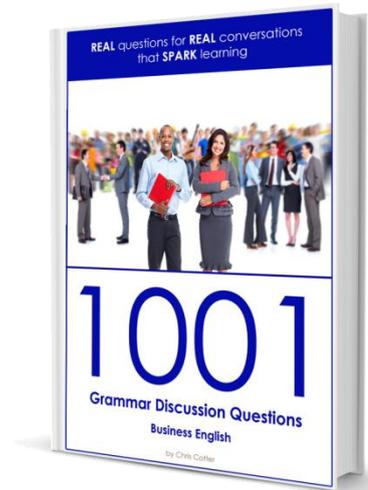
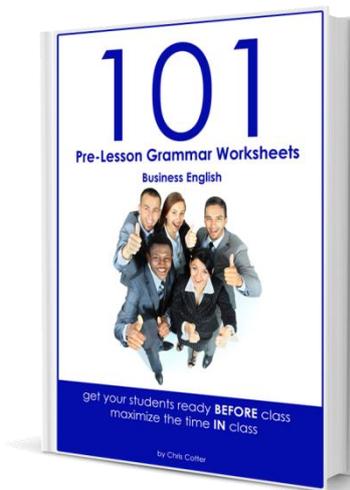
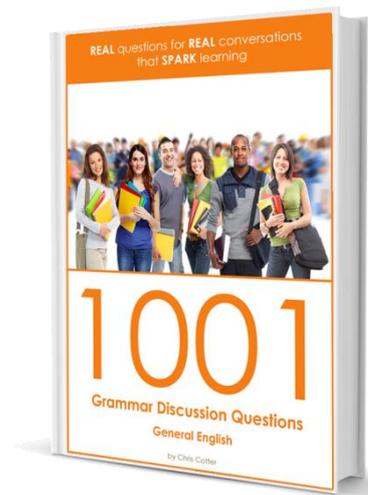
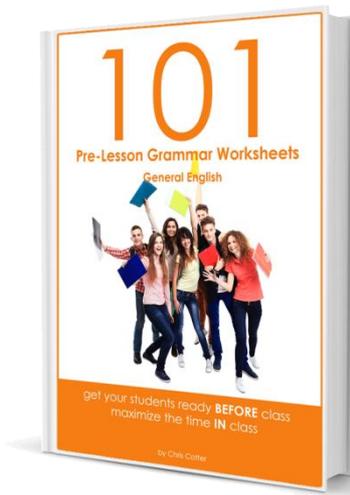
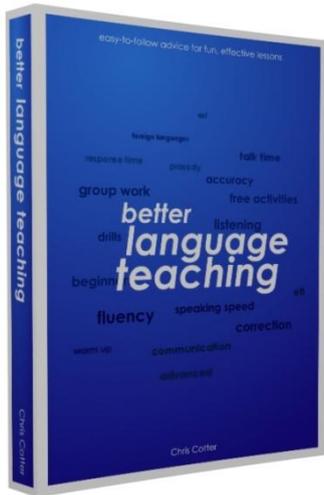


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

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 Mazzoni, 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 may be vocabulary unfamiliar to the students.

the Article (for students)

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Notes:

STEP ONE

Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "home schooling" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

STEP TWO

Discuss: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

a.	Home schooling is for the elite and powerful. It's an unfair system!
b.	Grades are the most important part of school.
c.	Children must learn social customs, and so should go to school.
d.	Learning from home with a tutor or via the Internet is the wave of the future.
e.	All children should be required to attend public school to receive the same education.

STEP THREE

The Article: Read the article, and work with a partner to understand it. Lastly, summarize in your own words.

STEP FOUR

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

a.	What are some reasons that you would want to home school your child?
b.	What are some reasons that you wouldn't want to home school your child?
c.	Do you think home schooling with a private teacher is the wave of the future? Why/not?
d.	Do you think home schooling via the Internet is the wave of the future? Why/not?
e.	What is the single greatest advantage of home schooling? of public schooling? of private schooling?
f.	What would you say if your son or daughter wanted to quit school and study at home?

STEP FIVE

Role-play: Assume the roles to discuss the following topics. Would you choose home or public schools?

Talk About:	Home or Public school?
Grades After school activities and social events Friends and peers	
Child: You hate school. You want to study at home instead because you can learn more about the subjects you like. Of course you will also be able to learn more about other subjects!	
Parent: You've recently read about home schooling. Although it sounds like a good idea academically, you are worried that those children don't have enough chances to meet and talk with their friends. In the future, those children won't understand how to live and work in society.	