

Brainstorming Education Vocabulary

In pairs or small groups, brainstorm at least three things into each of the categories below. You will get one point for each correct word or phrase that isn't in the answer key.

Educational institutions

Qualifications

Punishments

Rooms and buildings

Things connected to money

People

Collocations with “test” and “exam”

Things which are different in British and American English (including because the educational systems are different)

Abbreviations (= short forms) of education vocabulary

Opposites

Words which have similar but different meanings



Answer key

Educational institutions

cram school, primary school, kindergarten/ nursery/ pre-school/ playschool, uni, grad school, (technical/ vocational/ junior/ two year/ 6th form) college

Qualifications

school leaving certificate, BA/ BSc/ bachelor's degree/ first degree/ four year degree/ university degree/ undergraduate degree, junior college degree/ two year degree, master's degree/ master's/ MA/ MSc/ MPhil/ MBA, postgraduate degree, PhD/ doctorate, post-doc,

Punishments

lines, detention, physical punishment/ corporal punishment (e.g. caning), extra homework

Rooms and buildings

cafeteria, lab(oratory), students' union, dorm/ student halls

Things connected to money

grant, scholarship, fees, living expenses

People

pupil, professor, lecturer, lab assistant, student, mature student, postgrad student

Collocations with “test” and “exam”

take, retake, fail/ flunk, pass with flying colours, scrape through, entrance, end of term, final, open book, multiple choice, national, school leaving, essay-based, oral

Different in British/ American English

secondary school/ junior high school, grad school, term/ semester, revise/ review, junior/ second year student, sophomore – third/ final year student, senior, three year degree/ four year degree, fresher/ freshman, Oxbridge/ Ivy league, redbrick universities, the meaning of public school

Abbreviations

BA, BSc, MA, MSc, MBA, PhD, post-doc, SAT, uni, finals, co-ed, PTA, Oxbridge, lab, postgrad, dorm, grad school

Opposites

pass – fail, undergraduate – postgraduate, attend – skip, major – minor, co-ed – single sex, fresher/ first year student/ freshman – final year student/ senior

Words which have similar but different meanings

pupil/ student, quiz/ test/ exam, essay/ dissertation, university/ college, freshman/ new recruit, lecture/ lesson, lecturer/ professor, grant/ scholarship, certificate/ qualification, academic year/ calendar year, hearing test/ listening test, BA/ BSc

What are the differences between the things in the last category above?

What do the abbreviations stand for?