

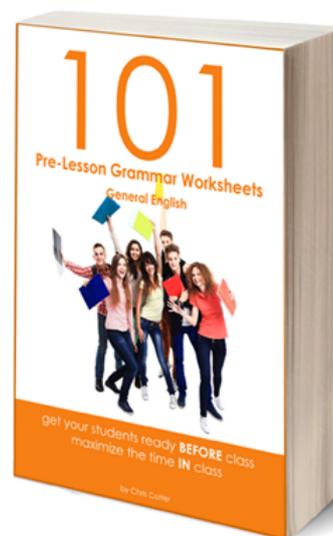
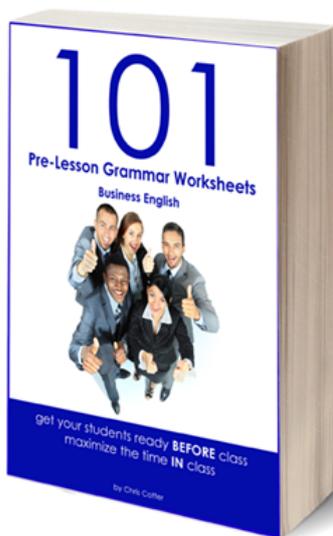
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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Home Schoolers on the Rise

Increasing numbers of families are opting for the ultimate in private school. They are hiring teachers to educate their children at home. Unlike the more familiar home schoolers of recent years, these families aren't interested in getting more religion, nor do they have a problem with ordinary education. Simply, public schools don't fit their lifestyles.

Take Lisa Mazzone, whose family splits its time between California and Florida. Lisa may have her algebra or history homework delivered poolside or on her condo's rooftop. Lisa's mother says, "For someone who travels a lot or has a parent who travels and wants to keep the family together, it's an excellent choice." The Mazzonis own a speedboat company, requiring frequent travel.

The price tag for private teachers generally runs from \$70 to \$110 an hour. Furthermore, the cost can easily equal or surpass tuition at the upper echelon of private schools, where \$30,000 isn't unheard of. Advocates see in-home teaching as a chance to offer unequalled levels of academic attention and flexibility in scheduling.

There is also a sense of family cohesion and autonomy over what the children learn.

The downside, however, may be that social goals are hindered. The children have fewer opportunities to interact with their peers, and so important social skills may be underdeveloped. Group lessons, such as ballet or sculpture, help to replicate some social interaction.

Companies that supply teachers and curricula are abundant, making it easier for families to step away from traditional schooling. Tiffany Wheeler, another home schooler, sums it up best. "It's fun," she says, barefoot and looking relaxed at her bedroom desk.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the Article (for students)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

Home Schoolers on the Rise

Increasing numbers of families are opting for the ultimate in private school. They are hiring teachers to educate their children at home. Unlike the more familiar home schoolers of recent years, a) _____
_____. Simply, public schools don't fit their lifestyles.

Take Lisa Mazzoni, b) _____. Lisa may have her algebra or history homework delivered poolside or on her condo's rooftop. Lisa's mother says, "For someone who travels a lot or has a parent who travels and wants to keep the family together, it's an excellent choice." The Mazzonis own a speedboat company, requiring frequent travel.

The price tag for private teachers generally runs from \$70 to \$110 an hour. Furthermore, the cost can easily equal or surpass tuition at the upper echelon of private schools, where \$30,000 isn't unheard of. Advocates see in-home teaching as a chance to offer unequalled levels of academic attention and flexibility in scheduling. There is also c) _____.

The downside, however, may be that social goals are hindered. The children have fewer opportunities to interact with their peers, and so important social skills may be underdeveloped. Group lessons, d) _____.

Companies that supply teachers and curricula are abundant, making it easier for families to step away from traditional schooling. Tiffany Wheeler, e) _____.
"It's fun," she says, barefoot and looking relaxed at her bedroom desk.

Notes:

STEP ONE

Title: Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Home Schoolers on the Rise."

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	In the past, home schooling was often due to religious reasons.	T/F
b.	The price tag of home schooling can be greater than the top private schools.	T/F
c.	Opponents say that home schooling offers unequalled levels of academic attention.	T/F
d.	There are no downsides to home schooling.	T/F
e.	Social interaction among peers can be duplicated outside the school environment.	T/F

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

STEP FOUR

Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	opting	c.	surpass	e.	advocates	g.	hindered	i.	replicate
b.	splits	d.	echelon	f.	cohesion	h.	interact	j.	abundant

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What are some reasons that you would want to home school your child?
c.	What are some reasons that you wouldn't want to home school your child?
d.	Do you think home schooling with a private teacher is the wave of the future? Why/not?