggestion: ?

Conclusion: ?

18

Choose one of these school issues or use one of your own ideas and write about it:

- Do you think memorising facts makes pupils learn better?
- Do you think school uniforms should be required?

- 1 Copy the chart in 17 and complete it with information about your topic.
- 2 Write your own paragraph.
- 3 Share it with the class.

19

How do you spend your time? Copy the list of activities and add two more. Tick (✓) the ones you have to do each week and write the number of hours.

Activity

Approximate hours per week

attend lessons	?
travel to and from school	?
eat	?
sleep	?
study or do homework	?
play sports or exercise	?
participate in school clubs	?
do chores	?
watch TV	?
chat with friends online or by phone	?
??	?
??	?

THINK BIG

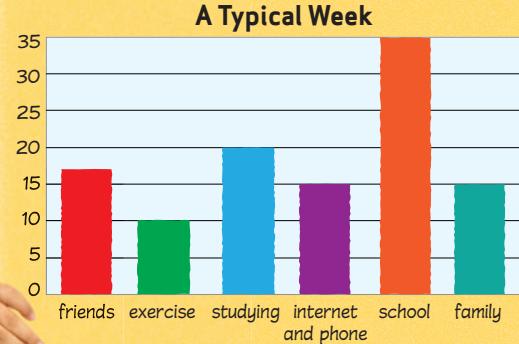
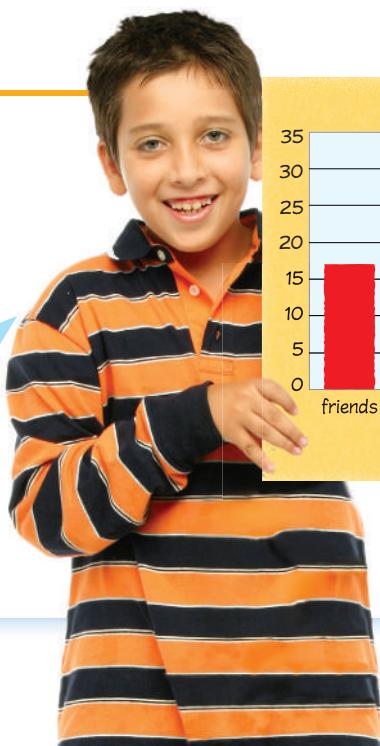
Do you think you manage your time wisely? Do you always have enough time to study, to take care of your health, to sleep and to relax? Are the activities you spend the most time doing important? Why/Why not?

PROJECT

20

Make a graph about how you spend your time in a typical school week. Share it with the class.

My graph shows that in a typical week, I spend most of my time at school or studying. But I also spend time with my friends, my family and on the phone and the internet. That's important! I don't spend enough time exercising. I'm going to work on managing my time better!



Listening and Speaking



1:15



21 Listen, read and repeat.

1 spr 2 str 3 scr

1:16



22 Listen and blend the sounds.

1 spr-i-ŋg spring

2 str-ee-t street

3 scr-ee-n screen

4 spr-i-n-t sprint

5 str-o-ŋg strong

6 scr-ew screw

1:17



23 Listen and chant.

I'm fast, I'm strong,
I can sprint all day long.
In the spring, in the street,
Greeting people that I meet!



24

Look at the list of school activities and think of some really bad excuses for why you haven't done these things yet. Work in a group. Ask and answer questions.

complete your research project
organise your backpack

do your homework
write your book review

join any after-school clubs

Have you done your
homework yet?

No, I haven't. I lost my book
on my way home!

No, I haven't. I started to
do it but my dog ran off
with it and ate it!



1:18

25

Listen to Lucas and Nina talking about their school. What have they already done? What haven't they done yet? Copy the chart and put a tick (✓) or a cross (✗) next to the activities.



	Lucas	Nina
take the test		
hand in the research		
go to an art club meeting		
start the essay		

1:19

26

Listen again. Make sentences about 25. Follow the example.

- 1 take the test

Lucas hasn't taken the test yet.

Nina has already taken the test. She took it on Tuesday.

- 2 hand in the research

?

- 3 go to an art club meeting

?

- 4 start the essay

?

I Can

- talk about school activities and homework.

- say what I have and haven't done.