# School and Learning

*The classroom, school subjects, exams and revision, and the language of teachers and researchers, from A1 to C2.*

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 30

*a pencil case · sit an exam · formative assessment*

## In the classroom *A1–A2*

| | |
|---|---|
| pencil | pen |
| rubber | ruler |
| pencil case | school bag |
| book | exercise book |
| scissors | crayon |
| desk | chair |
| whiteboard | glue stick |

*homework is uncountable: a lot of homework (not homeworks)*

## School subjects *A1–A2*

| | |
|---|---|
| English | maths |
| science | history |
| geography | art |
| music | PE |
| computing | RE |
| French | Spanish |
| drama | DT (technology) |

*no capital letter for subjects, except languages: maths, but French*

## The system and exams *B1–B2*

**Schools:** primary, secondary, sixth form, college · state, independent, boarding school

**Exams:** GCSEs, A levels, Highers (Scotland) · sit, pass, fail, resit · results, grades, marks

**Revision:** revise, cram, past papers, flashcards, test yourself, space it out

**People:** pupil, student, head teacher, teaching assistant, classmate, tutor

**Verbs:** enrol, attend, drop out, play truant · home education, private candidate

**Idioms:** teacher's pet, learn by heart, pass with flying colours, hit the books, brush up on

*She **failed** maths, so she's going to **resit** it. This time she's **revising** with past papers.*

*You pass an exam; you don't approve it*

## The register of education *C1–C2*

**What is taught:** curriculum (curricula), syllabus, scheme of work

**How:** pedagogy, explicit instruction, discovery learning, scaffold, differentiate, spoon-feed

**Assessment:** formative, summative, high-stakes · attainment, progress, the attainment gap

**Memory:** rote learning, retrieval practice, spaced practice, working memory

**Phrases:** an ivory tower, a school of thought, old school, a steep learning curve

*A weekly quiz is **formative**: it shows the teacher where the **attainment gap** lies.*

*Evidence first: learning styles (unlikely), homework (partly true), class size (debated)*

### In the classroom

- *Open your books at page ten.*
- *Put up your hand.*
- *Excuse me, Miss, can I ask a question?*
- *My favourite subject is science.*

### Common mistakes

- ~~make my homework~~ → **do** my homework
- ~~I approved the exam.~~ → I **passed** the exam.
- *revise* (study again) · *check* (revisar)
- ~~Teacher, I've finished!~~ → **Miss** / **Sir**, I've finished!

### Words with a past

- **satchel**: Latin *saccellus*, a little bag
- **homework**: first, any work done at home
- **kindergarten**: Froebel's "children's garden" (1840)
- **semester**: Latin, six months

### My new words

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