

EDUCATION SYSTEMS & LIFELONG LEARNING

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1. Warm-Up: Quick Choices

Work with a partner. Choose **A** or **B** for each pair and explain your choice in 30 seconds.

1. **A:** Practical job training straight after school **OR B:** A three-year university degree
2. **A:** Studying online from home **OR B:** Sitting in a physical classroom
3. **A:** One big final exam at the end of the year **OR B:** Small projects every month
4. **A:** Strict teachers who push you hard **OR B:** Relaxed teachers who let you learn at your own pace
5. **A:** Free university paid for by higher taxes **OR B:** Students paying their own tuition fees

Everyday English: Real English

Use these natural expressions during your discussions today:

- **At the end of the day…** (used to introduce the most important fact)
- It's a waste of time and money. *(completely useless)*
- **To be honest, I struggled with…** (admitting something was difficult)
- It really prepares you for the real world. *(gives practical life/work skills)*
- There's way too much pressure to… *(excessive stress or expectation)*
- **It looks good on paper, but…** (seems impressive in theory, less so in reality)
- **I'm in two minds about…** (undecided between two opinions)

2. Discussion: Inside the System

Work in pairs or small groups. Give examples from your own country or personal experience.

1. Does the school system in your country teach students *how* to think, or just *what* to memorize?
2. Is a university degree still worth the financial cost today, or has it become overpriced?
3. How much academic pressure do teenagers face today compared to their parents' generation?
4. What is the biggest advantage and biggest disadvantage of online learning compared to face-to-face classes?
5. Think about your own education: what was the most useful thing you learned, and what was completely useless?
6. How well do schools and universities actually prepare young people for real workplace stress and teamwork?

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3. Mini-Debate: Agree or Disagree?

Read each statement. Decide if you **Strongly Agree**, **Partly Agree**, or **Disagree**, and convince your partner.

- **Statement 1:** "University should be completely free for everyone, regardless of what they study."
- **Statement 2:** "Online degrees will never be respected as much as traditional campus degrees."
- **Statement 3:** "Schools focus way too much on grades and not enough on mental health."
- **Statement 4:** "Most people forget 80% of what they learn in school within five years of graduating."

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