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Level 3

Why do children go to school?

3rd September, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160903-school.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/1609/160903-school.html>

What is school for? This may seem an easy question to answer, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have different opinions on why kids go to school. The poll is called the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from a global association of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to name the biggest purpose of school. Just 45 per cent of people who took part in the poll said the main goal of school was to prepare students to pass exams. Around a quarter of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready to join the workforce. Just over 26 per cent of Americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children about citizenship.

Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll questioned whether today's schools were doing the right thing. He said: "One has to really question whether the direction we've been going is consistent with what the public wants." He quoted from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions of the universe and learn to live with those questions." Students had different ideas about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be creative, to share ideas with others and to use technology to make the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey, also 15, said school, "is just to make poor kids into robots who work and make rich people richer".

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/08/29/why-do-kids-go-to-school-americans-are-divided-on-the-answer-a-new-poll-shows/>
<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-08-29/confusion-over-purpose-of-us-education-system>
<https://edsource.org/2016/national-poll-shows-differing-views-about-focus-of-public-education/568712>

WARM-UPS

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

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

easy question / school / association / education / quarter / workforce / citizenship
the right thing / direction / author / universe / ideas / creative / technology / rich

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

3. EDUCATION: Students A **strongly** believe school is the best way to educate children; Students B **strongly** believe disagree. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. BETTER: How can we change these things to make schools better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Changes	Why?
Hours		
Class size		
Teachers		
Exams		
Technology		
Subjects		

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

6. SUBJECTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- English
- literature
- physics
- IT
- maths
- history
- art
- citizenship

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says it seems easy to say what school is for. **T / F**
- b. A poll was taken by an association of technology CEOs. **T / F**
- c. Half of people said kids getting a job was the main reason for schools. **T / F**
- d. A quarter of people said teaching citizenship is the purpose of schools. **T / F**
- e. The polling company CEO was sure schools were doing the right thing. **T / F**
- f. The CEO quoted a writer from the twentieth century. **T / F**
- g. The writer said school was to ask questions of the universe. **T / F**
- h. A 15-year-old said schools were to make poor kids richer. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. easy | a. writer |
| 2. opinions | b. participated |
| 3. global | c. proper |
| 4. took part | d. views |
| 5. main | e. way |
| 6. right | f. imaginative |
| 7. direction | g. simple |
| 8. author | h. most important |
| 9. creative | i. wealthy |
| 10. rich | j. worldwide |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. This may seem an easy | a. a better place |
| 2. people have different | b. exams |
| 3. It is from a global | c. opinions on why |
| 4. prepare students to pass | d. others |
| 5. to teach children | e. question to answer |
| 6. schools were doing the right | f. richer |
| 7. teach children to be | g. thing |
| 8. share ideas with | h. association |
| 9. use technology to make the world | i. about citizenship |
| 10. make rich people | j. creative |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

What is school for? This may seem an easy question to (1) _____, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have different (2) _____ on why kids go to school. The poll is called the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from a (3) _____ association of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to name the biggest (4) _____ of school. Just 45 per cent of people who took part in the poll said the (5) _____ goal of school was to prepare students to pass exams. Around a (6) _____ of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready to join the (7) _____. Just over 26 per cent of Americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children about (8) _____.

purpose
workforce
opinions
citizenship
global
quarter
answer
main

Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll questioned (9) _____ today's schools were doing the right (10) _____. He said: "One has to really question whether the (11) _____ we've been going is consistent with what the public wants." He (12) _____ from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions of the (13) _____ and learn to live with those questions." Students had different (14) _____ about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be (15) _____, to share ideas with others and to use technology to make the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey, also 15, said school, "is just to make poor kids into (16) _____ who work and make rich people richer".

universe
thing
creative
quoted
robots
whether
ideas
direction

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

- 1) What is school for? This may seem an easy question _____
 - a. too answer
 - b. two answers
 - c. to answered
 - d. to answer
- 2) PDK asked Americans to name the biggest _____ school
 - a. presuppose of
 - b. porpoise of
 - c. purpose of
 - d. prepares of
- 3) the main goal of school was to prepare students _____
 - a. to past exams
 - b. to pass exams
 - c. to pass exam
 - d. too pass exams
- 4) the main purpose was to get kids ready to _____
 - a. join the works farce
 - b. join the worker force
 - c. join the workforce
 - d. join the work farce
- 5) the biggest reason for school was to teach children _____
 - a. about citizen ships
 - b. about citizenship
 - c. about citizens' ships
 - d. about citizens and ships
- 6) the poll questioned whether today's schools were doing _____
 - a. the right thing
 - b. the wright thing
 - c. the light thing
 - d. the writ thing
- 7) whether the direction we've been going is consistent with what _____
 - a. the publicly wants
 - b. the public wants
 - c. the publicity wants
 - d. the publics wants
- 8) the purpose of school is to ask questions _____
 - a. of the universal
 - b. of the universes
 - c. of a universe
 - d. of the universe
- 9) Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children _____
 - a. to be creative
 - b. to be creatively
 - c. to be a creative
 - d. to be the creative
- 10) school is just to make poor kids into robots who work and make _____
 - a. richest people richer
 - b. richest people rich
 - c. richer people richer
 - d. rich people richer

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

What is school for? This may (1) _____ question to answer, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have (2) _____ why kids go to school. The poll is called the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from (3) _____ of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to name the biggest purpose of school. Just 45 per cent of people (4) _____ poll said the main goal of school was to prepare students to pass exams. (5) _____ of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready to join the workforce. Just over 26 per cent of Americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children (6) _____.

Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll questioned whether today's schools were (7) _____. He said: "One has to really question whether the direction we've been going (8) _____ what the public wants." He quoted from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions (9) _____ learn to live with those questions." Students (10) _____ about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be creative, (11) _____ others and to use technology to make the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey, also 15, said school, "is just to make poor (12) _____ who work and make rich people richer".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

1. Where was the poll taken?
2. What is the name of the association of educational professionals?
3. What did 45 per cent of people say was the main purpose of school?
4. How many people thought school was to get kids ready to work?
5. What did 26% of children think school was for?
6. What is the job position of Joshua Starr?
7. When did James Baldwin say school was to ask about the universe?
8. What did Elena Brankov say school taught children to be?
9. What did Elena Brankov say school made the world?
10. Who did Lyndon Bailey say poor kids made richer?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

- 1) Where was the poll taken?
 - a) India
 - b) the USA
 - c) Canada
 - d) China
- 2) What is the name of the association of educational professionals?
 - a) DPK International
 - b) PKD International
 - c) KPD International
 - d) PDK International
- 3) What did 45 per cent of people say was the main purpose of school?
 - a) to get a job
 - b) to teach citizenship
 - c) to pass exams
 - d) to change the world
- 4) How many people thought school was to get kids ready to work?
 - a) a quarter
 - b) two-thirds
 - c) half
 - d) two-fifths
- 5) What did 26% of children think school was for?
 - a) to make friends
 - b) to teach citizenship
 - c) to develop as a person
 - d) to pass exams
- 6) What is the job position of Joshua Starr?
 - a) CEO
 - b) Finance director
 - c) IT boss
 - d) Head teacher
- 7) When did James Baldwin say school was to ask about the universe?
 - a) 1396
 - b) 1693
 - c) 1963
 - d) 1936
- 8) What did Elena Brankov say school taught children to be?
 - a) creative
 - b) intelligent
 - c) sociable
 - d) strong
- 9) What did Elena Brankov say technology could make the world?
 - a) amazing
 - b) more digital
 - c) faster
 - d) a better place
- 10) Who did Lyndon Bailey say poor kids made richer?
 - a) teachers
 - b) robots
 - c) rich people
 - d) poor people

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

Role A – English

You think English is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): I.T., art or citizenship.

Role B – I.T.

You think I.T. is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): English, art or citizenship.

Role C – Art

You think art is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): I.T., English or citizenship.

Role D – Citizenship

You think citizenship is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): I.T., art or English.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

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

easy	question
-------------	-----------------

- 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">• seem• global• 45• main• quarter• 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• whether• public• 1963• universe• creative• richer
--	--

SCHOOL SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

Write five GOOD questions about school 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.

SCHOOL DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'school'?
3. What did you think of school?
4. How could we make schools better?
5. What are schools for?
6. What will schools be like in 50 years from now?
7. How difficult is it to be a teacher in a school?
8. What's the best thing about school?
9. What's your best memory of school?
10. What is citizenship and how important is it to teach it?

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SCHOOL DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What direction should schools be going in?
13. Is the purpose of school "to ask questions about the universe"?
14. What are the three most important subjects to study at school?
15. Is school a place to share ideas?
16. What's the worst thing about school?
17. How important is school?
18. Is there a better way than school of educating kids?
19. Does school turn kids into robots?
20. What questions would you like to ask a school teacher?

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/1609/160903-school.html>

What is school for? This may (1) _____ an easy question to answer, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have different opinions on why kids go to school. The poll is (2) _____ the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from a (3) _____ association of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to name the biggest (4) _____ of school. Just 45 per cent of people who took part in the poll said the main goal of school was to prepare students to pass exams. Around a (5) _____ of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready to join the workforce. Just over 26 per cent of Americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children about (6) _____.

Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll questioned (7) _____ today's schools were doing the right thing. He said: "One has to really question whether the direction we've been going is consistent (8) _____ what the public wants." He quoted from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions of the (9) _____ and learn to live with those questions." Students had (10) _____ ideas about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be (11) _____, to share ideas with others and to use technology to make the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey, also 15, said school, "is just to (12) _____ poor kids into robots who work and make rich people richer".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | (a) seam | (b) seen | (c) seem | (d) scene |
| 2. | (a) called | (b) name | (c) title | (d) asked |
| 3. | (a) global | (b) globalise | (c) globalization | (d) globally |
| 4. | (a) purpose | (b) porpoise | (c) presuppose | (d) prepares |
| 5. | (a) quality | (b) quarter | (c) quantum | (d) quartile |
| 6. | (a) city Zen | (b) city | (c) citizen | (d) citizenship |
| 7. | (a) wither | (b) weather | (c) whether | (d) whatever |
| 8. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) by | (d) with |
| 9. | (a) universal | (b) universe | (c) one verse | (d) you need verse |
| 10. | (a) difference | (b) different | (c) differential | (d) differently |
| 11. | (a) creation | (b) creative | (c) creatively | (d) creature |
| 12. | (a) find | (b) go | (c) make | (d) have |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

Paragraph 1

1. people have different poisnnio
2. from a global nsitcoaisao
3. eapepr students to pass exams
4. the main spuepor
5. ready to join the freokcrow
6. teach children about epizhcnsiit

Paragraph 2

7. ewherth today's schools were...
8. the edtocinri we've been going
9. He tqodue from author James Baldwin
10. ask questions of the ienurse
11. teach children to be vetreiac
12. make poor kids into rstobo

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () creative, to share ideas with others and to use technology to make the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey,
- () a global association of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to name the
- () school was to prepare students to pass exams. Around a quarter of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready
- () the biggest reason for school was to teach children about citizenship.
- () wants." He quoted from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask
- () questions of the universe and learn to live with those questions." Students had different ideas
- (**1**) What is school for? This may seem an easy question to answer, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have different
- () Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll questioned whether today's schools were doing the right
- () biggest purpose of school. Just 45 per cent of people who took part in the poll said the main goal of
- () also 15, said school, "is just to make poor kids into robots who work and make rich people richer".
- () to join the workforce. Just over 26 per cent of Americans believed
- () opinions on why kids go to school. The poll is called the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from
- () thing. He said: "One has to really question whether the direction we've been going is consistent with what the public
- () about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

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() about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

1. answer to question easy an seem may This .
2. why to have on go People opinions kids school different .
3. It association is of from education a professionals global .
4. The workforce the join to ready kids get to was purpose main .
5. school teach The for to citizenship reason was children biggest .
6. right schools thing were Questioned doing whether the today's .
7. what with Consistent wants public the .
8. of school is to ask questions The purpose .
9. technology a to better make place the Use world .
10. and work who Robots richer people rich make .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

What is school for? This may seem an easy question *for / to* answer, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have different *opinion / opinions* on why kids go to school. The *poll / pool* is called the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from a *global / globally* association of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to *name / naming* the biggest purpose of school. Just 45 per cent of people who took *party / part* in the poll said the *mine / main* goal of school was to prepare students to pass *exam / exams*. Around a quarter of people said the main purpose was to get kids *already / ready* to join the workforce. Just over 26 per cent of Americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children about *citizenship / ships*.

Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll *questioner / questioned* whether today's schools were doing the *right / write* thing. He said: "One has to really question *weather / whether* the direction we've *been / being* going is consistent with what the *public / publicly* wants." He quoted from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions of the *universal / universe* and learn to live with those questions." Students had different *ideas / idea* about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be *creative / creation*, to share ideas with others and to use technology to *do / make* the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey, also 15, said school, "is just to make poor kids *onto / into* robots who work and make rich people richer".

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/1609/160903-school.html>

Wh_ t _ s sch_ _ l f_ r? Th_ s m_ y s_ _ m _ n _ _ sy q_ _ st_ _ n
t_ _ nsw_ r, b_ t _ p_ ll t_ k_ n _ n th_ _ S_ sh_ ws p_ _ pl_ _
h_ v_ d_ ff_ r_ nt_ p_ n_ _ ns _ n why k_ ds g_ t_ sch_ _ l. Th_ _
p_ ll _ s c_ ll_ d th_ 'P_ bl_ c's _ tt_ t_ d_ s T_ w_ rd th_ _
P_ bl_ c Sch_ _ ls'. _ t _ s fr_ m _ gl_ b_ l _ ss_ c_ _ t_ _ n _ f
_ d_ c_ t_ _ n pr_ f_ ss_ _ n_ ls c_ ll_ d PDK _ nt_ rn_ t_ _ n_ l.
PDK _ sk_ d _ m_ r_ c_ ns t_ n_ m_ th_ b_ gg_ st p_ rp_ s_ _ f
sch_ _ l. J_ st 45 p_ r_ c_ nt _ f p_ _ pl_ wh_ t_ k_ p_ rt_ n th_ _
p_ ll s_ _ d th_ m_ _ n g_ _ l _ f sch_ _ l w_ s t_ pr_ p_ r_ _
st_ d_ nts t_ p_ ss_ _ x_ ms. _ r_ _ nd _ q_ _ rt_ r _ f p_ _ pl_ _
s_ _ d th_ m_ _ n p_ rp_ s_ w_ s t_ g_ t_ k_ ds r_ _ dy t_ j_ _ n
th_ w_ rk_ f_ rc_ . J_ st _ v_ r 26 p_ r_ c_ nt _ f _ m_ r_ c_ ns
b_ l_ _ v_ d th_ b_ gg_ st r_ _ s_ n f_ r sch_ _ l w_ s t_ t_ _ ch
ch_ ldr_ n _ b_ _ t c_ t_ z_ nsh_ p.

J_ hs_ _ St_ rr, C_ _ _ f PDK, s_ _ d th_ p_ ll q_ _ st_ _ n_ d
wh_ th_ r t_ d_ y's sch_ _ ls w_ r_ d_ ng th_ r_ ght th_ ng.
H_ s_ _ d: " _ n _ h_ s t_ r_ _ lly q_ _ st_ _ n wh_ th_ r th_ _
d_ r_ ct_ _ n w_ 'v_ b_ _ n g_ _ ng _ s c_ ns_ st_ nt w_ th wh_ t
th_ p_ bl_ c w_ nts." H_ q_ _ t_ d fr_ m _ _ th_ r J_ m_ s
B_ ldw_ n, wh_ s_ _ d _ n 1963 th_ t th_ p_ rp_ s_ _ f sch_ _ l
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sch_ _ l, " _ s j_ st t_ m_ k_ p_ _ r k_ ds _ nt_ r_ b_ ts wh_ _
w_ rk _ nd m_ k_ r_ ch p_ _ pl_ r_ ch_ r".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

what is school for this may seem an easy question to answer but a poll taken in the usa shows people have different opinions on why kids go to school the poll is called the 'public's attitudes toward the public schools' it is from a global association of education professionals called pdk international pdk asked americans to name the biggest purpose of school just 45 per cent of people who took part in the poll said the main goal of school was to prepare students to pass exams around a quarter of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready to join the workforce just over 26 per cent of americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children about citizenship

Joshua starr ceo of pdk said the poll questioned whether today's schools were doing the right thing he said "one has to really question whether the direction we've been going is consistent with what the public wants" he quoted from author james baldwin who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions of the universe and learn to live with those questions" students had different ideas about what school was for elena brankov 15 said school was to teach children to be creative to share ideas with others and to use technology to make the world a better place lyndon bailey also 15 said school "is just to make poor kids into robots who work and make rich people richer"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160903-school.html>

What is school for? This may seem an easy question to answer, but a poll taken in the USA shows people have different opinions on why kids go to school. The poll is called the 'Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools'. It is from a global association of education professionals called PDK International. PDK asked Americans to name the biggest purpose of school. Just 45 percent of people who took part in the poll said the main goal of school was to prepare students to pass exams. Around a quarter of people said the main purpose was to get kids ready to join the workforce. Just over 26 percent of Americans believed the biggest reason for school was to teach children about citizenship. Joshua Starr, CEO of PDK, said the poll questioned whether today's schools were doing the right thing. He said: "One has to really question whether the direction we've been going is consistent with what the public wants." He quoted from author James Baldwin, who said in 1963 that the purpose of school is "to ask questions of the universe and learn to live with those questions." Students had different ideas about what school was for. Elena Brankov, 15, said school was to teach children to be creative, to share ideas with others and to use technology to make the world a better place. Lyndon Bailey, also 15, said school, "is just to make poor kids into robots who work and make rich people richer".

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 school. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SCHOOL: Make a poster about what school is for. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. EDUCATION: Write a magazine article about school being the best way to educate children. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 expert on school. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make it better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. easy | a. simple |
| 2. opinions | b. views |
| 3. global | c. worldwide |
| 4. took part | d. participated |
| 5. main | e. most important |
| 6. right | f. proper |
| 7. direction | g. way |
| 8. author | h. writer |
| 9. creative | i. imaginative |
| 10. rich | j. wealthy |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The USA
2. PDK International
3. To get students to pass exams
4. A quarter of the people
5. To teach about citizenship
6. CEO
7. 1963
8. Creative
9. A better place
10. Rich people

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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