

Sequence II Education in the USA

Reading comprehension

Pronunciation

Word Building

Mastery of Language

Writing





A. Reading Comprehension

Read the following text then do the activities:

A Diverse Educational System

Most children begin when they are five years old. First they go to kindergarten for one year. Elementary school is next, and it lasts five years. Middle school follows; it goes from the sixth grade to the eighth grade. High school or secondary school is from the ninth grade to the twelfth grade. At the end of twelve years of education, students receive a high school diploma.

Most of the students who do not attend public elementary and secondary schools attend private schools, for which their families pay tuition. A great

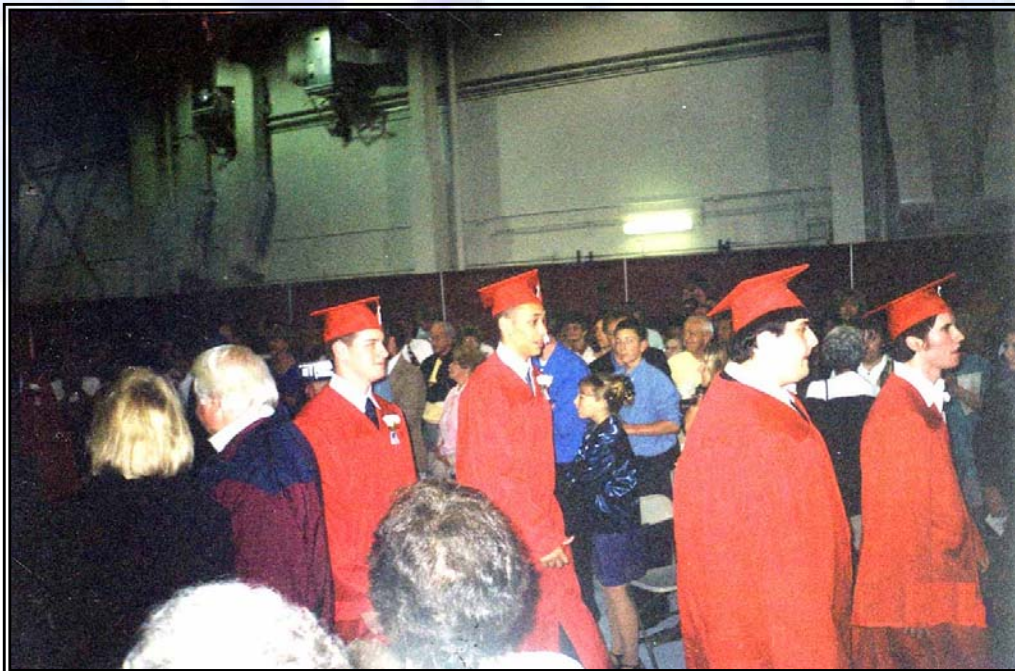
number of these schools are run by religious groups. In these schools religious instruction is part of the curriculum which also includes the traditional academic courses.



There is also a small but growing number of parents who educate their children themselves, a practice known as home schooling.

After high school, students may choose to go to a technical school, a college, or a university. Technical schools offer courses in many technical fields like mechanics, electronics, computer, etc. Some technical schools offer associate degrees.

A college offers subjects of study for many bachelor degrees. It usually takes two years to get an associate degree and four years for a bachelor's degree.



Public colleges and universities charge tuition. There is no clear direction between the quality of education provided at public and private schools. However, this does not mean that all institutions are equal.

A student who has graduated from a highly regarded college may have a distinct advantage when he or she seeks employment.



Thus, competition to get into the more renowned schools can be intense.

A third choice is the university. It also offers associate and bachelor's degree plus master's and Ph.D. degrees.

A master's degree usually takes two or three years and a Ph.D., or doctorate degree, takes three to 8 years. Universities offer degrees in business, education, medicine, etc.

Students who want to become doctors go to medical schools after a bachelor's degree



School	Grades	Degrees
Kindergarten		
Elementary	1 st – 5 th	
Middle	6 th – 8 th	
High	9 th – 12 th	Diploma

Technical School		College		University	
Fields	Degree	Time	Degree	Time	Degree
electronics mechanics computers	associate	2 years	associate	4 – 5 years	bachelor
				2 – 3 years	master
		4 years	bachelor	3 – 8 years	Ph.D.
Medical school follows a bachelor degree					

Activity 1:

Choose the best answer (a, b, or c):

1. **Students receive a diploma**
 - a)- when they are 12 years old.
 - b)- at the end of high school.
 - c) before they start high school.
2. **Students go to a to study mechanics.**
 - a)- college
 - b)- university
 - c) technical school
3. **To get a bachelor's degree in a college, it takes**
 - a)- four years
 - b)- two years
 - c)- three years
4. **In private religious schools, the curriculum includes**
 - a)- religious instruction only.
 - b)- religious instruction and the traditional academic courses.
 - c)- traditional academic courses only.
5. **Students compete to get into the more renowned schools.**
 - a)- so as not to pay any tuition.
 - b)- to avoid attending public colleges.
 - c)- in order to get a better job later.

Activity 2:

What or who do the underlined words in the text refer to?

- a)- ... for which their families ... =>
- b)- ... their children themselves ... =>
- c)- ... who has graduated ... =>

Activity 3:

Find words in the text whose definitions follow:

- a)-** fee for teaching, in a particular subject paid for.
- b)-** course of study in a school, college, etc...
- c)-** famous, celebrated



B. Pronunciation Spelling

Activity 1- Pronunciation

The words below are written in phonetic script. Write them using the letters of the alphabet

/ ə`tend/
/ kə`rikjuləm/
/ `bætfələ/
/kindəga:tn/
/di`gri:/
/ tju`ifən/

Weak forms

- In this part, we are going to see **weak syllables**, that is to say syllables that are **unaccented, unstressed**.

Certain common words (for example, prepositions) have two pronunciations:

- The **strong pronunciation** must be used if the word is stressed and also generally when **the word is at the end of a sentence**.
- The **weak pronunciation** must be used if **the word is the middle of a sentence**.

e.g.: - I` m waiting **for** a bus. /fə(r)/ (weak form)
 - What are you waiting **for**? /fɔ: (r)/

- Modals, such as **should**, **ought to** and **would** have strong and weak forms, too.

Modals	strong form	weak form
should	/ ʃ <u>ʌ</u> d/	[ʃəd/ or /d/
would	/w <u>ʌ</u> d/	/wəd/ or /d/
ought to	/ <u>ɔː</u> t tu/	/ <u>ɔː</u> t tə /

Activity 2:

Write these sentences in phonetic symbols:

1. You should come before noon.
.....
2. Yes, he should.
.....
3. I'd like to see them.
.....
4. What does it consist of? It consists of two elements.
.....

C.WORD BUILDING

Nouns in -ity

- We form nouns with adjectives + (i) ty

e.g.: diverse => diversity
national => nationality

Activity 1:

Write the nouns for these adjectives:

Adjectives	nouns
1. minor
2. irritable
3. impartial
4. real
5. personal
6. flexible
7. major
8. prior
9. mature
10. visible
11. mobile
12. fatal

Activity 2:

Complete this paragraph with the appropriate word:

priority - minority – irritability – real - majority - maturity

The headmaster of our primary school organized a meeting between parents and teachers last Saturday.

Unfortunately, the of the pupils' parents did not come. As time was passing, the headmaster's was growing, especially when some parents, a luckily, showed a lack of and gave the to trivial matters.



D- MASTERY OF LANGUAGE

- Consider these sentences:

- Technical schools offer courses in **many** technical fields.
- **A great number of** these private schools are run by religious groups.
- **Most** children begin school when they are 5.

Keep in Mind!

many, (a) few, a great number are used with **countable nouns**.

much, (a) little, a great deal are used with **uncountable nouns**.

a lot of, most of (= the majority) and **all** are used with **both** countable and uncountable nouns.

countable nouns	uncountable nouns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many = a lot (of) = (positive, negative and interrogative statements) • a great number (of) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • much = a lot (of) = (negatives and questions) • a great deal (of)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \neq a few = some / a small number • few = not many 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \neq a little = some, a small amount • little = not much

Activity 1: Choose the best answer (a, b, or c)



1. the students go to university when they finish high school.
a)- Few b)- most of c)- a great deal of



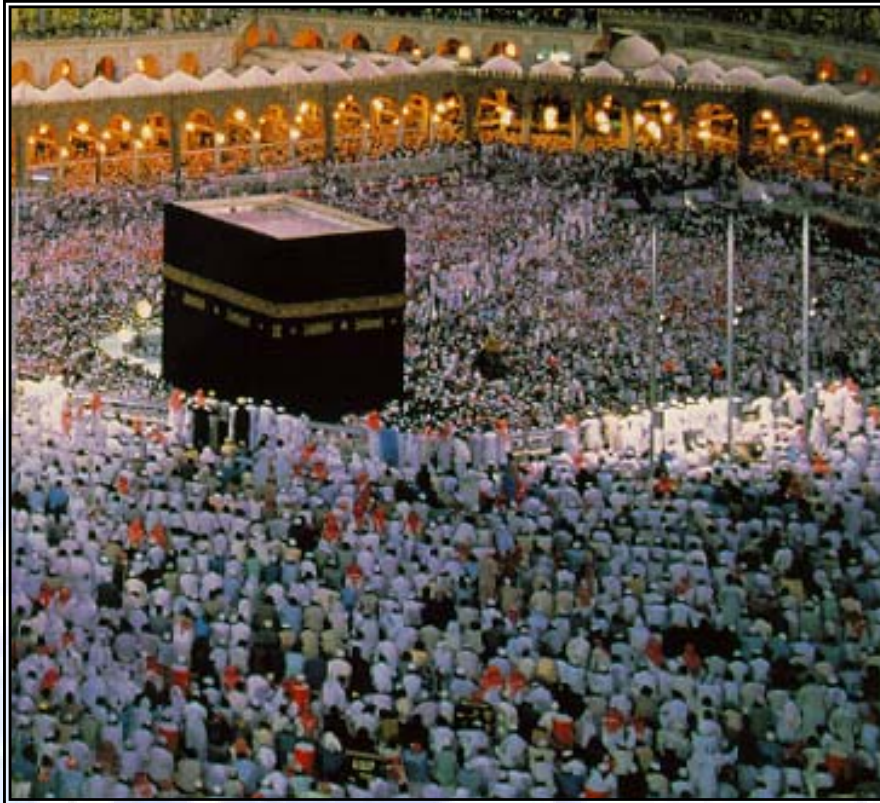
2. people demonstrated against war in Iraq.
a)- a little b)- much c)- a lot of



3. Bono, the singer of U2 has done to relieve the Africans' sufferings.
 a)- many b)- a great deal c)- most



4. the children in Lebanon learn English in primary schools.
 a) -all
 b) - little
 c) – many



5. Every year, Muslims go on pilgrimage to Mecca
 a)- few b)- all c)- a great number of

Activity 2:

Put in much, many, few or little

- 1- I don't have time to take hobbies.
- 2- Do you know people who love reading?
- 3- There aren't things I can do to help her.
- 4- We must hurry up. We have time.
- 5- This place is not very interesting to visit, so tourists come here.

KEEP IN MIND:

Conditional type 1: is formed with

If + present simple / future

e.g.: If you **go** to a technical college, you
will study mechanics or electronics.

(real possibility)

2- The conditional (type 2)

If + past simple / conditional present

Look at these sentences.

a)- If a student **attends** a private school, his family **will have to pay** tuition.

=> There is **a real possibility** to attend a private school.

b)- If all the schools **were** run by religious groups, students **would have to learn** religious instruction. (but not all the schools are run by religious groups).

=> We are **imagining the situation**; we don't expect all the schools to be run by religious groups.

Activity 3:

Rewrite these sentences beginning each time with – If.

e.g.: He doesn't speak English, so he doesn't understand you.

If he **spoke** English, he **would understand** you.



1. The employees in his firm work hard, so the manager is satisfied.
If they

.....,

the manager

.....



2. Instruments are sterilized before every operation, so surgeons do not fear the risk of infection.

If.....

.....

.....

3. Drogba is a very good football player; that's why clubs want to have him.

If Drogba.....

.....

.....



4. New forms of energy
are not widespread,
so pollution is on the
rise.
If new forms.....

.....

.....



5. They love watching wild
animals, that's why they
are going on a safari to
South Africa.
If they

.....

.....

.....



6. They are fascinated by
The geography book,
that's why they have
not moved from their
seats for an hour.

If they

.....

.....

7. The assistant wants Kate
to rewrite her work
because there are not
enough examples.

If

.....

.....



KEEP IN MIND

To write sentences with **if** (type 2) , you have to:

- change the negative verb into a positive one.
- change the positive verb into a negative one.
- use the past simple in the if- clause.
- use the conditional present in the main clause.

E- writing:



Activity 1:

Fill in each gap with a word from the box.

little – up – economic – teaching – have – knowledge –
with – training – education – cultures.

In addition to the challenge to be excellent, American schools (a)..... been facing new problems. They cope (b)..... an influx of immigrant children, many of whom speak (c) or no English. They must respond to demands that the curriculum reflect the various (d)..... of all children.

Schools are hiring or (e)..... large numbers of teachers of English as a second language and, in some communities, setting (f)..... bilingual schools.

Schools are also (g)..... cognitive skills to the nearly 40% of American students who do not go on to higher (h).....

“A well developed mind, a continued willingness to learn and the ability to put (i) to work are the keys to the future of our young people, the success of our business, and the (j)..... well-being of the nation” are the words of a recent report by the Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills.

Activity 2: Read the sentences and answer the question that follows.



- 1- At last the class agreed to hold a car wash at the school.
- 2- The sixth graders were discussing ways to pay for a field trip.
- 3- By the end of the day, they had raised almost a hundred dollars.
- 4- The next Saturday, the students washed cars all day long.

Question:

Which arrangement of the sentences would make the best paragraph?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4. | c- 2 – 1 – 4 – 3. |
| b- 2 – 3 – 4 – 1. | d- 1 – 2 – 4 – 3. |



Activity 3:

In the USA, there are children who are educated by their parents at home instead of by teachers at school.

- Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?
- Think of some advantages and some disadvantages.

.....

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.....

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