

UPPER Secondary Plus

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE 2

A RIGHT TO LEARN



In the news

What stories have you heard or read recently about schools or education?

Are there any problems with education in your country? If so, what are they?

INSIDE

Learn how to write effective crowdfunding letters.

Discuss the causes and consequences of unequal access to education.

Practise different ways to take notes.

Use compound nouns related to education.

PROJECT

Launch a crowdfunding campaign to improve access to education for young people.

OUR WORLD

Aims

- Read and evaluate the effectiveness of crowdfunding statements.
- Discuss unequal access to education in different countries.
- Identify the causes and effects of a problem.
- Increase my vocabulary with compound nouns.



In April 2016, Ana was helping her mum in the family corner shop when a huge earthquake hit the coast of Ecuador. She and her family escaped the two-storey building just before it collapsed, but they lost everything they owned. Over 670 people in Ecuador were killed and 16,600 were injured.

Nowadays, Ana and her family live in a tent. Their house and shop lie on the ground where they fell and Ana can't study because her school building collapsed. She badly misses having lessons.

I first met Ana in 2017. She and the other 15-year-old students were studying outdoors in the pouring rain. It was a desperate situation. They had no shelter. The teacher had no books. It wasn't right – going to school isn't a privilege. So we decided to construct a bamboo building with the help of local people. Ana's father, a carpenter, made furniture and bookcases for the school.

We're happy to tell you that the school is going to open in six months! The schoolbooks, desks and blackboards will be provided by the Ecuadorian government. However, by September, we need to supply school uniforms, a playground with swings and a climbing frame, and maybe a laptop.

Every child has a right to education, so we're asking you to help Ana and her classmates!

**Quito
Ecuador**



Recently, I've been volunteering in a refugee camp in Greece, which has been a deeply moving experience. Half of the refugees are under 18 and most haven't been to school for several years as a result of the war in Syria. They've seen things that you and I can't imagine. Although they've escaped the horrors of war, they face uncertain futures and months of waiting. Despite this, their strength is remarkable. Working in the camp has been a powerful learning experience for me!

I'm asking you to help me create a learning centre in the camp. We'll hold evening classes there. It'll also be a place where the refugees can read, teach each other and study English during the day. The money we raise will be spent on providing schoolbooks (so that children can catch up on their studies), reference books (e.g. English dictionaries and grammar books), novels and children's books.

We should never forget the power of education. That's what I want to bring to these wonderful children who have been left behind by war. Refugees know that learning English is the key to their future, so let's help them fulfil their goal. Please donate your next cup of coffee to them! Thank you.

**Thessaloniki
Greece**



My name's Peter. I'm 16 years old and passionate about watching wheelchair sports! Right now, my dream is to play a wheelchair sport. The most interesting is boccia, a precision sport which is similar to bowling. My long-term goal is to take part in the Paralympic Games one day!

Playing sport is a lifeline for people like me who have cerebral palsy. Unfortunately, we often can't take part in sports activities because our schools don't have the equipment or teachers who know about wheelchair sports. But there are huge advantages. Sports like boccia are good for our motor coordination as well as our mental and physical health. In addition, we can have a better social life. (Anyone can play boccia, not just wheelchair users.)

The challenge for me is to find a teacher and the necessary equipment. At school, the sports teacher has been incredibly supportive, agreeing to help me form a club and to teach us boccia in his free time. However, we still need equipment. Therefore, I'm asking you to support me. I need leather balls (£30 each) and boccia ramps (£100 each).

Please help me and other disabled people to play sports! We deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. We really appreciate your help. Thank you!

**Peter
Manchester, UK**

1. READ THE CROWDFUNDING STATEMENTS

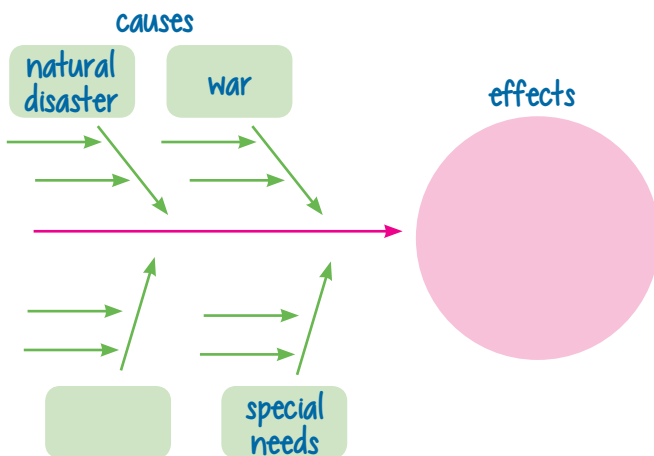
Match each heading to a crowdfunding statement. Write A, B or C.

- Please help me achieve my personal dream.
- For the price of a hot drink, you can provide an educational opportunity for others.
- Help us open in time for the next school year!

2. READ FOR MORE DETAIL

Read the statements again. What causes of unequal access to education are mentioned? Copy and complete the chart.

Unequal access to education: causes and effects



My Practice 1

3. SHARE IDEAS

Discuss how the crowdfunding statements could be improved. Use these ideas to help you:

- tone (polite, friendly, etc.)
- clear goals (what, how, by when)
- list of total and individual costs
- convincing arguments
- eye-catching beginning and ending
- connection to the readers' emotions
- use of examples, facts, and photos

My Practice 2

4. EXPLORE VOCABULARY

Answer the questions.

- Study this list of compound nouns. What kind of specific information does the first word provide? What do you notice about grammar and punctuation?

evening class	corner shop
bamboo building	climbing frame
wheelchair	classmate
15-year-old students	sports teacher

- Find some more examples of compound nouns in each statement. What kind of information does the first noun give in each case?
- Work in pairs. Take turns to choose a compound noun and paraphrase it without using the noun itself. Can your partner guess the compound noun?

My Practice 3

5. TALK ABOUT YOUR WORLD

Discuss the questions. Report your ideas to the class.

- What opportunities do you think young people miss if they don't get an education? How does a society lose out if people don't go to school?
- Do you think everyone in your school has equal access to education? Is there anyone who needs to be included more? If so, why? How can this be achieved?

6. REWRITE A CROWDFUNDING STATEMENT

Choose one of the crowdfunding statements and rewrite it more effectively. Use the ideas in activity 3 to help you.



Reflect

What have you learned about writing crowdfunding letters? Write some tips you'd give someone who needed to write a crowdfunding letter.

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Aims

- Listen to and understand two students discussing a school exchange.
- Use gerunds (*-ing* forms) to talk about experiences and opinions.
- Practise different forms of note-taking using charts and diagrams.



1. PREPARE TO LISTEN

You're going to listen to an interview about a school exchange. Look at the photos and discuss the questions.

1. What countries do you think the two schools are in?
2. How do you think the schools and cultures might be different?



2. LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW (PART 1)

Listen to the first part of the interview. Choose one student, Matt or Hana, and make notes on his or her experiences under these headings. Compare your notes with your partner's.

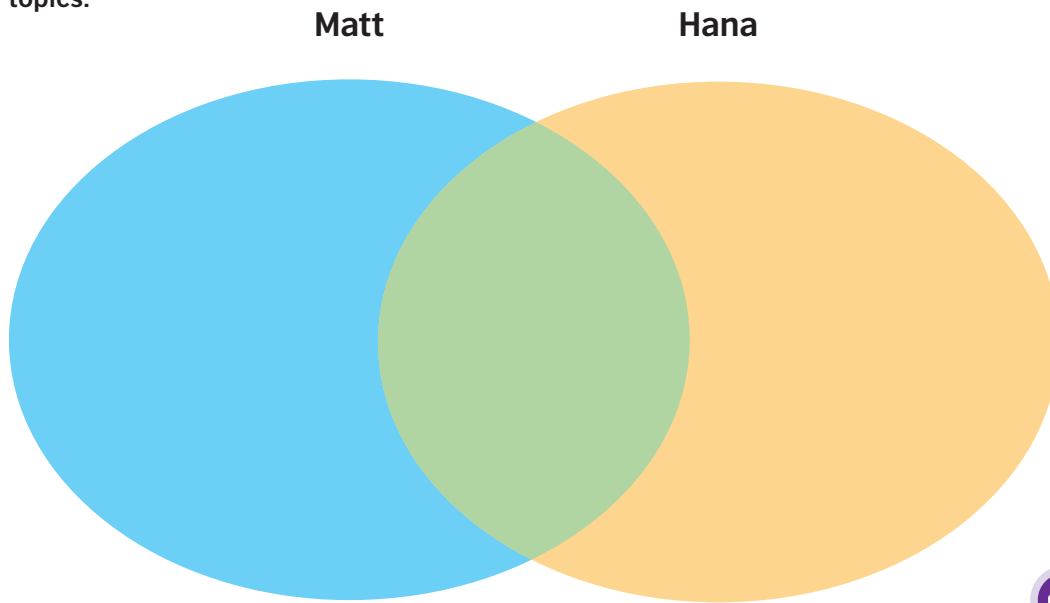
- Discovering new things about a place
- Finding their way around a new place
- Fitting into a new culture
- Living with a host family
- Making friends
- Taking part in a school exchange



My Practice 4

3. LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW (PART 2)

Listen to the second part of the interview. Complete the Venn diagram with Matt's and Hana's opinions on these topics:



- school sports and art activities
- long school days
- project work
- strict teachers and discipline
- pressure to succeed.



My Practice 5

4. GIVE YOUR VIEWS

Discuss the questions.

1. What are your opinions on the issues in the list in activity 3?
2. What advice would you give someone who was coming to your school on an exchange visit?



My Practice 6

5. LOOK AT LANGUAGE

Read the sentences. Circle the subjects and underline the verbs. What do you notice about the subjects in each sentence?

1. Finding my way around new cities is always hard for me.
2. Fitting into a new culture is hard and not knowing the language makes it even harder.
3. Making friends was easy due to my friendly personality.
4. Taking part in a school exchange has so many advantages.
5. Taking education seriously is good, Matt!
6. Punishing students really works, though.

6. PRACTISE

Rewrite the sentences using gerunds as subjects. Make sure the meaning stays the same.

1. It's important to have respect for teachers.
2. I don't think that it's right to study for 15 hours a day.
3. It's a basic human right to go to school.
4. It's easy to get lost if you don't have a good sense of direction.

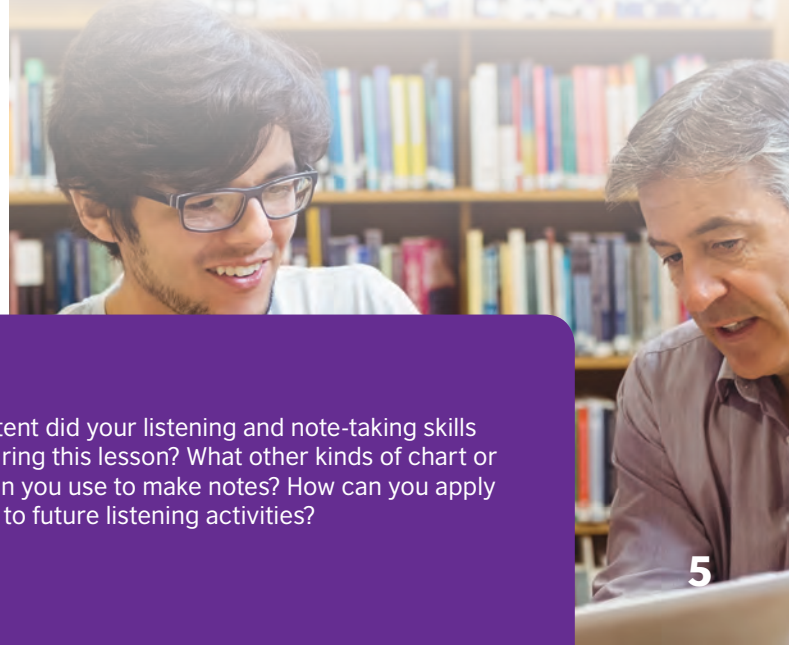


My Practice 7



7. TALK ABOUT YOUR WORLD

Think of some problems facing your school. What could different people do to solve these problems? Think about students, teachers, parents and the government.



Reflect

To what extent did your listening and note-taking skills improve during this lesson? What other kinds of chart or diagram can you use to make notes? How can you apply these skills to future listening activities?

PROJECT

Aims

- Understand an article about access to education around the world.
- Describe problems and solutions in detail, using my own words.
- Research ideas to solve educational problems.
- Write a crowdfunding letter to raise money for our idea.



1. SHARE IDEAS

Look at the photos and decide why these young people might have limited or no access to education.

2. READ THE ARTICLE

Read and take notes on the main causes and effects. Complete a diagram like the one on page 3.

Why children around the world still lack access to education

Today, 570 million children worldwide live in extreme poverty. When children grow up poor, it can affect their education in many ways. For example, they may stop attending school because their parents need them to help on the family farm or work for money. Other problems associated with poverty include poor diet and no access to clean water, with the result that children regularly fall asleep in class or get sick and have to miss school.

ChildFund India started a literacy campaign in places where few homes had any books and discovered another major problem: many homes didn't have electricity, so the children couldn't read or study after dark. In response, the charity distributed almost 40,000 solar-powered lamps.



Education also plays an important role in girls' rights. The UNESCO 2017 Global Education Monitoring Report states that 264 million of the world's children have no access to education and many more have limited access to learning. Most are girls. In developing countries, girls often can't go to school at all. There are many reasons for this, including child marriage and religious

practices, and in sub-Saharan Africa, one in ten girls miss school during menstruation. In other countries, girls' education is considered less important than boys'. In Ethiopia, a female TV producer has created an educational show called *Tibeb Girls* for girls to watch at home. This is a good solution, but we urgently need to solve the international problem of unequal access to education for girls.

Another reason for education inequality is documentation. Children without a birth certificate can't receive free education or healthcare in Kenya, for example. The problem occurs in richer countries too. In some US states, undocumented immigrants can't attend state colleges.

Finally, millions of children miss school due to abuse. Some are abused at school; others prefer not to go to school because people will see the bruises they have acquired at home. Children feel scared and can't concentrate, so they fall behind in class and produce poor work. Some even become bullies themselves.

Every person under the age of 18 has the right to learn. Studying makes a significant difference to society and to individual families. If people study, the chances are that their children will study too. In turn, this affects nutrition, healthcare, lifestyle, income and gender equality.



My Practice 8

3. SHARE AND DISCUSS

Discuss the questions.

1. How do these issues affect access to education? Take turns to explain an issue in your own words. Use your notes from activity 2 to help you.
 - poverty
 - sex and gender
 - documentation
 - abuse
2. To what extent do the problems affect richer countries? Give examples from the article and from your own knowledge.
3. Describe some solutions that you read about in the article using your own words. Which do you think are most likely to be effective? Why?
4. What education problems are there where you live, in your opinion? What do you think are the causes of these problems? What are some possible solutions? Listen to your partner's ideas and take notes.

4. RESEARCH

Identify and agree on a problem from the article that you'd like to solve. Research the problem and some solutions that have been tried. Can you think of any solutions of your own?

5. PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION

Follow the steps to prepare a presentation for the class.

STEP 1: Plan your introduction.

- Consider how to open your presentation. Say which problem you plan to solve and why. Provide some background information about the problem.

STEP 2: Plan the main section.

- Explain the solution you would try. Give examples of where and when it's been tried and how successful it was. Explain why you think it'd work.

STEP 3: Think of a title.

- Think of a short title that'll make an impact on your audience.

STEP 4: Write an outline.

- Write the outline of your presentation in the form of basic notes. Then practise giving your presentation.

6. PRESENT YOUR SOLUTION

Give your presentation to your classmates. Then answer their questions. Listen to other groups' presentations and take notes. Ask follow-up questions and give feedback.



My Practice 9

7. SHARE AND EVALUATE

Discuss the questions.

1. Whose solutions were effective, in your opinion? Why? What did you learn from other presentations that you could use in the future?
2. What would be the most effective online platform for promoting your solution as part of a campaign?

8. WRITE A CROWDFUNDING STATEMENT

Choose an interesting solution. Write a crowdfunding statement to raise money for it.



Reflect

How fluently were you able to speak in your own words? How often did you need to look at your notes to help you?

MY CHOICE

CHOOSE YOUR NEXT STEPS

TEENS CHANGING THE WORLD

In this module, you've learned about how different organisations are helping children and teenagers access education around the world. But what about teenagers themselves? Do you know about any young people who have helped change the world?

Watch a video about a famous young activist, then find out about other young people who are taking action.



SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Schools around the world have very different attitudes to discipline. Is your school strict or easygoing? What rules does your school have? Are there any rules you disagree with?

Read about discipline in schools in the UK, and compare the rules to those at your school.



RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says that every child has a right to an education. But unfortunately, as you've learned in this module, this right isn't always respected. Do you know about the other rights which are in the UNCRC?

Learn about the UNCRC and find out how children around the world are fighting for their rights.



REVIEW YOUR LEARNING

How well did I do?

I evaluated crowdfunding letters and shared ideas about how to improve them.

I used compound nouns related to education.

I explored and practised different forms of note-taking.

I used my paraphrasing skills to talk fluently with a few notes to help me.

= I did this well.

= I did this quite well.

= I can't do this yet.

What do I need to do next?

