

Many of you have children starting school this year. Here are some things you may hear or say related to school. Take turns reading the statements, then tell what is meant.

1. We work with parents to make sure we're both on the same page when it comes to discipline. How do you handle discipline issues?
2. Many of our children have never been away from Mom. We will do everything possible to ease the transition to preschool.
3. What is the ratio of adults to children?
4. We have one teacher and one aide in a classroom with up to ten children.
5. Does the center accept children with special needs?
6. We feel our school is a good fit for international students because most of our teachers are dual-language.
7. We will handle most discipline problems here. However, if your child is having severe problems, we will ask you to come pick them up.
8. What is the cut off date for kindergarten? A child must be 5 years old before September 1st.
9. High school comprises grades 9 through 12.
10. To enroll in school, you must provide proof of residence in our district as well as the child's school and medical records. Here is a list of vaccinations that are required.
11. I understand bullying is a major problem in the U.S.. What do you do to control it?
12. We send report cards out every marking period (6 weeks). You should sign it and have your child return it to his teacher.

Group Talk: Talk from 1 to 3 minutes on one of these topics, then lead a group discussion with the other students.

- 1- Talk about your report cards. How often were they sent home? Did your parents demand high grades on your report cards? Were you punished for average grades?
Do most parents in your country demand that their students make high grades?
- 2- What is the pupil-teacher ratio in most high school classes in your country? What class size do you think is ideal?
- 3- Is bullying a problem in schools in your country? What do people do about bullying? Should you intervene if your child is being bullied at school? What would you do if you found out your child was a bully?
- 4- Do most people in your country vaccinate their children or are they fearful of side effects? How do you feel about childhood vaccinations?
- 5- Are disabled children included in normal classrooms in your country? We call this mainstreaming. Or do they go to special classes with other disabled students?
- 6- It is popular in the U.S. for people to hold back their kindergarteners so that they are older than the other children. Some parents feel this gives their children an advantage. This is especially true of parents of children turning 5 in the summer months. At what age do children start school in your country? Do parents hold back their children to give them a competitive edge?
- 7- Many American parents opt for home schooling. Would you ever home school your children? What advantages and disadvantages does home schooling have?
- 8- Middle school and high school students must choose electives. These elective courses include art, music, band, orchestra, sports, et al. What elective courses are taught in your country? Which ones did you take when you went to school?



Pronouncing G-

geriatric-old age EX: My mother has a doctor who specializes in geriatrics (medical treatment of old people).

The “g” in geriatric sounds like a “j”. Usually the “g” sounds like “ga” as in governor or go. Other times the “g” sound is silent. Pronounce these words and decide which ones have the “g” sound as in “geriatric”, which sound like “ga” and which have a silent “g”.

garage	general	grouch	gem	gnawing	gnarled (bent and twisted)
ginger	glacier	gist (main idea)	girle	geography	
gesture	generate (produce)		gathering	gender	gnat (small biting insect)

Sometimes the “g” inside a word is silent. Decide if these words have a silent “g”.

assign	campaign	figment	imagination	foreign
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