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## Level 3

# Education adviser attacks UK schools

15th October, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

A top adviser to the British government has attacked the quality of British schools and teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has worked closely with the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many years. Mr Gove has followed many of his adviser's ideas and has become very unpopular with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in Britain. He said education in Britain is "between awful and mediocre". He said most teachers do not do a good job in the classroom and that "real talent is rare". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are well trained in the basics of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving."

Mr Cummings also attacked other areas of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are "wasted" on projects to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses. He argues that many university courses in England teach students little and do not help them get a job. He said university students needed to work much harder. Cummings also angered teachers by saying 70 per cent of a child's ability in the classroom is because of his or her genes, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings should be fired. One said he is the reason for a lot of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be fired.

Sources: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/michael-gove-adviser-says-teachers-2366294#ixzz2haRdDBKo>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/oct/11/genetics-teaching-gove-adviser>

# WARM-UPS

**1. TEACHERS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about teachers. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*adviser / quality / ideas / unpopular / teachers / classroom / basics / problem-solving /wasted / pointless / university courses / ability / genes / be fired / madder ideas*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. SCHOOL:** What were these subjects like for you? How were the teachers? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

|               | Good or bad? Why? | How were the teachers? |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| English       |                   |                        |
| Your language |                   |                        |
| History       |                   |                        |
| Maths         |                   |                        |
| Sports        |                   |                        |
| Science       |                   |                        |

**4. JOB:** Students A **strongly** believe a teacher's job is very difficult; Students B **strongly** believe a teacher's job is easy. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. A GOOD TEACHER:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important things about a teacher at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sense of humour
- strict
- gives lots of feedback
- plays games
- answers questions well
- full of energy
- knows his / her subject
- cute

**6. CLASSROOM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "classroom". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. A British government worker damaged some schools in England.           | T / F |
| b. The name of the adviser's boss is Michael Gove.                        | T / F |
| c. Britain's Education Secretary is very popular with British teachers.   | T / F |
| d. The adviser said few teachers know how to teach extended writing.      | T / F |
| e. The adviser wants the government to use money more carefully.          | T / F |
| f. The adviser suggested a lot of university courses are a waste of time. | T / F |
| g. Teachers are angry because of their students' genes.                   | T / F |
| h. No one wants the adviser or his boss to lose their job.                | T / F |

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. adviser   | a. useless    |
| 2. quality   | b. average    |
| 3. unpopular | c. cause      |
| 4. mediocre  | d. consultant |
| 5. rare      | e. misspent   |
| 6. attacked  | f. disliked   |
| 7. wasted    | g. criticised |
| 8. pointless | h. standard   |
| 9. reason    | i. dismissed  |
| 10. fired    | j. unusual    |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A top adviser to            | a. is rare                |
| 2. made teachers               | b. to work much harder    |
| 3. real talent                 | c. solving                |
| 4. few teachers are            | d. very angry             |
| 5. problem-                    | e. them get a job         |
| 6. He said billions of dollars | f. the British government |
| 7. do not help                 | g. ideas                  |
| 8. university students needed  | h. genes                  |
| 9. because of his or her       | i. well trained           |
| 10. madder                     | j. are "wasted"           |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

A top adviser to the British government has attacked the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of British schools and teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has worked (2) \_\_\_\_\_ with the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many years. Mr Gove has followed many of his adviser's (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and has become very (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in Britain. He said education in Britain is "between awful and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ". He said most teachers do not do a good job in the classroom and that "real (6) \_\_\_\_\_ is rare". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are well trained in the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-(8) \_\_\_\_\_."

*mediocre*  
*ideas*  
*basics*  
*quality*  
*solving*  
*talent*  
*closely*  
*unpopular*

Mr Cummings also attacked other (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are "(10) \_\_\_\_\_ " on projects to help poorer students and on "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ " university courses. He argues that many university courses in England teach students (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and do not help them get a job. He said university students needed to work much harder. Cummings also (13) \_\_\_\_\_ teachers by saying 70 per cent of a child's ability in the classroom is because of his or her (14) \_\_\_\_\_, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings should be fired. One said he is the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ for a lot of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*reason*  
*little*  
*wasted*  
*genes*  
*fired*  
*areas*  
*angered*  
*pointless*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

- 1) A top adviser to the British government has attacked \_\_\_\_\_ British schools
  - a. the quantity of
  - b. the quality of
  - c. the qualify of
  - d. the qualifies of
- 2) Mr Gove has followed many of his adviser's ideas and has become \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. very popular
  - b. very popularity
  - c. very unpopulated
  - d. very unpopular
- 3) He said education in Britain is "between \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. awful and media car
  - b. awful and mead or ochre
  - c. awful and mediocre
  - d. awful and needy ochre
- 4) In England, few teachers are well trained \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of the basics
  - b. in the basics
  - c. to the basics
  - d. on the basics
- 5) extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and problem-solved
  - b. and problem-solvers
  - c. and problem-solution
  - d. and problem-solving
- 6) He said billions of dollars are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. "wanted" on projects
  - b. "basted" on projects
  - c. "wasted" on projects
  - d. "waste it" on projects
- 7) university courses in England teach students little and do not help \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. them got a job
  - b. them get a job
  - c. them gets a job
  - d. them getting a job
- 8) 70 per cent of a child's ability in the classroom is because of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. his or her jeans
  - b. his or her gyms
  - c. his or her genes
  - d. his or her gene
- 9) Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. should be filed
  - b. should be fired
  - c. should be fiery
  - d. should be fried
- 10) One said he is the reason for a lot of the Education Secretary's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. "madden ideas"
  - b. "mad her ideas"
  - c. "madder ideas"
  - d. "maddest ideas"

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

A top adviser to the British government has attacked (1) \_\_\_\_\_ British schools and teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many years. Mr Gove has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ his adviser's ideas and has become (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in Britain. He said education in Britain is "between (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ". He said most teachers do not do a good job in the classroom and that "(6) \_\_\_\_\_ ". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are well trained in the basics of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving."

Mr Cummings also attacked other areas of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses. He argues that many university courses in England (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and do not help them get a job. He said university students needed to work much harder. Cummings also angered teachers by saying 70 per cent (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the classroom is because of (10) \_\_\_\_\_, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings (11) \_\_\_\_\_. One said he is the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be fired.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

1. Who has Dominic Cummings worked closely with?

---

2. What has Michael Gove followed?

---

3. What do teachers think of Michael Gove?

---

4. What did Mr Cummings say about real teaching talent?

---

5. What did Mr Cummings say about teachers in England?

---

6. What did Cummings say was wasted?

---

7. What did Cummings say was pointless?

---

8. What did Cummings say about university students?

---

9. What percentage of a child's ability did Cummings say was because of genes?

---

10. What do many teachers want to do to Mr Gove?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

1. Who has Dominic Cummings worked closely with?
  - a) Michael Gove
  - b) head teachers
  - c) students
  - d) parents
2. What has Michael Gove followed?
  - a) his head
  - b) his heart
  - c) Dominic Cummings' ideas
  - d) rules
3. What do teachers think of Michael Gove?
  - a) he has no real talent
  - b) he isn't well-trained
  - c) he's a genius
  - d) they don't like him
4. What did Mr Cummings say about real teaching talent?
  - a) students are lucky
  - b) it's rare
  - c) it's everywhere
  - d) it's amazing
5. What did Mr Cummings say about teachers in England?
  - a) few are well-trained
  - b) they are the best in the world
  - c) they should be paid more
  - d) they should teach overseas
6. What did Cummings say was wasted?
  - a) time
  - b) talent
  - c) food
  - d) money
7. What did Cummings say was pointless?
  - a) school
  - b) pencils in classrooms
  - c) some university courses
  - d) his job
8. What did Cummings say about university students?
  - a) they are better than ever
  - b) they should study more
  - c) they have no hope
  - d) they wear strange clothes
9. What percentage of a child's ability did Cummings say was because of genes?
  - a) 17
  - b) 30
  - c) 70
  - d) 83
10. What do many teachers want to do to Mr Gove?
  - a) cut his salary
  - b) fire him
  - c) make him teach
  - d) friend him on Facebook

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

## **Role A – A sense of humour**

You think a sense of humour is the most important thing for an English teacher. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a lot of energy, giving feedback or being cute.

## **Role B – A lot of energy**

You think a lot of energy is the most important thing for an English teacher. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a sense of humour, giving feedback or being cute.

## **Role C – Gives feedback**

You think giving feedback is the most important thing for an English teacher. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a lot of energy, a sense of humour or being cute.

## **Role D – Cute**

You think being cute is the most important thing for an English teacher. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a lot of energy, giving feedback or a sense of humour.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'teacher' and 'school'.

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| <b>teacher</b> | <b>school</b> |
|----------------|---------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• quality</li><li>• closely</li><li>• followed</li><li>• report</li><li>• rare</li><li>• basics</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• areas</li><li>• pointless</li><li>• job</li><li>• ability</li><li>• senior</li><li>• fired</li></ul> |
|---|--|

# TEACHERS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

Write five GOOD questions about teachers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## TEACHERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'teacher'?
- c) What is the quality of schools like in your country?
- d) Are you surprised a government advisor is attacking British schools?
- e) What is your image of schools in Britain?
- f) What do you think of the job of a teacher?
- g) Who was the best teacher you ever had (and why)?
- h) What do you think of your English teacher?
- i) What can teachers do to be better teachers?
- j) Do you agree that "real talent is rare" for teachers?

*Education adviser attacks UK schools – 15th October, 2013*  
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## TEACHERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Why do teachers become teachers?
- c) How will teaching change in the future?
- d) Does having a university degree help you get a job?
- e) Is a child's ability from genes or from teachers?
- f) What would you do to make schools better?
- g) How are computers and iPads, etc. changing the way you learn?
- h) What would you teach if you became a teacher?
- i) What kind of teacher do you think you would be?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Mr Cummings?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

A top adviser to the British government has attacked the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of British schools and teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has worked (2) \_\_\_\_\_ with the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many years. Mr Gove has followed many of his adviser's ideas and has become very (3) \_\_\_\_\_ with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in Britain. He said education in Britain is "(4) \_\_\_\_\_ awful and mediocre". He said most teachers do not do a good job in the classroom and that "real talent is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ trained in the basics of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving."

Mr Cummings also attacked other areas of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are "(7) \_\_\_\_\_" on projects to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses. He argues that many university courses in England teach students (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and do not help them get a job. He said university students needed to work (9) \_\_\_\_\_ harder. Cummings also angered teachers by saying 70 per cent of a child's ability in the classroom is because of his or her (10) \_\_\_\_\_, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings should be (11) \_\_\_\_\_. One said he is the reason for a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be fired.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                |                   |               |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) quality   | (b) qualify    | (c) qualification | (d) quantity  |
| 2.  | (a) closeness | (b) closed     | (c) closely       | (d) closeted  |
| 3.  | (a) dislike   | (b) popularity | (c) unlike        | (d) unpopular |
| 4.  | (a) among     | (b) between    | (c) if            | (d) either    |
| 5.  | (a) roar      | (b) rear       | (c) rarely        | (d) rare      |
| 6.  | (a) good      | (b) positive   | (c) well          | (d) talent    |
| 7.  | (a) wished    | (b) wasted     | (c) worsened      | (d) willed    |
| 8.  | (a) little    | (b) few        | (c) small         | (d) lessen    |
| 9.  | (a) much      | (b) many       | (c) most          | (d) medium    |
| 10. | (a) jeans     | (b) dunes      | (c) genes         | (d) dines     |
| 11. | (a) firing    | (b) fires      | (c) fiery         | (d) fired     |
| 12. | (a) loads     | (b) lot        | (c) most          | (d) many      |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. the iuylqat of British schools
2. worked ceollsy with the UK Education Secretary
3. become very rlppouaun with British teachers
4. between luwfa and mediocre
5. well trained in the sscbai
6. problem-ilsgovn

## Paragraph 2

7. iosbliin of dollars
8. "pointless" university suesrco
9. Cummings also adgrnee teachers
10. because of his or her eseng
11. Senior soafcflii at the Department for Education
12. teachers also want Michael Gove to be eirdf



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) education in Britain is "between awful and mediocre". He said most teachers do not do a good
- ( ) trained in the basics of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving."
- ( **1** ) A top adviser to the British government has attacked the quality of British schools and
- ( ) Mr Cummings also attacked other areas of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are
- ( ) ability in the classroom is because of his or her genes, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for
- ( ) with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in Britain. He said
- ( ) job in the classroom and that "real talent is rare". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are well
- ( ) of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be fired.
- ( ) years. Mr Gove has followed many of his adviser's ideas and has become very unpopular
- ( ) "wasted" on projects to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses. He argues that many
- ( ) needed to work much harder. Cummings also angered teachers by saying 70 per cent of a child's
- ( ) teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has worked closely with the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many
- ( ) university courses in England teach students little and do not help them get a job. He said university students
- ( ) Education have said Mr Cummings should be fired. One said he is the reason for a lot

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

1. top A government British the to adviser.

---

2. Gove many adviser's Mr followed his has of ideas.

---

3. between awful and mediocre He said education in Britain is.

---

4. do job most not good said do a He teachers.

---

5. trained Few in teachers the are basics well.

---

6. Britain's attacked schools other areas Cummings of also.

---

7. said dollars on He of wasted billions are projects.

---

8. get them help not do and little students Teach job a.

---

9. classroom is because of genes A child's ability in the.

---

10. be Many want to also Gove fired teachers Michael.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

A top adviser to the British government has attacked the *quantity / quality* of British schools and teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has worked *closely / close* with the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many years. Mr Gove has *followed / following* many of his adviser's ideas and has become very *dislike / unpopular* with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very *anger / angry* about a new report he made *on / in* education in Britain. He said education in Britain is "*between / among* awful and mediocre". He said most teachers do not do a *well / good* job in the classroom and that "real talent is *rare / rarely*". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are well trained in the *basically / basics* of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving."

Mr Cummings *also / as well* attacked other areas of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are "wasted" *on / to* projects to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses. He *argues / arguing* that many university courses in England teach students *small / little* and do not help them get a job. He said university students needed to work much *hard / harder*. Cummings also *angered / angry* teachers by saying 70 per cent of a child's *ability / talented* in the classroom is because of his or her *jeans / genes*, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings should be *firing / fired*. One said he is the *reasons / reason* for a lot of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be fired.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

\_ t \_ p \_ dv \_ s \_ r t \_ th \_ Br \_ t \_ sh g \_ v \_ rnm \_ nt h \_ s \_ tt \_ ck \_ d  
th \_ q \_ l \_ ty \_ f Br \_ t \_ sh sch \_ ls \_ nd t \_ ch \_ rs. Th \_  
\_ dv \_ s \_ r, D \_ m \_ n \_ c C \_ mm \_ ngs, h \_ s w \_ rk \_ d cl \_ s \_ ly w \_ th  
th \_ \_ K \_ d \_ ct \_ n S \_ cr \_ t \_ ry M \_ ch \_ l G \_ v \_ f \_ r m \_ ny  
y \_ rs. Mr G \_ v \_ h \_ s f \_ ll \_ w \_ d m \_ ny \_ f h \_ s \_ dv \_ s \_ r's  
\_ d \_ s \_ nd h \_ s b \_ c \_ m \_ v \_ ry \_ np \_ pl \_ r w \_ th Br \_ t \_ sh  
t \_ ch \_ rs. C \_ mm \_ ngs h \_ s m \_ d \_ t \_ ch \_ rs v \_ ry \_ ngry  
\_ b \_ t \_ n \_ w \_ r \_ p \_ rt h \_ m \_ d \_ \_ n \_ d \_ ct \_ n \_ n Br \_ t \_ n.  
H \_ s \_ d \_ d \_ ct \_ n \_ n Br \_ t \_ n \_ s "b \_ tw \_ n \_ wf \_ l \_ nd  
m \_ d \_ cr \_ ". H \_ s \_ d m \_ st t \_ ch \_ rs d \_ n \_ t d \_ \_ g \_ d  
j \_ b \_ n th \_ cl \_ ssr \_ m \_ nd th \_ t "r \_ l \_ t \_ l \_ nt \_ s \_ r \_ r \_ ". H \_  
wr \_ t \_ : " \_ n \_ ngl \_ nd, f \_ w \_ t \_ ch \_ rs \_ r \_ w \_ ll tr \_ n \_ d \_ n  
th \_ b \_ s \_ cs \_ f \_ xt \_ nd \_ d wr \_ t \_ ng \_ r \_ m \_ th \_ m \_ t \_ c \_ l \_ nd  
sc \_ nt \_ f \_ c \_ m \_ d \_ ll \_ ng \_ nd pr \_ bl \_ m \_ s \_ lv \_ ng."

Mr C \_ mm \_ ngs \_ ls \_ \_ tt \_ ck \_ d \_ th \_ r \_ r \_ s \_ f Br \_ t \_ n's  
sch \_ ls. H \_ s \_ d b \_ ll \_ ns \_ f d \_ ll \_ rs \_ r \_ "w \_ st \_ d" \_ n  
pr \_ j \_ cts t \_ h \_ lp p \_ r \_ r st \_ d \_ nts \_ nd \_ n "p \_ ntl \_ ss"  
\_ n \_ v \_ rs \_ ty c \_ rs \_ s. H \_ \_ rg \_ s th \_ t m \_ ny \_ n \_ v \_ rs \_ ty  
c \_ rs \_ s \_ n \_ ngl \_ nd t \_ ch \_ st \_ d \_ nts l \_ ttl \_ \_ nd d \_ n \_ t  
h \_ lp th \_ m \_ g \_ t \_ j \_ b. H \_ s \_ d \_ n \_ v \_ rs \_ ty st \_ d \_ nts  
n \_ d \_ d \_ t \_ w \_ rk m \_ ch \_ h \_ rd \_ r. C \_ mm \_ ngs \_ ls \_ \_ ng \_ r \_ d  
t \_ ch \_ rs by s \_ y \_ ng 70 p \_ r \_ c \_ nt \_ f \_ ch \_ ld's \_ b \_ l \_ ty \_ n  
th \_ cl \_ ssr \_ m \_ s \_ b \_ c \_ s \_ \_ f h \_ s \_ r \_ h \_ r \_ g \_ n \_ s, \_ nd n \_ t  
b \_ c \_ s \_ \_ f t \_ ch \_ rs. S \_ n \_ r \_ \_ ff \_ c \_ ls \_ \_ t th \_  
D \_ p \_ rtm \_ nt \_ f \_ r \_ d \_ ct \_ n h \_ v \_ s \_ d Mr C \_ mm \_ ngs  
sh \_ ld b \_ f \_ rd. \_ n \_ s \_ d h \_ \_ s th \_ r \_ s \_ n \_ f \_ r \_ l \_ t \_ f  
th \_ \_ d \_ ct \_ n S \_ cr \_ t \_ ry's "m \_ dd \_ r \_ d \_ s". M \_ ny  
t \_ ch \_ rs \_ ls \_ w \_ nt M \_ ch \_ l G \_ v \_ t \_ b \_ f \_ rd.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

a top adviser to the british government has attacked the quality of british schools and teachers the adviser dominic cummings has worked closely with the uk education secretary michael gove for many years mr gove has followed many of his adviser's ideas and has become very unpopular with british teachers cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in britain he said education in britain is "between awful and mediocre" he said most teachers do not do a good job in the classroom and that "real talent is rare" he wrote "in england few teachers are well trained in the basics of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving"

mr cummings also attacked other areas of britain's schools he said billions of dollars are "wasted" on projects to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses he argues that many university courses in england teach students little and do not help them get a job he said university students needed to work much harder cummings also angered teachers by saying 70 per cent of a child's ability in the classroom is because of his or her genes and not because of teachers senior officials at the department for education have said mr cummings should be fired one said he is the reason for a lot of the education secretary's "madder ideas" many teachers also want michael gove to be fired

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131015-schools.html>

AtopadvisertotheBritishgovernmenthasattackedthequalityofBritishschoolsand teachers. The adviser, Dominic Cummings, has worked closely with the UK Education Secretary Michael Gove for many years. Mr Gove has followed many of his adviser's ideas and has become very unpopular with British teachers. Cummings has made teachers very angry about a new report he made on education in Britain. He said education in Britain is "between awful and mediocre". He said most teachers do not do a good job in the classroom and that "real talent is rare". He wrote: "In England, few teachers are well trained in the basics of extended writing or mathematical and scientific modelling and problem-solving." Mr Cummings also attacked the rare areas of Britain's schools. He said billions of dollars are "wasted" on projects to help poorer students and on "pointless" university courses. He argued that many university courses in England teach students little and do not help them get a job. He said university students needed to work much harder. Cummings also angered teachers by saying 70 percent of a child's ability in the classroom is because of his or her genes, and not because of teachers. Senior officials at the Department for Education have said Mr Cummings should be fired. One said he is the reason for a lot of the Education Secretary's "madder ideas". Many teachers also want Michael Gove to be fired.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about teachers. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. TEACHERS:** Make a poster about what teachers do every day. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. TEACHING:** Write a magazine article about teaching. Include imaginary interviews with teachers.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an education expert. Ask him/her three questions about teachers. Give him/her three of your opinions on what makes a great teacher. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F      b T      c F      d T      e T      f T      g F      h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. adviser   | a. consultant |
| 2. quality   | b. standard   |
| 3. unpopular | c. disliked   |
| 4. mediocre  | d. average    |
| 5. rare      | e. unusual    |
| 6. attacked  | f. criticised |
| 7. wasted    | g. misspent   |
| 8. pointless | h. useless    |
| 9. reason    | i. cause      |
| 10. fired    | j. dismissed  |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. UK Education Secretary Michael Gove
2. Dominic Cummings' ideas
3. He's unpopular
4. It is rare
5. Few are well-trained in the basics
6. Billions of dollars
7. University courses
8. They needed to work harder
9. 70%
10. Fire him

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a    2. c    3. d    4. b    5. a    6. d    7. c    8. b    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)