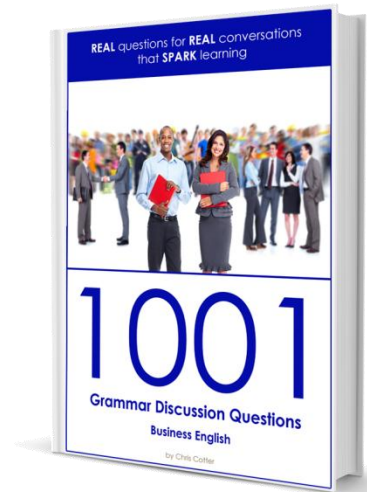
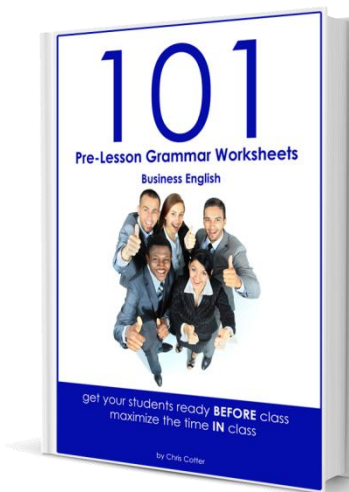
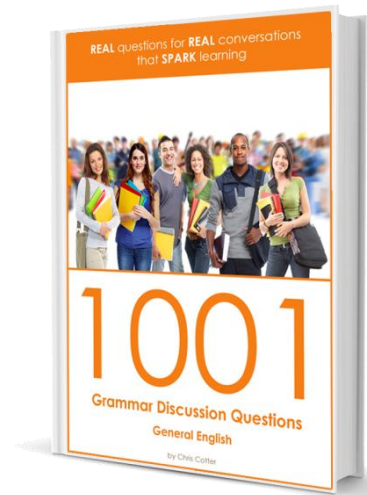
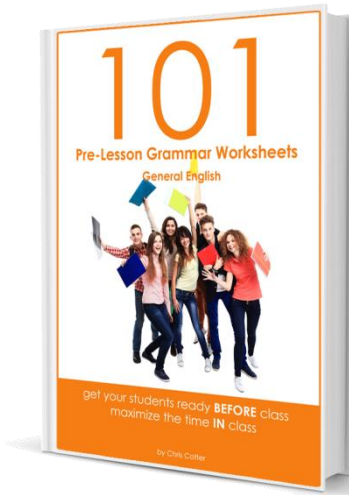
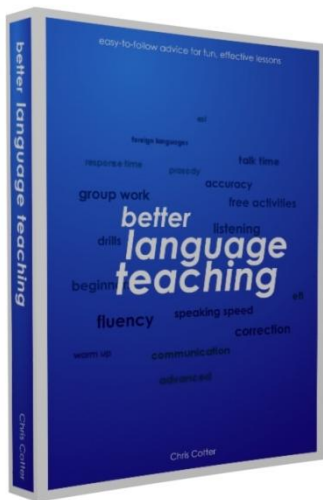


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Education Woes

More than 10% of high schools in the US are "dropout factories." This insulting nickname applies to schools where less than 60% of students graduate.

Most of these schools are in large urban centers which also have a lot of poverty. The neighborhoods may have high rates of crime, drugs, and violence. However, some dropout factories are also located in areas with numerous blue-collar jobs. These neighborhoods and towns often haven't traditionally emphasized the importance of high school graduation.

Many of the students at these dropout factories enter with poor reading, writing, and math skills. For example, some kids may enter ninth grade with a fifth grade reading ability. Because of these difficulties, so many of these children don't have opportunities as adults.

Japan faces a different problem. Private high schools are available to many kids who don't have academic or social skills for traditional schools. These private high schools are expensive, but very easy to enter. Students can fail tests, skip homework, text friends, and even sleep in class, yet they will still graduate. These schools have been called "degree mills."

Additional education woes come out of England. Although the government has supported a massive program to raise reading rates, there hasn't been much change. The reading rates are the same as the rates in the 1950s.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1: Define: What does "woe" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2: Speculate: Brainstorm with a partner words and ideas for "dropout factory" for two minutes. Next, talk about the words and ideas for five minutes.

3: Speculate: Brainstorm with a partner words and ideas for "degree mill" for two minutes. Next, talk about the words and ideas for five minutes.

4: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- | | |
|----|---|
| a. | School is important for success in life. |
| b. | I love(d) school! |
| c. | Not everyone is suited for high school, so it's okay to dropout. |
| d. | Not everyone is suited for elementary school, so it's okay to dropout. |
| e. | We learn a lot of useless subjects at school, which will have no use later in life. |

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	insulting	u.	many
b.	numerous	v.	huge
c.	emphasize	w.	skill
d.	ability	x.	hurtful
e.	woe	y.	focus attention on
f.	massive	z.	pain or trouble

2: Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	numerous	massive	ability
	emphasize	woes	insulting
a.	This () nickname applies to schools.		
b.	Dropout factories are located in areas with () blue-collar jobs.		
c.	These neighborhoods haven't () high school graduation.		
d.	Some kids may enter ninth grade with a fifth grade reading ().		
e.	Additional education () come out of England.		
f.	The government has supported a () program.		

3: Define: Look in your dictionary for each word. Write the definition, correctly pronounce the word, and give an example sentence to the class.

a.	insulting:
b.	numerous:
c.	emphasize:
d.	ability:
e.	woe:
f.	massive:

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to direct students before the article is read, or to check understanding after the article is read.

1: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer a partner the questions. He shouldn't look at the article when he answers.

2: True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) if the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	More than 10% of American high schools are "dropout factories."	T/F
b.	Most dropout factories are in large cities and poor areas.	T/F
c.	According to the article, Japan has a similar problem as the US.	T/F
d.	All Japanese students chat with friends, send emails, and sleep in class.	T/F
e.	Reading has improved in England.	T/F

3: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What does "dropout factory" mean?
b.	Where are most of the dropout factories?
c.	According to the article, why do so many of the students fail to graduate?
d.	What's the problem Japan faces?
e.	According to the article, what did England try to do recently?

4: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence.

a.	Most of these schools are in large urban centers which...
b.	These neighborhoods and towns often haven't traditionally...
c.	Because of these difficulties, so many of these children don't...
d.	Private high schools are available to many kids who don't have academic...

post-COMPREHENSION

Select one or more activity to discuss the contents of the article.

1: Vocabulary: Circle any other unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand these words. Write an example sentence for each one.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to talk about in pairs/groups or as a class. Answer the questions.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers and ask more questions with your partner.

a.	Did you like this article? Why/not?
b.	What is/was your high school like? Please explain.
c.	How important is education for success? Why do you think so?
d.	What can be done to improve education and graduation rates?
e.	Are there similar problems in your country? Are there different problems?
f.	Will children receive a better or worse education in the future? Why?

5: Discuss: What can be done to improve education? Discuss the following points with a partner, and decide if it will help, harm, or have no effect on high school students.

more nationalized tests:
teaching only useful subjects:
allow high school students to take only classes in which they have an interest:
teachers salaries depend on the grades of their students:
???:

6: Google Search: Type "dropout factory" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

Education Woes

More than 10% of high schools in the US are "dropout factories." This insulting nickname applies to schools where less than 60% of students graduate.

Most of these schools are in large urban centers which also have a lot of poverty. The neighborhoods may have high rates of crime, drugs, and violence. However, some dropout factories are also located in areas with numerous blue-collar jobs. These neighborhoods and towns often haven't traditionally emphasized the importance of high school graduation.

Many of the students at these dropout factories enter with poor reading, writing, and math skills. For example, some kids may enter ninth grade with a fifth grade reading ability. Because of these difficulties, so many of these children don't have opportunities as adults.

Japan faces a different problem. Private high schools are available to many kids who don't have academic or social skills for traditional schools. These private high schools are expensive, but very easy to enter. Students can fail tests, skip homework, text friends, and even sleep in class, yet they will still graduate. These schools have been called "degree mills."

Additional education woes come out of England. Although the government has supported a massive program to raise reading rates, there hasn't been much change. The reading rates are the same as the rates in the 1950s.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

emphasized	academic	ability	neighborhoods	numerous
massive	insulting	opportunities	woes	graduate

Education Woes

More than 10% of high schools in the US are "dropout factories." This

(a. _____) nickname applies to schools where less than 60% of students graduate.

Most of these schools are in large urban centers which also have a lot of poverty. The

(b. _____) may have high rates of crime, drugs, and violence. However, some dropout factories are also located in areas with (c. _____) blue-collar jobs. These neighborhoods and towns often haven't traditionally (d. _____) the importance of high school graduation.

Many of the students at these dropout factories enter with poor reading, writing, and math skills. For example, some kids may enter ninth grade with a fifth grade reading (e. _____). Because of these difficulties, so many of these children don't have (f. _____) as adults.

Japan faces a different problem. Private high schools are available to many kids who don't have (g. _____) or social skills for traditional schools. These private high schools are expensive, but very easy to enter. Students can fail tests, skip homework, text friends, and even sleep in class, yet they will still

(h. _____). These schools have been called "degree mills."

Additional education (i. _____) come out of England. Although the government has supported a (j. _____) program to raise reading rates, there hasn't been much change. The reading rates are the same as the rates in the 1950s.

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

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

Education Woes

More than 10% of high schools in the US are "dropout factories." a) _____
_____.

Most of these schools are in large urban centers which also have a lot of poverty. The neighborhoods may have high rates of crime, drugs, and violence. However, some dropout factories are also located in areas with numerous blue-collar jobs. These neighborhoods and towns often haven't traditionally emphasized the importance of high school graduation.

b) _____. For example, some kids may enter ninth grade with a fifth grade reading ability. Because of these difficulties, so many of these children don't have opportunities as adults.

Japan faces a different problem. Private high schools are available to many kids who don't have academic or social skills for traditional schools. These private high schools are expensive, but very easy to enter. Students can fail tests, skip homework, text friends, and even sleep in class, yet they will still graduate. These schools have been called "degree mills."

Additional education woes come out of England. c) _____
_____, there hasn't been much change. The reading rates are the same as the rates in the 1950s.

Sentence #1:

Sentence #2:

Sentence #3:

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1: Vocabulary Match:

a.	x
b.	u
c.	y
d.	w
e.	z
f.	v

2: Fill in the Blanks:

a.	insulting
b.	numerous
c.	emphasized
d.	ability
e.	woes
f.	massive

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	T
b.	T
c.	F
d.	F
e.	F

2. Fragments:

a.	also have a lot of poverty.
b.	emphasized the importance of high school graduation.
c.	have opportunities as adults.
d.	or social skills for traditional schools.

Student Handout

1: Fill in the Blanks:

a.	insulting	f.	opportunities
b.	neighborhoods	g.	academic
c.	numerous	h.	graduate
d.	emphasized	i.	woes
e.	ability	j.	massive

2: Extended Listening:

a.	This insulting nickname applies to schools where less than 60% of students graduate
b.	Many of the students at these dropout factories enter with poor reading, writing, and math skills
c.	Although the government has supported a massive program to raise reading rates