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Finland has world's best education system

29th November, 2012

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

A new report into world education shows Finland has the best system. The global study is called "The Learning Curve" and is from the British magazine "The Economist". It aims to help governments provide a better education to students. The 52-page report looked at the education system in 50 countries. Researchers analysed millions of statistics on exam grades, literacy rates, attendance, and university graduation rates. Asia did well in the report, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore finishing second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia filled the bottom three positions in the top 50.

The Learning Curve reported on five things that education leaders should remember. The first is that spending lots of money on schools and teachers does not always mean students will learn. Second is that "good teachers are essential to high-quality education". The report said teachers should be "treated as the valuable professionals they are, not as technicians in a huge, educational machine". Numbers three and four are that a country's culture must have a strong focus on the importance of education, and parents have a key part to play. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not just the present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles...simply did not exist 20 years ago."

Sources: www.thelearningcurve.pearson.com
www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=421944&c=1

WARM-UPS

1. EDUCATION & SCHOOLS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about education & schools. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

report / world education / learning curve / statistics / literacy rates / attendance / leaders / spending lots of money / good teachers / technicians / the future / job titles

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

3. EDUCATION: How can we make it better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Improvements	What's wrong now?	How to make it / them better?
Classrooms		
Technology		
Subjects		
Teachers		
Exams		
Hours / Days		

4. BETTER: Students A **strongly** believe education will get better in the future; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SUBJECTS: What's the best thing for today's students to study? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- environmentalism
- community relations
- English
- health and sports
- single-family farming
- religious education
- maths
- software programming

6. LEARNING: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'learning'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

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

- a. The article says Finland's kindergarten education is the best worldwide. T / F
- b. A 50-page report looked at the education system of 52 countries. T / F
- c. Researchers looked at attendance figures during their research. T / F
- d. Mexico and Brazil were in the top 50 countries. T / F
- e. The report made five suggestions for decision-makers in education. T / F
- f. The report says spending more money will mean a better education. T / F
- g. The report states parents should keep away from schools and teachers. T / F
- h. It suggests we don't know what kind of jobs there will be in the future. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. report | a. reading/writing |
| 2. system | b. necessary |
| 3. provide | c. method |
| 4. analysed | d. important |
| 5. literacy | e. examined |
| 6. essential | f. study |
| 7. valuable | g. giant |
| 8. huge | h. give |
| 9. key | i. names |
| 10. titles | j. precious |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A new report | a. education to students |
| 2. help governments provide a better | b. machine |
| 3. millions of | c. three positions |
| 4. literacy | d. are essential |
| 5. filled the bottom | e. not just the present |
| 6. good teachers | f. rates |
| 7. valuable | g. exist 20 years ago |
| 8. a huge, educational | h. into world education |
| 9. educate for the future, | i. statistics |
| 10. job titles simply did not | j. professionals |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A new report (1) _____ world education shows Finland has the best system. The global study is called "The Learning Curve" and is from the British (2) _____ "The Economist". It (3) _____ to help governments (4) _____ a better education to students. The 52-page report looked at the education system in 50 countries. Researchers analysed millions of (5) _____ on exam grades, literacy rates, attendance, and university (6) _____ rates. Asia did well in the report, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore (7) _____ second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia filled the (8) _____ three positions in the top 50.

finishing
provide
magazine
bottom
into
statistics
aims
graduation

The Learning Curve reported on five things that education leaders should (9) _____. The first is that spending lots of money on schools and teachers does not always (10) _____ students will learn. Second is that "good teachers are essential to high-(11) _____ education". The report said teachers should be "treated as the valuable professionals they are, not as technicians in a (12) _____, educational machine". Numbers three and four are that a country's culture must have a strong (13) _____ on the importance of education, and parents have a (14) _____ part to play. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not (15) _____ the present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles...simply did not (16) _____ 20 years ago."

focus
exist
mean
huge
remember
just
quality
key

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

- 1) A new report ...
 - a. on to world education
 - b. in to world education
 - c. into world education
 - d. onto worldly education
- 2) It aims to help governments _____ to students.
 - a. provided a better education
 - b. provides a much better education
 - c. providing a better educational
 - d. provide a better education
- 3) The _____-page report looked at the education system in _____ countries.
 - a. 55 / 15
 - b. 52 / 50
 - c. 52 / 15
 - d. 15 / 52
- 4) statistics on _____ and university graduation rates.
 - a. exam rates, literacy grades, attendance,
 - b. exam grades, literacy, attendance rates,
 - c. exam grades, literacy rates, attendance,
 - d. exam grades, attendance, literacy rates,
- 5) Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia _____ positions
 - a. three bottom the filling
 - b. filled the bottom three
 - c. bottomed the filling three
 - d. filling the three bottom
- 6) The Learning Curve reported on five things that education leaders _____ remember.
 - a. should
 - b. could
 - c. would
 - d. shooed
- 7) spending _____ schools and teachers does not always mean students will learn.
 - a. pots of money on
 - b. loads of money on
 - c. lots of money on
 - d. lots of money in
- 8) good teachers _____ high-quality education
 - a. are is end shall to
 - b. are essentially two
 - c. are essential two
 - d. are essential to
- 9) a country's culture must have a _____ of education
 - a. strong focus on the importance
 - b. strong foe cousin the importance
 - c. stronger focusing on importance
 - d. strong focus on the important
- 10) Many of today's job titles..._____ 20 years ago.
 - a. simple Lee did not exist
 - b. simply did not exist
 - c. did simply not exist
 - d. simply didn't exit

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

(1) _____ world education shows Finland has the best system. The global study is called "The Learning Curve" and is from the British magazine "The Economist". (2) _____ governments provide a better education to students. The 52-page report looked at the education system in 50 countries. Researchers (3) _____ statistics on exam grades, (4) _____, and university graduation rates. Asia (5) _____ report, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore finishing second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia (6) _____ positions in the top 50.

The Learning Curve reported on five things that education leaders should remember. (7) _____ spending lots of money on schools and teachers does not always mean students will learn. Second is that "good teachers (8) _____ high-quality education". The report said teachers should (9) _____ valuable professionals they are, not as technicians in a huge, educational machine". Numbers three and four are that a country's culture must have (10) _____ the importance of education, and parents have (11) _____. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not just the present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles...(12) _____ 20 years ago."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

1. What was the new report into?

2. What is the name of the report?

3. What two rates did the researchers look at?

4. In which position did South Korea finish on the list?

5. What was Mexico's position on the list?

6. How many things did the report want education leaders to remember?

7. What are good teachers essential to?

8. How should teachers not be treated as?

9. What must a country's culture have a strong focus on?

10. What did the report say about many job titles today?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

1. What is the report called?
 - a) The Learning Nerve
 - b) The Learning Curve
 - c) The Yearning Swerve
 - d) The Learner Cave
2. Who made the report?
 - a) The United Nations
 - b) Finland's government
 - c) A Facebook group of students around the globe
 - d) A magazine from the U.K.
3. Which of these did researchers look at?
 - a) The quality of pencil sharpeners
 - b) Classroom technology
 - c) Attendance
 - d) School meals
4. Which continent did well in the report?
 - a) Asia
 - b) South America
 - c) Antarctica
 - d) Africa
5. Where did Brazil finish on the list?
 - a) Three times
 - b) In the bottom three
 - c) Third
 - d) Third from bottom
6. How many recommendations did the report make to education leaders?
 - a) Five
 - b) Four
 - c) Three
 - d) Two
7. What does not always mean students will learn?
 - a) Going to school six times a week
 - b) Using more technology in the classroom
 - c) Spending a lot of money
 - d) Doing extra homework
8. How does the report say teachers should be treated?
 - a) As valuable professionals
 - b) As educational machines
 - c) As technicians
 - d) As parents
9. What role do parents have to play?
 - a) A safe one
 - b) A chain one
 - c) A lock one
 - d) A key one
10. What does the report say did not exist two decades ago?
 - a) Education for the future
 - b) Simple education
 - c) Many of today's job titles
 - d) "The Learning Curve" report

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

Role A – Student

You are unhappy with your education. Tell the others three reasons why. You want to learn things important for the future. You want more technology. Your teachers are great and you learn a lot from them. You are fed up with the bad students in your class who make a lot of noise.

Role B – Teacher

You are unhappy with your job. Tell the others three reasons why. Your salary is very low compared with doctors, lawyers, etc. Your school has no technology – this is very important in today's education. You think parents should keep noisy students at home and let other students learn.

Role C – Education leader

You know what's best for schools, teachers and students - Tell the others three reasons why. Schools were better 50 years ago. Students do not learn with technology – they just check their Facebook. Good teachers keep students quiet. Bad teachers don't. Teachers are very well paid.

Role D – Parent

You are worried about your child's education. The school has not changed its teaching style for 50 years. Your children need to learn with technology - Tell the others three reasons why. Your son is very noisy in class – it is the teacher's job to teach him to behave. Education needs better leaders.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

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

exam	grade
-------------	--------------

- 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">• global• aims• millions• 50• finishing• bottom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• quality• machine• strong• key• 20
--	---

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

Write five GOOD questions about education & schools 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.

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'education'?
- c) Why do you think Finland's education system is so good?
- d) What do you think of the education system in your country?
- e) What were (are) you happy and unhappy with about your education?
- f) How can schools provide a better education to students?
- g) How were (are) your exam grades and attendance?
- h) How different do you think education is in Finland from Asian countries?
- i) Are you proud of your school? Why?
- j) How important is education?

Finland has world's best education system – 29th November, 2012
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EDUCATION & SCHOOLS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Do you think spending lots of money on teachers and schools means the education is better?
- c) What were (are) you happy and unhappy with about your education?
- d) What do you think of your teachers?
- e) What three things can teachers do better?
- f) Should teachers get paid the same as lawyers, doctors and bankers?
- g) What is easy and difficult about a teacher's job?
- h) How important is using technology in lessons?
- i) What does "educate for the future, not just the present" mean?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the author of the report?

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. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

A new report (1) _____ world education shows Finland has the best system. The global study is called "The Learning Curve" and is from the British magazine "The Economist". It (2) _____ to help governments provide a better education to students. The 52-page report looked at the education system in 50 countries. Researchers analysed millions of (3) _____ on exam grades, (4) _____ rates, attendance, and university graduation rates. Asia did well in the report, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore (5) _____ second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia (6) _____ the bottom three positions in the top 50.

The Learning Curve reported (7) _____ five things that education leaders should remember. The first is that spending lots of money on schools and teachers does not always (8) _____ students will learn. Second is that "good teachers are (9) _____ to high-quality education". The report said teachers should be "treated as the valuable professionals they are, not as technicians in a (10) _____, educational machine". Numbers three and four are that a country's culture must have a strong focus (11) _____ the importance of education, and parents have a key part to play. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not just the present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles...simply did not (12) _____ 20 years ago."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) into | (b) in to | (c) onto | (d) on to |
| 2. | (a) arrows | (b) sights | (c) aims | (d) bulls eyes |
| 3. | (a) statistic | (b) statistically | (c) statistics | (d) statisticians |
| 4. | (a) literal | (b) literate | (c) litter | (d) literacy |
| 5. | (a) finishing | (b) finished | (c) finishes | (d) finish |
| 6. | (a) put | (b) filled | (c) stocked | (d) blocked |
| 7. | (a) in | (b) to | (c) at | (d) on |
| 8. | (a) average | (b) mean | (c) nasty | (d) matter |
| 9. | (a) potential | (b) initial | (c) essential | (d) partial |
| 10. | (a) hugging | (b) huge | (c) hugs | (d) hugged |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) of | (c) at | (d) on |
| 12. | (a) exit | (b) exist | (c) there | (d) be |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

Paragraph 1

1. The global study is called "The Learning veruC"
2. rpeiodv a better education to students
3. Researchers analysed millions of tissittca
4. ltryieca rates
5. teatnncaed, and university graduation rates
6. filled the bottom three pooisntis

Paragraph 2

7. education leaders should mmbeeerr
8. good teachers are stlnaseie to high-quality education
9. treated as the abvlluae professionals
10. a strong focus on the cmroitnape of education
11. Finally, countries need to educate for the utuerf
12. simply did not xseit 20 years ago

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Japan and Singapore finishing second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came
- () 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia filled the bottom three positions in the top 50.
- () education to students. The 52-page report looked at the education system in 50
- () professionals they are, not as technicians in a huge, educational machine". Numbers three and four are that a country's
- (**1**) A new report into world education shows Finland has the best system. The global study is called "The Learning
- () The Learning Curve reported on five things that education leaders should remember. The first is that spending
- () culture must have a strong focus on the importance of education, and parents have a key
- () essential to high-quality education". The report said teachers should be "treated as the valuable
- () countries. Researchers analysed millions of statistics on exam grades, literacy rates, attendance,
- () lots of money on schools and teachers does not always mean students will learn. Second is that "good teachers are
- () Curve" and is from the British magazine "The Economist". It aims to help governments provide a better
- () present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles...simply did not exist 20 years ago."
- () part to play. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not just the
- () and university graduation rates. Asia did well in the report, with South Korea, Hong Kong,

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

1. ". study " Curve global called Learning The is The

2. to provide education aims governments better It help a.

3. education system The 52 - page report looked at the.

4. Researchers on analysed exam millions grades of statistics.

5. 17th The in United the States study came.

6. leaders education that things Five remember should.

7. are high . education teachers to quality Good essential -

8. strong of focus education on the A importance.

9. future just the not present for , the Educate.

10. 20 simply exist ago titles not years Job did.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

A new report *into / onto* world education shows Finland has the best system. The global *studies / study* is called "The Learning Curve" and is from the British magazine "The Economist". It *aims / aiming* to help governments provide *a / the* better education to students. The 52-page report *looked / watched* at the education system in 50 countries. Researchers analysed millions of *statisticians / statistics* on exam grades, *literacy / litter* rates, attendance, and university *graduated / graduation* rates. Asia did well in the report, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore *finished / finishing* second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia *filled / full* the bottom three positions in the top 50.

The Learning Curve reported *in / on* five things that education leaders should remember. The first is that *spend / spending* lots of money on schools and teachers does not always *matter / mean* students will learn. Second is that "good teachers are essential *of / to* high-quality education". The report said teachers should be "treated as the *value / valuable* professionals they are, not as *technicians / technical* in a *huge / hugging*, educational machine". Numbers three and four are that a country's culture must have a strong focus *in / on* the importance of education, and parents have a *lock / key* part to play. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not just the present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles...*simply / simple* did not exist 20 years ago."

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/1211/121129-education.html>

_ n _ w _ r _ p _ r _ t _ n _ t _ w _ r _ l _ d _ d _ c _ t _ n _ s _ h _ w _ s _ F _ i _ n _ l _ a _ n _ d _ h _ a _ s _ t _ h _ e _ b _ e _ s _ t _ s _ y _ s _ t _ e _ m . _ T _ h _ e _ g _ l _ o _ b _ a _ l _ s _ t _ u _ d _ y _ s _ c _ a _ l _ l _ e _ d _ " _ T _ h _ e _ L _ e _ a _ r _ n _ i _ n _ g _ C _ u _ r _ v _ e _ " _ a _ n _ d _ a _ s _ s _ e _ r _ v _ e _ d _ t _ h _ e _ B _ r _ i _ t _ i _ s _ h _ e _ m _ a _ g _ z _ i _ n _ e _ " _ T _ h _ e _ C _ o _ n _ s _ e _ n _ s _ i _ t _ i _ v _ e _ " . _ I _ t _ a _ l _ s _ o _ a _ i _ d _ s _ t _ h _ e _ h _ e _ l _ p _ g _ o _ v _ e _ r _ n _ m _ e _ n _ t _ s _ p _ r _ o _ v _ i _ d _ e _ t _ h _ e _ b _ e _ t _ t _ e _ r _ d _ e _ c _ i _ d _ e _ n _ t _ s _ t _ u _ d _ e _ n _ t _ s . _ T _ h _ e _ 5 2 - p _ a _ g _ e _ r _ e _ p _ o _ r _ t _ l _ i _ k _ e _ d _ t _ h _ a _ t _ t _ h _ e _ d _ e _ c _ i _ d _ e _ n _ s _ s _ y _ s _ t _ e _ m _ i _ n _ 5 0 _ c _ o _ u _ n _ t _ r _ i _ e _ s . _ R _ e _ s _ e _ a _ r _ c _ h _ e _ r _ s _ a _ n _ a _ l _ y _ s _ e _ d _ t _ h _ e _ m _ a _ t _ t _ e _ r _ s _ a _ n _ d _ t _ h _ e _ s _ t _ u _ d _ e _ n _ t _ s _ c _ o _ n _ t _ e _ n _ t _ s _ i _ n _ t _ h _ e _ i _ r _ e _ x _ a _ m _ p _ l _ e _ s , _ l _ e _ t _ t _ e _ r _ c _ y _ r _ e _ s , _ t _ e _ a _ c _ h _ i _ n _ g _ , _ a _ n _ d _ t _ h _ e _ n _ e _ w _ s _ t _ y _ p _ e _ r _ i _ o _ d _ e _ n _ t _ s . _ S _ e _ e _ d _ o _ w _ n _ t _ h _ e _ r _ e _ p _ o _ r _ t , _ w _ i _ t _ h _ S _ o _ u _ t _ h _ K _ o _ r _ e _ a , _ H _ o _ n _ g _ K _ i _ n _ g , _ J _ a _ p _ a _ n _ a _ n _ d _ S _ i _ n _ g _ a _ p _ o _ r _ e _ f _ e _ n _ s _ h _ i _ n _ g _ s _ e _ c _ o _ n _ d , _ t _ h _ i _ r _ d , _ f _ o _ u _ r _ t _ h _ a _ n _ d _ f _ i _ f _ t _ h . _ T _ h _ e _ n _ e _ w _ S _ t _ u _ d _ e _ n _ t _ s _ c _ o _ m _ p _ a _ r _ e _ 1 7 _ t _ h _ a _ n _ t _ h _ e _ s _ t _ u _ d _ y , _ w _ h _ i _ l _ e _ M _ e _ x _ i _ c _ o , _ B _ r _ a _ z _ i _ l _ a _ n _ d _ a _n _ d _ n _ e _ e _ s _ a _l _ l _ e _ d _ t _ h _ e _ b _ e _ t _ t _ e _ m _ t _ h _ r _ o _ u _ p _ s _ t _ e _ n _ s _ i _ n _ t _ h _ e _ t _ o _ p _ 5 0 .

T _ h _ e _ L _ e _ a _ r _ n _ i _ n _ g _ C _ u _ r _ v _ e _ r _ e _ p _ o _ r _ t _ e _ d _ o _ n _ f _ o _ u _ r _ t _ h _ i _ n _ g _ s _ t _ h _ a _ t _ t _ h _ e _ d _ e _ c _ i _ d _ e _ n _ t _ s _ l _ e _ a _ d _ e _ r _ s _ s _ h _ o _ u _ l _ d _ r _ e _ m _ e _ m _ b _ e _ r . _ T _ h _ e _ f _ i _ r _ s _ t _ a _s _ t _ h _ a _t _ s _p _e _n _d _i _n _g _ l _e _t _s _f _o _m _n _o _y _i _n _s _c _h _o _o _l _s _a _n _d _t _e _a _c _h _e _r _s _d _o _n _t _l _o _o _k _a _t _m _a _n _s _t _u _d _e _n _t _s _w _i _l _l _l _e _a _r _n . _S _e _c _o _n _d _a _s _t _h _a _t _" _g _o _o _d _t _e _a _c _h _e _r _s _a _r _e _e _s _s _e _n _t _l _e _t _t _h _e _h _i _g _h _-q _u _a _l _i _t _y _d _e _c _i _d _e _n _t _" . _T _h _e _r _e _p _o _r _t _s _a _d _t _h _e _a _c _h _e _r _s _s _h _o _u _l _d _b _e _" _t _r _a _i _n _e _d _a _s _t _h _e _v _e _l _o _o _b _l _e _p _r _o _f _e _s _s _i _o _n _l _s _t _h _e _y _a _r _e _ , _n _o _t _a _s _t _e _c _h _n _c _o _u _n _t _a _n _d _t _h _e _g _o _o _d _e _c _i _d _e _n _t _l _e _m _c _h _e _n _" . _N _u _m _b _e _r _s _t _h _r _o _u _a _n _d _f _o _u _r _t _h _a _t _t _h _e _c _o _u _n _t _r _y 's _c _u _l _t _u _r _e _m _a _s _t _h _e _v _e _r _s _t _r _o _n _g _f _o _c _u _s _i _n _t _h _e _i _m _p _o _r _t _a _n _c _e _f _o _r _t _h _e _d _e _c _i _d _e _n _t , _a _n _d _p _a _r _e _n _t _s _h _e _v _e _r _k _e _y _p _a _r _t _t _o _p _l _a _y . _F _i _n _a _l _l _y , _c _o _u _n _t _r _i _e _s _n _e _e _d _t _h _a _t _" _d _e _c _i _d _e _f _o _r _t _h _e _f _u _t _u _r _e _ , _n _o _t _j _u _s _t _t _h _e _p _r _e _s _e _n _t . " _T _h _e _r _e _p _o _r _t _s _a _d : _" _M _a _n _y _o _f _t _o _d _a _y 's _j _o _b _t _i _l _e _s _s _i _m _p _l _y _d _o _n _t _e _x _i _s _t _2 0 _y _e _a _r _s _a _g _o . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

a new report into world education shows finland has the best system the global study is called "the learning curve" and is from the british magazine "the economist" it aims to help governments provide a better education to students the 52-page report looked at the education system in 50 countries researchers analysed millions of statistics on exam grades literacy rates attendance and university graduation rates asia did well in the report with south korea hong kong japan and singapore finishing second third fourth and fifth the united states came 17th in the study while mexico brazil and indonesia filled the bottom three positions in the top 50

the learning curve reported on five things that education leaders should remember the first is that spending lots of money on schools and teachers does not always mean students will learn second is that "good teachers are essential to high-quality education" the report said teachers should be "treated as the valuable professionals they are not as technicians in a huge educational machine" numbers three and four are that a country's culture must have a strong focus on the importance of education and parents have a key part to play finally countries need to "educate for the future not just the present" the report said "many of today's job titles...simply did not exist 20 years ago"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121129-education.html>

A new report into world education shows Finland has the best system. The global study is called "The Learning Curve" and is from the British magazine "The Economist". It aims to help governments provide a better education to students. The 52-page report looked at the education system in 50 countries. Researchers analysed millions of statistics on exam grades, literacy rates, attendance, and university graduation rates. Asia did well in the report, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore finishing second, third, fourth and fifth. The United States came 17th in the study, while Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia filled the bottom three positions in the top 50. The Learning Curve reported on five things that education leaders should remember. The first is that spending lots of money on schools and teachers does not always mean students will learn. Second is that "good teachers are essential to high-quality education". The report said teachers should be "treated as the valuable professionals they are, not as technicians in a huge, educational machine". Number three and four are that a country's culture must have a strong focus on the importance of education, and parents have a key part to play. Finally, countries need to "educate for the future, not just the present." The report said: "Many of today's job titles... simply did not exist 20 years ago."

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 the education system in your country. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. EDUCATION & SCHOOLS: Make a poster about education & schools around the world. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MY EDUCATION: Write a magazine article about your education – the good things about it and the bad things. Include imaginary interviews with old teachers.

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 education expert. Ask him/her three questions about education & schools. Give him/her three of your opinions on education in the future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. report | a. study |
| 2. system | b. method |
| 3. provide | c. give |
| 4. analysed | d. examined |
| 5. literacy | e. reading/writing |
| 6. essential | f. necessary |
| 7. valuable | g. precious |
| 8. huge | h. giant |
| 9. key | i. important |
| 10. titles | j. names |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. World education.
2. The Learning Curve
3. Literacy rates and university graduation rates
4. Second
5. It was in the bottom three
6. Five
7. High-quality education
8. As technicians
9. The importance of education
10. They did not exist 20 years ago

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 ;-)