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Level 5

Finland to reform education for the digital age

1st June, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170601-education-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170601-education-5.html>

Finland wants more than always being top of the world's education tables. It is planning to reform its education system to better prepare students for the digital age. A key part of this is to put more emphasis on digital and workplace skills. An example of this would be to use 3D printers in history classes for students to make models of ancient buildings. There will also be vocational training in real-life work settings. Students' performance would be judged by both a teacher and by an official from the company helping the student.

One teacher explained why a change was necessary. She said school is usually divided into subjects and facts that students must learn. She said real life is not like that because our brain is not divided into topics. She added that students needed to think in a broader way. They must think about the problems in the world, like migration, the economy, the post-truth era. She questioned whether today's children get the tools to deal with such an inter-cultural world. She warned it would be a big mistake to let children believe that the world is simple, and that all they need is facts.

Sources: <http://www.helsinkitimes.fi/finland/finland-news/domestic/14731-finland-s-vocational-education-reform-an-example-to-follow.html>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39889523>
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/education/finn-fun>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170601-education-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. always being | a. skills |
| 2. the world's education | b. for the digital age |
| 3. It is planning to reform | c. training |
| 4. prepare students | d. tables |
| 5. a key | e. buildings |
| 6. digital and workplace | f. its education system |
| 7. models of ancient | g. top |
| 8. vocational | h. part of this |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. explained why a change | a. like that |
| 2. school is usually divided | b. a big mistake |
| 3. She said real life is not | c. get the tools |
| 4. problems in the world, | d. facts |
| 5. She questioned whether today's children | e. cultural world |
| 6. such an inter- | f. like migration |
| 7. She warned it would be | g. was necessary |
| 8. all they need is | h. into subjects |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170601-education-5.html>

Finland wants (1) _____ being top of the world's education tables. It is planning (2) _____ education system to better prepare students for the digital age. A (3) _____ this is to put more emphasis on digital and workplace skills. An example of this would (4) _____ printers in history classes for students to make models of ancient buildings. There (5) _____ vocational training in real-life work settings. Students' performance would be judged by both a teacher (6) _____ from the company helping the student.

One teacher explained (7) _____ was necessary. She said school is usually divided into (8) _____ that students must learn. She said real (9) _____ that because our brain is not divided into topics. She added that students needed (10) _____ broader way. They must think about the problems in the world, like migration, the economy, the post-truth era. She questioned whether today's children (11) _____ deal with such an inter-cultural world. She warned it would be a big mistake to let children believe that the world is simple, (12) _____ need is facts.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170601-education-5.html>

Finland wants more than always being top of the world's education tables. It is planning to reform its education system to better prepare students for the digital age. A key part of this is to put more emphasis on digital and workplace skills. An example of this would be to use 3D printers in history classes for students to make models of ancient buildings. There will also be vocational training in real-life work settings. Students' performance would be judged by both a teacher and by an official from the company helping the student. One teacher explained why a change was necessary. She said school is usually divided into subjects and facts that students must learn. She said real life is not like that because our brain is not divided into topics. She added that students needed to think in a broader way. They must think about the problems in the world, like migration, the economy, the post-truth era. She questioned whether today's children get the tools to deal with such an intercultural world. She warned it would be a big mistake to let children believe that the world is simple, and that all they need is facts.

EDUCATION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170601-education-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about education 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 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

