



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 a 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.





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 | <b>Q:</b> Have you done your homework yet?       | She should have ?. |
|   | <b>A:</b> No, I haven't...                       |                    |
| 2 | <b>Q:</b> Have you studied for the test yet?     | She should have ?. |
|   | <b>A:</b> No, I haven't...                       |                    |
| 3 | <b>Q:</b> Have you finished your project yet?    | He should have ?.  |
|   | <b>A:</b> Yes, I have, but...                    |                    |
| 4 | <b>Q:</b> Have you handed in your essay yet?     | He should have ?.  |
|   | <b>A:</b> No, I haven't...                       |                    |
| 5 | <b>Q:</b> Have you done your Maths homework yet? | He should have ?.  |
|   | <b>A:</b> No, I haven't...                       |                    |

## TIP

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

3

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.



**THINK  
BIG**





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









7 Listen and read. What's the problem? What different advice is offered?

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Q

<p><b>boy1_xyz</b></p> 	<p>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?</p>
<p><b>cookie48</b></p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>34309843_kc</b></p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>imsoclever</b></p> 	<p>I agree with cookie48. Tell your parents about your situation and about how it's making you feel. Show them all your homework.</p>
<p><b>cute_girl28</b></p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>citymouse1</b></p> 	<p>Hey, cute_girl28. Your school sounds reaaaaaally cool! Where is it?</p>

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<p><b>techieboy03</b></p> 	<p>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?</p>
<p><b>cute_girl28</b></p> 	<p>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!</p>
<p><b>boy1_xyz</b></p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>rainbowgirl</b></p> 	<p>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!</p>

## 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?

9  
6

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.



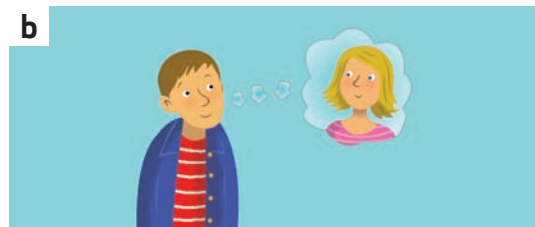
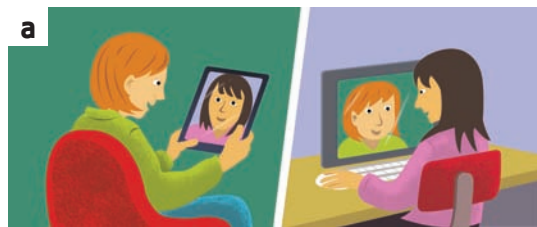
7

Practise the dialogue in 6 with a partner.

10  
8

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

get his licence    meet the new pupil  
see the music video    walk the dog



1 Mark's brother has already ?.

2 Stacey hasn't ? yet.

3 Roberto has already ?.

4 Dawn hasn't ? yet.

<b>Has</b> she <b>done</b> her solo <u>yet</u> ?	Yes, she <b>has</b> . She <b>has</b> <u>already done</u> it. No, she <b>hasn't</b> . She <b>hasn't done</b> it <u>yet</u> .
<b>Have</b> they <u>ever won</u> an award?	Yes, they <b>have</b> ./No, they <b>haven't</b> .

**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.

- Q:** you/do/your homework/yes  
*Have you done your homework yet?*

**A:** *Yes, I've already done it.*      **A:** *No, I haven't done it yet.*
- Q:** he/finish his project/yes
- Q:** they/ever/be on a field trip
- Q:** your parents/speak to the teacher/yes
- Q:** she/give the book back/yes

He <b>has</b> <u>already finished</u> the project.	He <b>finished</b> it <u>yesterday</u> .
He <b>hasn't finished</b> the project <u>yet</u> .	He <b>didn't finish</b> it <u>yesterday</u> .

**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.

- (talk) Has Jan talked to Jenny yet?  
*Yes, she has. She talked to her at 4:00.*
- (check email) Has Jan ?
- (start reading) Has Jan ?
- (write essay) Has Jan ?
- (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.	✗

11

Read and answer with a partner. Check your answers with the class.

- 1 How many hours do you spend at school each day?
- 2 How many lessons are there?
- 3 How much break time is there?

13

12

Listen and read. How many lessons are there in a Chinese school day? How many breaks are there?

### CONTENT WORDS

average belief bright ceremony gather limited  
packed strengthen study period timetable typical

## A School Day in China

- 1 It's noon and the bell is ringing at your school. By now, you've probably spent around seven hours there. Maybe you've had five or six lessons, a few short breaks and a longer break of up to an hour for lunch. If you think that's a tough timetable, you might have to think again! A school day in China can be almost eleven hours long – that's three hours longer than the average working day there!
- 2 Let's take a look at a typical school day in China. School begins at 7:30 with a flag-raising ceremony and a speech from the head teacher. The first three lessons last from 7:45 to 10:20 with three ten-minute breaks in between. At 10:30, pupils gather at the sports ground to do half an hour of morning exercises. Chinese people believe that keeping fit is important and people of all ages often make time to exercise during the day. Before the fourth lesson begins at 11:25, it's time to do some eye exercises. These exercises usually take five minutes and are for strengthening pupils' eyesight.
- 3 Lunch is at 12:20 but it's a short break: only twenty minutes. After lunch, there's a study period of one hour, followed by a fifteen-minute break. Then it's back to the classroom for the fifth lesson and some more eye exercises. By then it's 3:40 but the bell hasn't rung yet! There are three more lessons before school finishes at ten past six. What's more, when the school day has ended, pupils can't always go home and relax. Weekday evenings and most of the weekend are often packed with extra lessons and activities such as doing sports, playing a musical instrument or learning another language.
- 4 As you can see, Chinese pupils work hard and their free time is very limited. All Chinese children learn, from a young age, to be good pupils, get good grades and help other pupils do the same. Behind this tough timetable is the belief that a good education is the key to a bright future.



**13** Look at 12. Read and say **true** or **false**.

- 1 A typical day in a Chinese school is shorter than a typical day in a Chinese office.
- 2 Every day starts in the same way.
- 3 Morning exercise is before the third lesson.
- 4 Pupils do eye exercises because they need to relax.
- 5 Most pupils in China have got more lessons after school.
- 6 In China, studying hard is more important than free time and relaxing.

**14** Copy the table timetable in your notebook and complete.

Timetable			
7:30–7:40 a.m.	flag-raising ceremony	12:50–1:50	study period
7:40–7:45	prepare the classroom	2:00–2:15	6 ?
7:45–8:30	1 ?	2:25–2:30	classroom prep
8:40–9:25	2 ?	2:30–3:15	5 <sup>th</sup> lesson
9:35–10:20	3 <sup>rd</sup> lesson	3:25–3:30	7 ?
10:30–11:00	3 ?	3:40–4:25	8 ?
11:10–11:15	4 ?	4:35–5:20	9 ?
11:25–12:10 p.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> lesson	5:30–6:10	8 <sup>th</sup> lesson or study period
12:20–12:40	5 ?		

**15** Work with a partner. Look at the things. Compare your school day and a Chinese school day. Give your opinion.

a flag-raising ceremony   after-school activities   eye exercises   length of lunch break  
morning exercise   number of breaks   number of lessons and study periods   relaxing



Chinese students do eye exercises, but we don't. Which is better?

I don't think we need eye exercises. Longer breaks are more important.



**16** Discuss these questions in groups. Collect ideas, then write about a typical school day in your notebook.

- 1 What happens on an average school day in your country?
- 2 What extra lessons or activities do pupils do?
- 3 How much free time have pupils got? What do they do with it?



15



Listen and read. What has Martha's brother done with her mobile phone?



**Tyler:** You look really upset, Martha. Are you OK?

**Martha:** Well, no. Have you ever had one of those days where everything goes wrong?

**Tyler:** What's happened?

**Martha:** My computer has crashed three times today and I've lost my entire Geography project.

**Tyler:** Oh no, that's awful!

**Martha:** Yeah, but wait, I haven't told you the worst thing yet. My little brother dropped my mobile phone down the toilet this morning.

**Tyler:** No! My brother's annoying but he's never done anything that bad.

**Martha:** So... now I've lost my phone and all my friends' phone numbers.

**Tyler:** You can borrow my old phone if you like.

**Martha:** It's OK, thanks. My mum has already lent me one.

18

Look at 17 and complete.

We make the present perfect tense with <b>have/has + past participle</b> .	My computer <sup>1</sup> ? three times today. I <sup>2</sup> ? my entire Geography project. I <sup>3</sup> ? you the worst thing yet. <sup>4</sup> ? <b>ever</b> <sup>5</sup> ? one of those days?
Regular and irregular participles:	<b>Regular:</b> played, studied, cra <sup>6</sup> ?, dro <sup>7</sup> ? <b>Irregular:</b> eaten, ha <sup>8</sup> ?, lo <sup>9</sup> ?, do <sup>10</sup> ?
We can use <b>ever, never, already</b> and <b>yet</b> with the present perfect tense.	<sup>11</sup> ? one of those days? My brother <sup>12</sup> ? anything that bad. My mum <sup>13</sup> ? me a phone. I <b>haven't told</b> my dad <b>yet</b> .
We can use the present perfect to say <b>how many times</b> something has happened.	My computer <sup>14</sup> ? today.

19

Read and complete.

1 ? - studied

2 drink - ?

3 ? - had

4 write - ?

5 ? - done

6 take - ?

7 ? - lost

8 eat - ?

9 ? - broken

10 see - ?

11 ? - carried

12 be - ?

20 Read and complete. Use the correct form of the words in the box.

break her leg   go to Egypt   have a baby   not finish my Spanish homework  
see this film   speak to him   stop working

- 1 My cousins ? on holiday. They'll be back next week.
- 2 I ? yet. I'm going to finish it tomorrow.
- 3 My aunt ?! His name's Erol.
- 4 Lauren ?, so she can't walk easily.
- 5 I ? before. Shall we change the channel?
- 6 We don't know him well but we ? three or four times.
- 7 My watch ?. It needs a new battery.

21 Read and complete. Use the correct form of the words.



He <sup>1</sup>? (jump) out of burning buildings, he <sup>2</sup>? (fall) from high bridges and he <sup>3</sup>? (crash) hundreds of cars and motorbikes. He's only thirty-two but he <sup>4</sup>? (die, already) five times! He <sup>5</sup>? (be) in more than fifty action films and thrillers but you <sup>6</sup>? (see, never) his face. Who is he? Meet Craig Haviland, one of Hollywood's top stuntmen. He does all the dangerous things in films that the actors can't do.

**Craig, how many times <sup>7</sup>? (you, jump) from California's Golden Gate Bridge?**

Actually, I <sup>8</sup>? (jump, never) off it but I <sup>9</sup>? (fall) off it three times!

<sup>10</sup>? (you, hurt, ever) **yourself?**

Yes, I <sup>11</sup>? (have) quite a few accidents. I <sup>12</sup>? (break) my arm twice and I <sup>13</sup>? (hurt) my back a few times. But luckily, I <sup>14</sup>? (break, never) a leg. My job is very dangerous but I love it!

22 Think about you, your family and your friends. Choose one interesting thing you/they have done and one interesting thing you/they have never done. Make sentences, then tell the class.

I've been to Australia.

I've never ridden a horse.

My friend Ella has never seen the sea!

## A School Day With a Difference



1 “Moi, Sofia!” “Terve, Aleksii!” That’s how pupils and teachers say hello to each other at Anna Hansson’s school in Finland. Pupils at this school call their teachers by their first names. Anna shouts “Moi” to her friends, too, when she arrives at school at 7:45 in the morning. She has been at the same school since Year 1, so she knows everybody.

2 Anna’s school is different from most other schools in Europe. First, Anna and her classmates decide, along with their teacher, what their weekly activities will be. Also, pupils work at their own pace and don’t always do the same things. Some may be doing Maths while others might be doing something practical. This month, Anna has practised cooking and making a magazine in different workshops.

23 Look at the statements. Which statements describe your school? Choose and compare with a partner.

- 1 We memorise a lot of facts. Sometimes that’s boring.
- 2 Sometimes we help to clean the classroom.
- 3 The breaks are short, so we don’t get much exercise.
- 4 We haven’t got much homework, so I’ve got lots of free time. It’s great!
- 5 There’s lots of reading and writing. I’d like to learn something practical instead.
- 6 We have exams and tests very often, so I have to study a lot.

24 Read the article quickly. Match sentences a-d to paragraphs 1-6.

- a Pupils can have bread and a glass of milk, too.
- b In Finland, being responsible and helping others is very important.
- c They don’t follow the same program or do the same activities every week.
- d They often work in pairs or groups, then share what they know.

- 3 Anna and her classmates don't learn by memorising facts. Working together and gathering information is more important in this system. They ask their teacher for help whenever they need it. Pupils are generally very focused and active, so the teacher doesn't often have to tell them to behave.
- 4 Breaks are an important part of the school day. After a double lesson (90 mins), pupils have a double, 30-minute break. Teachers encourage pupils to go out and get some fresh air even if the weather is bad. Being active makes pupils hungry, so lunchtime is also very popular! At Anna's school, pupils get free hot meals every day. Today's lunch is everybody's favourite – meatballs and mashed potatoes! It's served on tables with tablecloths and flowers in vases.
- 5 Chores have always been part of the curriculum at Anna's school. They include looking after plants, collecting rubbish, recycling and composting. Pupils also help in the library and in the kitchen.
- 6 School is over by two o'clock. Most parents work, so in the afternoon there are clubs and hobby groups before pupils go home. Pupils can study Japanese, learn an instrument and do arts and crafts. When Anna gets home in the evening, she's free to do whatever she likes because she hardly ever has any homework!



16

25

Listen and read. Complete the sentences with phrases from the text.

- 1 Anna's school is different from ?.
- 2 Pupils don't always learn the same thing at the same speed. They work ?.
- 3 If they need to, pupils can ? in a lesson.
- 4 Bad behaviour isn't a problem because pupils are usually ?.
- 5 Pupils ? even if the weather isn't very good.
- 6 Anna is free to ? after school.

26

Copy the survey questions in your notebook. Write three more questions, then ask pupils at your school. Collect the results as a class.

- 1 I'd like to do fewer subjects than we do now.
- I'd like to do more subjects than we do now.
- 2 I'd like to have more hours of school every day.
- I'd like to have fewer hours of school every day.
- 3 We should have more and longer breaks.
- I think we have enough break time.

**THINK  
BIG**

What are the similarities and what are the differences between your school and Anna's school?

27 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!

28 Look at 27 again. Copy and complete the paragraph outline.

Title rewritten as question: ?
Main opinion: ?
Reason: ?
Suggestion: ?
Conclusion: ?

29 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 28 and complete it with information about your topic.
- 2 Write your own paragraph.
- 3 Share it with the class.

**30** 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	?
??	?
??	?

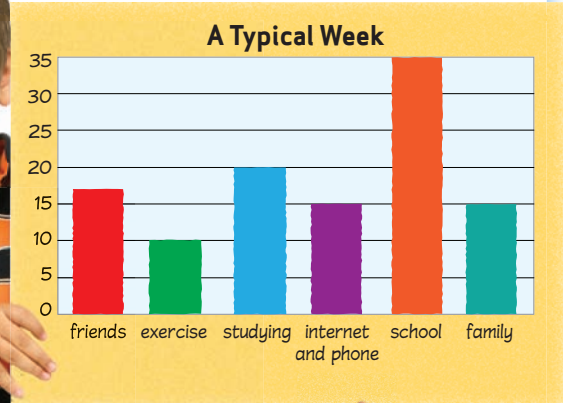
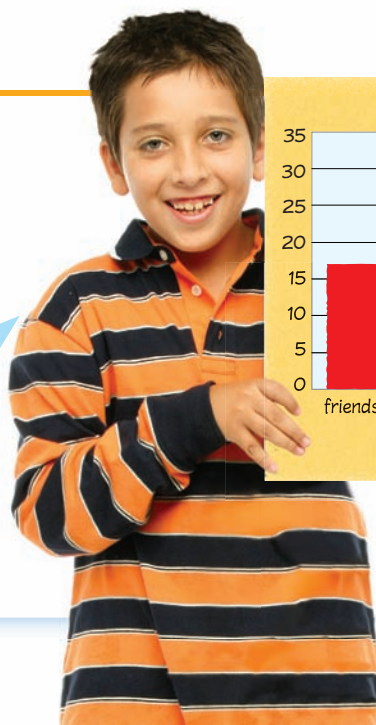
**THINK BIG**

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

**PROJECT**

**31** 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

18



Listen, read and repeat.

- 1 spr      2 str      3 scr

19



Listen and blend the sounds.

- |            |        |             |        |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| 1 spr-i-ng | spring | 2 str-ee-t  | street |
| 3 scr-ee-n | screen | 4 spr-i-n-t | sprint |
| 5 str-o-ng | strong | 6 scr-ew    | screw  |

20



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!*



35

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   do your homework   join any after-school clubs  
organise your backpack   write your book review

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!

No, I haven't. I had to train his dog not to eat homework so I ran out of time!

21



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		

22



Listen again. Make sentences about 36. 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.