

Topic: School Days

Let's get started . . . Where did you go to school as a child? Do you remember your first day of school? What do you remember about it?

Story: Big sister went to the red school. Little sister stayed home and wished *she* could go to school. Their home shared a chain-link fence with the schoolyard. So, little sister stood at the fence and watched the children playing games. After the bell rang, the children went away and the schoolyard was empty and silent.

Two years later, little sister was old enough to go to school. She loved everything about school. But one day, when she was standing in line, another student threw a ball at her. It knocked out her breath and she couldn't talk. The teacher said, "you shouldn't be playing ball now." Little sister had to write 100 times on a paper, "I won't play ball when I'm standing in line." She cried tears of shame the whole time.



1964 elementary school class¹



In pairs for 5 minutes, tell each other some school stories.

Tell about a time at school when you got in trouble.

Tell about a time at school when you learned something important.

Tell about a time at school when you were honored.

Share one of your partner's stories with the group.

Interview 3 people about subjects they liked and didn't like in school. Write their names in the left column, and then write yes or no for each category. Say, "Did you like learning about _____ in school?" Ask them to explain.

Name	Math	Science	Reading / Writing	Art	Foreign Language 姓名 Nombre День рождения
	$y = x^2 + 2x - 3$ $\frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{(2)^2 - 4(1)(-3)}}{2(1)}$ $\frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 + 12}}{2} \rightarrow \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{16}}{2}$ $\frac{-2 \pm 4}{2} \rightarrow \frac{-2+4}{2} \rightarrow \frac{2}{2} \rightarrow 1$ $\frac{-2-4}{2} \rightarrow \frac{-2-4}{2} \rightarrow \frac{-6}{2} \rightarrow -3$				

Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups. Change groups from time to time.

Talk about 2 or 3 teachers that you remember well. Why do you remember them?

Tell about schools in your native country:

How are students graded?

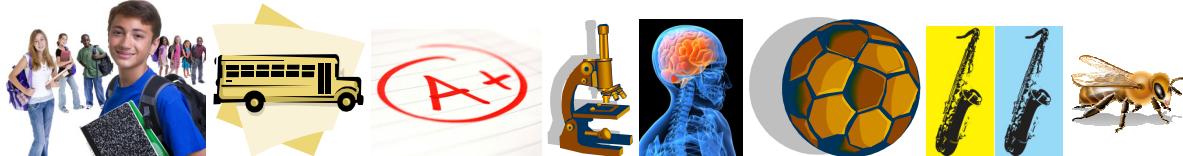
Do students pay for school formally or informally? Explain.

What do students wear to school?

Are schools public, private or both? Explain.

Do schools have sports programs? Explain.

Do schools have music programs? Explain.



Are there subjects that you *didn't like* in school, but *like now* that you're *not* in school? Explain what and why.

How do students relate to their teachers, and teachers relate to their students in your home culture? Compare and contrast with schools in the U.S. - how do teachers and students relate the same or differently?

How did school, at any age, influence your choices in life - spouse, career, where you live, friends or other things?

What are you learning about this year? What do you most enjoy learning about?

Talk about being a teacher - as a career or informally as a friend, parent or community member. Think about what, who, where, when, how and why. Try to complete one of these sentences.

I taught

I am teaching

I want to teach

I will teach

New vocabulary: chain-link fence, schoolyard, bell, "knocked out her breath", standing in line, tears, shame, got in trouble, honored, math, science, art, graded, formally, informally, public, private, relate, influence

Keep talking about it this week: Ask friends what they remember about their first day at school. Write down their answers and be ready to share with the group in the next Talk Time.

More: helping your child learn - <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>

¹Picture from scarlatti2004, under creative commons license on www.flickr.com