



# Schooling

Tutor Resources for the AMEP

Education

Intermediate

## **Tutor Resources for the AMEP**

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**Theme:** Education

**Topic:** Schooling

Task	Language focus	Learning activities	Resources
1. Can discuss their schooling in their home country	<b>Vocabulary</b> attendance, co-education, behaviour, excursions, permission, canteen, tuck shop, fees, examinations, uniform	Discuss questions about education in their country	Worksheet 1: Talking about schooling
2. Can understand schooling in Australia  Is aware of alternative forms of schooling	<b>Vocabulary</b> funding, regulating, extracurricular, interactive, compulsory, comply, cooperative, courteous, curriculum, cater, key, debating, promoted, participation, remote, outback, isolated, modern technology, instantaneous, broadcast, interact, extended, transceivers, high frequency, retired, stimulation, dependant, prerequisites, literature, roots, focus	Answer questions about Australia's education system  Answer questions about School of the Air  Write short dictation  Answer questions about University of the Third Age  Complete text	Worksheet 2: The Australian education system Dictionary Worksheet 3: School of the Air Dictionary Worksheet 4: University of the Third Age
3. Can read school notices  Can understand an interview	<b>Vocabulary</b> counsellor, certificate, translated, involved, suitable, abbreviations, ASAP, BBQ, P&F	Answer questions about a school newsletter  Role play interview  Answer questions about an interview  Locate phrasal verbs  Match phrasal verbs to meanings	Worksheet 5: A school newsletter Worksheet 6: An interview

**Theme:** Education

**Topic:** Schooling

## Schooling in their country

**Task 1:** Can discuss their schooling in their home country

**Vocabulary:** attendance, co-education, behaviour, excursions, permission, canteen, tuck shop, fees, examinations, uniform

### Activity instructions

*Discuss questions about education in their country*

- 📄 Worksheet 1: Talking about schooling  
Read the questions together and discuss.  
Learner compares the school system in their country to what they know about schooling in Australia.  
For homework ask learner to write about their experiences of education.

## Australia's education system

**Task 2:** Can understand schooling in Australia  
Is aware of alternative forms of schooling

**Vocabulary:** funding, regulating, extracurricular, interactive, compulsory, comply, cooperative, courteous, curriculum, cater, key, debating, promoted, participation, remote, outback, isolated, modern technology, instantaneous, broadcast, interact, extended, transceivers, high frequency, retired, stimulation, dependant, prerequisites, literature, roots, focus

### Activity instructions

*Answer questions about Australia's education system*

- 📄 Worksheet 2: The Australian education system
  - 📄 Dictionary  
Ask questions: What do you know about the Australian school system?  
Where do your children go to school?  
What subjects do they do?
- A. Learner looks up the meanings of the key words in their dictionary.  
Learner reads text aloud. (Correct any obvious pronunciation problems.)  
Learner reads the text again.  
Explain any other unfamiliar vocabulary. Discuss.
- B. Learner reads the questions and answers verbally.  
Learner writes the answers.
- Answers**
- 1 – State and Territory governments
  - 2 – Uniforms, books, extracurricular activities (e.g. excursions)
  - 3 – A school for students living in remote areas where teaching and learning takes place via interactive technology.
  - 4 – Six and fifteen to seventeen
  - 5 – Starts in late January/early February and finishes in mid December.

6 – Primary, secondary, tertiary

7 – Any of the following three: English, Mathematics, Studies of the Society and the Environment (SOSE), Science, Arts, Languages other than English (LOTE), Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

8 – Job or work related training

#### *Answer questions about School of the Air*

📄 Worksheet 3: School of the Air

- A. Learner reads about School of the Air. Discuss.
- B. Learner reads the statements and answers 'true' or 'false'.

#### **Answers**

1 – True, 2 – False, 3 – True, 4 – True, 5 – True, 6 – True, 7 – False, 8 – False, 9 – False

#### *Write short dictation*

📄 Worksheet 3: School of the Air

📄 Dictionary

- C. Learner reads the words in the box and looks up the meanings in their dictionary.

Explain to learner that they will hear a short dictation on School of the Air.

Read the script once.

#### **Script**

In Australia, many children who live in isolated places can't go to school because it is too far from their home. These children learn via a distance learning program. Their school is called School of the Air.

The students used to complete their lessons by mail. Now, with modern technology students can see and hear their teacher and classmates and their messages are instantaneous. The students use a transceiver, which is a special type of radio that allows the students to send and receive messages.

The School of the Air also has activities such as school camps and sports days.

The School of the Air has now extended to teach adult education courses so all members of the family can study no matter where they live.

Read each sentence up to three times. (You may need to break up long sentences.)

Learner writes the sentences.

Read the script again.

- D. Learner reads the text and corrects their work.

#### *Answer questions about University of the Third Age*

📄 Worksheet 4: University of the Third Age

📄 Dictionary

- A. Learner reads the words in the box and looks up the meanings in their dictionary.  
Ask: What do you think University of the Third Age means?

- B. Read the script (up to three times).

**Script**

University of the Third Age is a world wide organisation for older people who are either working part-time or retired. Its focus is on the education and stimulation of these people and is totally dependant on volunteering. It is also known as U3A.

U3A has its roots in France in the 1970s, but has since spread throughout the world. There is a membership fee, but once you are a member you don't pay for any classes. It does not have any prerequisites, such as educational background, to study a subject. Subjects range from languages to history, cinema and literature, economics and current affairs, music, painting, chess, mah-jong, nutrition, yoga, computers, internet and many more.

Learner reads the statements and answers 'true' or 'false'.

**Answers**

1 – False, 2 – False, 3 – True, 4 – False, 5 – True, 6 – False, 7 – False, 8 – False

**Complete text**

- 📄 Worksheet 4: University of the Third Age

- C. Read the script again (part B).

Encourage learner to complete as many of the gaps as they can.

Read the script again. (You may need to break up long sentences.)

Learner completes the text.

**Answers**

University of the Third Age is a world wide organisation for older people who are either working part-time or retired. Its focus is on the education and stimulation of these people and is totally dependant on volunteering. It is also known as U3A.

U3A has its roots in France in the 1970s, but has since spread throughout the world. There is a membership fee, but once you are a member you don't pay for any classes. It does not have any prerequisites, such as educational background, to study a subject. Subjects range from languages to history, cinema and literature, economics and current affairs, music, painting, chess, mah-jong, nutrition, yoga, computers, Internet and many more.

Learner reads the completed text.

Correct their work.

- D. Learner corrects the false statements in part B to make them true.

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## School notices and interviews

**Task 3:** Can read school notices  
Can understand an interview

**Vocabulary:** counsellor, certificate, translated, involved, suitable, abbreviations, ASAP, BBQ, P&F

## Activity instructions

*Answer questions about a school newsletter*

📄 Worksheet 3: A school newsletter

A. Discuss the idea of a school newsletter. Ask: Did your school communicate with a newsletter? Learner reads the newsletter. Explain any new vocabulary.

B. Learner reads the statements and answers true or false.

**Answers**

1 – True, 2 – False, 3 – True, 4 – False, 5 – True, 6 – True, 7 – False

C. Discuss the abbreviations on the worksheet.

Ask: Do you know any more abbreviations?

Learner writes any other abbreviations they know.

*Role play interview*

📄 Worksheet 4: An interview

A. Ask: Have you ever had an interview? Discuss.

Learner reads the words in the box. Explain any unfamiliar vocabulary.

Role play the dialogue together.

Learner writes in the missing words during the role play.

Reverse roles. Correct any obvious pronunciation problems.

*Answer questions about an interview*

📄 Worksheet 4: An interview

B. Learner reads the statements and answers true or false.

**Answers**

1 – False, 2 – True, 3 – True, 4 – False, 5 – True

*Locate phrasal verbs*

📄 Worksheet 4: An interview

C. Learner reads the information about phrasal verbs.

Learner locates the phrasal verbs in the interview script. Discuss their meanings.

*Match phrasal verbs to meanings*

📄 Worksheet 4: An interview

D. Learner reads the phrasal verbs. Ask: have you heard any of these before?

Learner matches the phrasal verbs to their meanings.

Give learner examples of how and when these phrasal verbs could be used.

If access to a computer is available, look up phrasal verbs on the internet. (There are many websites with lists of common phrasal verbs and related exercises.)

**Answers**

1 – f, 2 – h, 3 – l, 4 – e, 5 – b, 6 – j, 7 – g, 8 – c, 9 – a, 10 – d

## **Worksheet 1: Talking about schooling**

*Read and discuss answers to these questions.*

### **Attendance and classes**

1. How many times in a week did you go to school?
2. What time did classes start?
3. What time did classes finish?

### **Behaviour**

1. How did you behave in class?
2. What was bad behaviour?
3. Were you ever bullied at school?
4. How was bullying managed in your school?

### **Students – who went to your school?**

1. Girls
2. Boys
3. Boys and girls together (co-education)

### **Excursions**

1. Did you go on excursions?
2. Where did you go?
3. Did your parents have to sign a permission form for you to go on the excursion?
4. Did you go on school camps?
5. Has your child been on a school camp?

### **Teaching**

1. How were you taught in your school?
2. What subjects did you do?
3. What was your favourite subject?
4. Do you like the way students are taught in Australia?

### **School meals**

1. Did you take your lunch to school?
2. What did you eat at school?
3. Did your school have a canteen/tuck shop?

### **Transport – how did you get to school?**

1. Walk
2. Bus
3. Car - parents drove you
4. Other

### **Costs**

1. Did you pay fees to go to school?
2. Did you pay for books?

## **Intermediate**

### **Education: Schooling**

#### **Uniforms**

1. Did you wear a uniform to school?
2. What did you wear to school?
3. Do your children wear a uniform to school?
4. What do they wear to school?

#### **Homework**

1. Did you have homework?
2. How many hours of homework did you do a night?
3. Did you get into trouble if you didn't do your homework?

#### **Exams**

1. Did you have tests/examinations at school?
2. If you failed any exams what would happen?
3. Did you get school reports?

#### **Education system**

1. What age do children start school?
2. What age do they complete school?
3. How many grades/levels are there in primary school?
4. How many levels are there in secondary school?

## Worksheet 2: The Australian education system

A. Look up the meanings of these words in your dictionary and read the text.

funding	regulating	extracurricular	interactive	compulsory
institutions	comply	cooperative	courteous	curriculum
cater	key	debating	promoted	participation

In Australia, the state or territory governments are responsible for **funding** and **regulating** the public and private schools within their governing area. They also receive some federal government funding. Most Australian students attend public schools. Citizens and permanent residents attend public schools for free. However, costs for things such as books, uniforms or **extracurricular** activities are usually paid for by parents. School of the Air is one way in which children in remote communities access education. They use **interactive** technology to communicate with their teachers and classmates. A small number of students in Australia are legally home-schooled.

Education is **compulsory** between the ages of six and fifteen to seventeen, depending on the state or territory, and date of birth. Students tend to stay at school until they are seventeen. The school year varies between states and **institutions** but generally runs from late January or early February until mid-December. Most school students wear a uniform and are expected to show respect for themselves, their learning environment and the community, and to **comply** with requests from the Principal or teachers. They are also expected to learn in a **cooperative** and **courteous** manner.

There are three levels of schooling in Australia: primary schools, secondary schools (high schools) and tertiary education (universities and Technical and Further Education institutions or TAFE). The school **curriculum caters** for a wide range of student skills and interests. All schools offer subjects in the eight **key** learning areas: English; Mathematics; Studies of the Society and the Environment (SOSE); Science; Arts; Languages other than English (LOTE); Technology; Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). In addition to the standard school curriculum, most secondary schools also offer Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs that provide work-related training. Drama, music, art, **debating**, public speaking and sport, are also offered. In many schools student leadership is **promoted** through **participation** in a Student Representative Council (SRC) allowing students to help improve their school.

**B. Answer the questions.**

1. Who is mainly responsible for funding public school education in Australia?

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2. Name three school related things that the government doesn't pay for.

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3. What is the School of the Air?

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4. Between what ages is schooling compulsory?

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5. When does the school year start and end?

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6. What are the three levels of schooling in Australia?

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7. Name three subject areas taught in Australian schools?

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8. What is Vocational Education and Training (VET)?

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## Worksheet 3: School of the Air

### A. Read the text.



Australia is home to some of the most geographically isolated communities in the world. Being a student is very different if you live in remote areas of the Australian outback.

Until the 1950s, children living in remote communities learnt by distance learning and completed their lessons by mail. This could be very slow. Then radio broadcasting was used and the School of the Air (SOA) was started. In 2005, there were more than 16 Schools of the Air located around Australia, a network covering more than 1.5 million square kilometres.

In the past, School of the Air students would have to use an old pedal-powered radio to interact with the teacher. These days new technology has brought School of the Air into the digital age. This includes high frequency (HF) radio transceivers, satellite dishes, emails, web cameras, and electronic whiteboards. A transceiver is a special type of radio that allows the students to send and receive messages.

Teachers at the studio sites, using a video camera and an electronic whiteboard, give lessons by satellite to students on the network. Students can watch and respond in real time via a web camera attached to their computer. This provides for much more interaction between students and teachers. As well as providing two-way audio and video, students can email teachers and each other, interact with the whiteboard and participate in group discussions. The teacher and all the students in the class, even though they are living in different locations, can have daily contact with each other.

The School of the Air also has a program of field activities, including a week-long mini school and opportunities for the students to participate in excursions and camps with other students.

The School of the Air program has now extended to teach adult education courses, so all members of the family can now study, no matter where they live.

**B. Answer *True* or *False* to the statements.**

	True/False
1. Before 1950 distance learning lessons were done by mail.	
2. The School of the Air started before 1950.	
3. By 2005 there were more than 16 Schools of the Air in Australia.	
4. Digital age refers to recent times with the use of new technology.	
5. These days distance learning lessons are done via satellite.	
6. Web cameras allow students to respond in real time.	
7. With the use of technology students have less interaction with their teachers and classmates.	
8. The School of the Air program does not offer its students field activities.	
9. School of the Air only teaches programs to children.	



*D. Read the text and correct your work.*

In Australia, many children who live in isolated places can't go to school because it is too far from their home. These children learn via a distance learning program. Their school is called School of the Air.

The students used to complete their lessons by mail. Now, with modern technology students can see and hear their teacher and classmates and their messages are instantaneous. The students use a transceiver, which is a special type of radio that allows the students to send and receive messages.

The School of the Air also has activities such as school camps and sports days. The School of the Air has now extended to teach adult education courses so all members of the family can study no matter where they live.

## Worksheet 4: University of the Third Age

A. Look up the meanings of these words in your dictionary.

organisation	retired	stimulation	dependant
roots	prerequisites	literature	focus

B. Listen to the text and answer **True** or **False** to the statements.



	True/ False
1. The University of the Third Age is only in Australia.	
2. Young people study at the University of the Third Age.	
3. The organisation is run by volunteers.	
4. University of the Third Age is also known as UTA.	
5. The organisation began in France in the 1970s.	
6. Membership to the University of the Third Age is free.	
7. You have to be well educated to join the University of the Third Age.	
8. University of the Third Age does not offer subjects in technology studies.	

**C. Listen to the text again and complete the sentences.**

University of the \_\_\_\_\_ Age is a world wide \_\_\_\_\_ for older people who are either working part-time or \_\_\_\_\_. Its \_\_\_\_\_ is on the education and \_\_\_\_\_ of these people and is totally \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. It is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.

U3A has its \_\_\_\_\_ in France in the \_\_\_\_\_, but has since spread throughout the \_\_\_\_\_. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ fee, but once you are a member you don't pay for any classes. It does not have any \_\_\_\_\_, such as educational \_\_\_\_\_, to study a subject. \_\_\_\_\_ range from languages to history, cinema and literature, economics and current affairs, music, painting, chess, mah-jong, nutrition, yoga, computers, Internet and \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. Re-write the false statements in part B to make them true.**

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## Worksheet 5: A school newsletter

A. Read the school newsletter.

Schools communicate with parents and students via a school newsletter.

### Rivertown East Primary Newsletter Term 2 Week 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Cross Country Carnival

Congratulations to our cross country team for coming second in the Runners Trophy competition and third overall at the Zone Carnival yesterday. Thank you to Mrs. Jones and Mr. Baldwin for managing the team. Best wishes to the following students who will represent the school at the Regional Cross Country Carnival on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>:

Nirmala A (1<sup>st</sup> in U13)  
Jack P (4<sup>th</sup> in U12)  
Carla S (3<sup>rd</sup> in U11)

#### Report and Parent/Teacher Interviews

Semester 1 student progress reports will be sent home on Monday 21 June and parent/teacher interviews will be conducted during the week commencing Monday 28 June. Please see the note sent home today with a timetable and return slip to book a suitable date and time for an interview with your child's teacher.

#### P&F BBQ

Preparations for the P&F BBQ are well under way. Many thanks to all the parents who have volunteered to staff the food and drink stalls. Volunteers are still needed for the cake stall and the fun rides. If you are able to donate one hour of your time it would be greatly appreciated. Please refer to the roster attached to this newsletter and email [rivertownbbq@asp.com.au](mailto:rivertownbbq@asp.com.au)

Don't forget to buy your ride tickets, food vouchers and raffle tickets ASAP.

**Lyn Masters**  
Principal

#### Dates to remember

**Wednesday 9 June**  
Science Competition

**Thursday 10 June**  
P&F Meeting 6.30pm

**Friday 18 June**  
Regional Cross Country Carnival

**Sunday 20 June**  
Working Bee – come and help tend the vegetable garden!

**Monday 21 June**  
Semester 1 reports sent home

**Monday 28 June**  
Parent/Teacher interviews commence

**Friday 2 July**  
P&F BBQ 5.00 to 9.00pm – winner of the traditional outfit competition to be announced at 7.00pm!



Please remember to return the Parent/Teacher interview note no later than Friday 18 June.

**B. Write *True* or *False* to these statements.**

	True/False
1. The newsletter is addressed to parents/carers and sent by the Principal.	
2. The Rivertown East Primary School cross country team came second overall at the Zone Carnival.	
3. Nirmala A is a student who won the Under 13 years cross country event.	
4. Progress reports will be sent home on Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June.	
5. Parents/carers must reserve a time for an interview with their child's teacher.	
6. Some of the parents have already volunteered to staff the food and drink stalls at the P&F BBQ.	
7. The working bee on Sunday 20 June is to make a new vegetable garden.	

**C. Read about abbreviations. Can you think of any more?**

An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word. Newsletters often use abbreviations to save space. The following abbreviations appear in the school newsletter above.

- P&F – parents and friends
- BBQ – barbeque
- ASAP – as soon as possible

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## Worksheet 6: An interview

A. Role play the interview between a student and an educational counsellor.  
Complete the dialogue with words from the box.

since	schooling	involved	brought	can
near	appointment	suitable	interested	been

**Jenny:** Hello, Vu, how are you? What can I help you with?

**Vu:** Hello Jenny, yes, I just wanted to ask about doing a child care course.  
I'm not sure if it would be \_\_\_\_\_ for me.

**Jenny:** A child care course. OK. Well, sit down and we'll go through a few things.  
Firstly, do you have a permanent visa?

**Vu:** Yes, I do.

**Jenny:** Ok, then. How many years \_\_\_\_\_ did you actually do in your country?

**Vu:** Umm, 12 years. I got my leaving certificate at the end of year 12.

**Jenny:** Right, and have you got your certificate with you here in Australia?

**Vu:** Yes, I do. I \_\_\_\_\_ it today. Here, do you want to see it?

**Jenny:** Yes, thank you. Oh, and you've had it translated. That's great. And have you ever looked after children before, Vu?

**Vu:** Well, I have nieces and nephews and I really enjoy helping my sister look after them.

**Jenny:** How long have you been helping out with your nieces and nephews?

**Vu:** Uh, we live \_\_\_\_\_ each other so, for about 10 years.

**Jenny:** OK... Have you ever had a job that \_\_\_\_\_ looking after people?

**Vu:** Ah no, no I haven't.

**Jenny:** That's fine. Have you worked \_\_\_\_\_ leaving school?

**Vu:** Ah no, I haven't worked because I got married just after I finished school, and then we moved to Australia and I've \_\_\_\_\_ learning English. But, now I'd like to do something like some work or extra study, and I was thinking that the Child Care Certificate sounded good, but I'm just a bit worried about my English level.

**Jenny:** Well you would have to put in a fair bit of work but I think you could manage it. You are \_\_\_\_\_ in the area, and you have finished your year 12, and your English is good. So I think the course would be quite suitable for you.

**Vu:** Oh thank you Jenny, that's good to know. Thank you very much.  
\_\_\_\_\_ we talk more about the course another day? I have to go now.

**Jenny:** Yes, sure. Make another \_\_\_\_\_ and we'll talk again soon. Bye Vu.

**Vu:** Bye, thanks again.

**B. Write *True* or *False* to the statements.**

	True/False
1. Vu wants to do an Aged Care course.	
2. Vu completed 12 years of schooling in her country.	
3. The counsellor asks Vu about her work experience.	
4. Vu hasn't worked because she has been looking after her sister's children.	
5. The counsellor thinks that Vu's English is good enough to do the course.	

**C. Read about phrasal verbs.**

*Find the following phrasal verbs in the interview (part A) and discuss their meanings: **sit down, look after, helping out, put in***

A phrasal verb is a two or three part verb which often has a meaning which is different from the original verb. For example:

- take out
- break up
- look at
- calm down
- get on with

There are hundreds of phrasal verbs in English, many of them with more than one meaning.

*D. Match these common phrasal verbs with their meanings.*

**Phrasal verb**

1. calm down
2. get rid of
3. turn on
4. call off
5. get up
6. watch out
7. fill in
8. let down
9. pick up (someone)
10. run out of

**Meaning**

- a. collect someone (usually by car)
- b. arise from bed
- c. disappoint
- d. have no more of something
- e. cancel
- f. relax, reduce stress
- g. put information in a blank space
- h. throw away
- i. start a machine or something electrical
- j. be careful