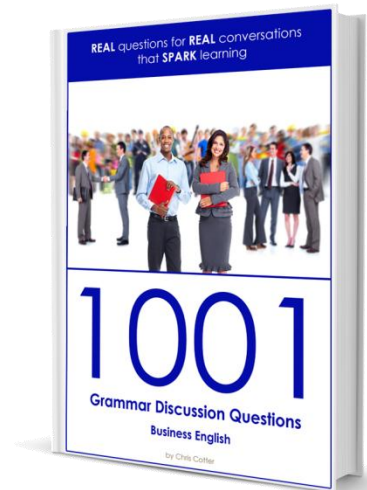
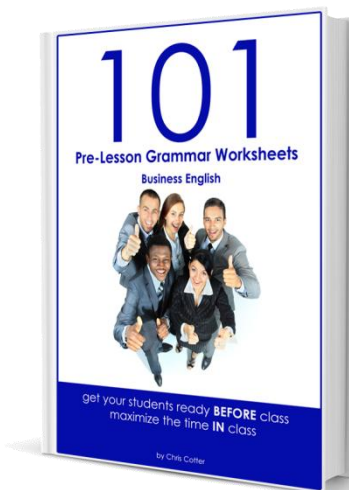


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

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.

the Article (for students)

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.

STEP ONE

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

STEP TWO

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

STEP THREE

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.		

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down three vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What is/was your high school like? Please explain.
b.	How important is education for success? Why do you think so?
c.	Are there similar problems in your country? Are there different problems?
d.	Will children receive a better or worse education in the future? Why?

Score yourself:

7-10 times, or more: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

4-6 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for more practice.

3 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.