

Topic 1 Key text

Looking back: what I wish I had learned at school

Recently I attended my 10-year high school reunion. Not surprisingly, some were upbeat and pretty pleased with how their lives had turned out, while others were slightly disappointed with the hand they had been dealt and how they had played it.



We had some laughs talking about the crazy things we got up to at school. Late in the evening the conversation got surprisingly serious as we discussed some of the things we hadn't, but wish we had, learned at the time.

Here are some of the issues we considered, summarized by me on the plane home, and listed in no particular order of importance:

- 1 We should have been taught effective methods of study. Many of us were not good at studying, and for most of us, our methods of studying were a bit hit-and-miss. It's hard for teenagers to get enthusiastic about a topic like 'how to study', but still, considering how this is the foundation of all formal education, you'd have thought more attention would be paid to this aspect of learning.
- 2 Instead of focusing on the correct answer, I wish teachers had emphasized how important it is to make mistakes. And, just as importantly, how to learn from those mistakes.

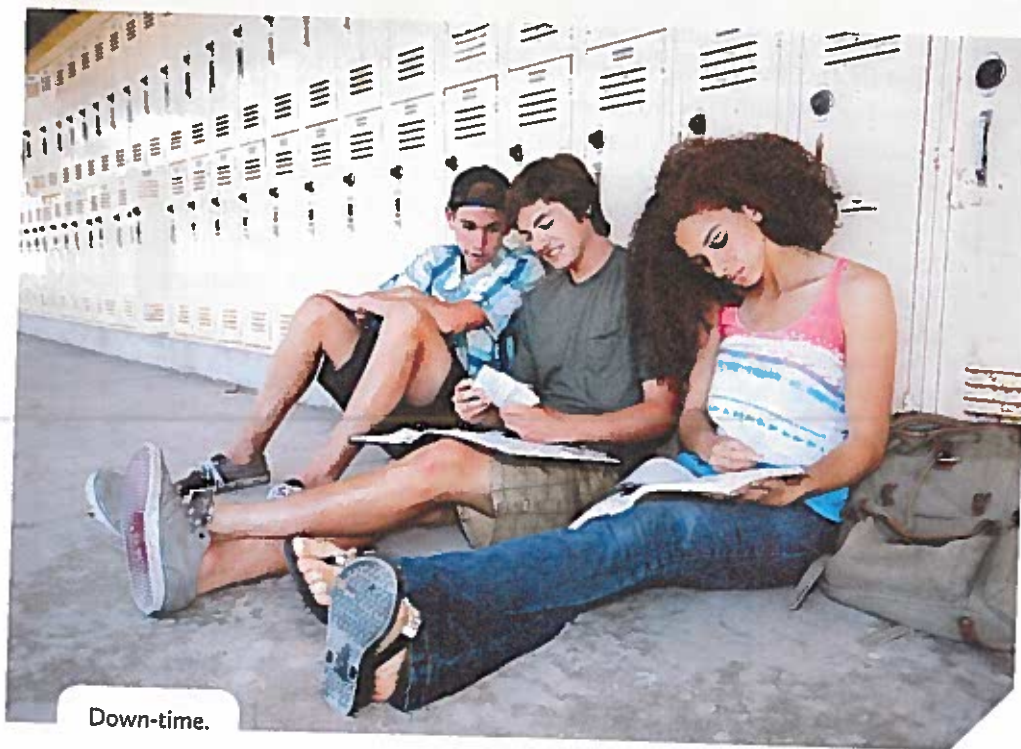
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- 25 **3** I wish I had known more about available scholarships, how to find them, how to apply for them. This is a skill that stands you in good stead in your professional life too, when you are the one responsible for getting financial backing for a particular research project, for example. If you're a researcher, or an academic, and you don't know how to look for funding or how to write a funding proposal, you can kiss your career goodbye.
- 30 **4** I wish somebody had given us more information about different professions other than the traditional, obvious ones. When I left college, I was amazed at the number of different career options out there. At school they concentrated on the same types of conventional jobs: IT specialists, engineers, lawyers, plumbers... all very important of course, but the world has changed, and there are countless other options now.
- 35 **5** How to start up and run my own business – this is what I really wanted to learn at school. Today I own a successful company, and I'm proud of what I have accomplished. But it was very hard in the beginning when I had to discover the nitty-gritty of establishing a company all by myself.
- 40 **6** The importance of creativity can hardly be overstated, but somehow students don't have many opportunities to develop original ideas at school. Nobody would have described our school as a hotbed of creativity. We were too busy trying to get through tests and exams. We should have received some specific training or advice on how to develop our creativity, since creativity is the one area where humans outperform computers. It doesn't matter whether you're a bricklayer or a scientist, creativity will help you find new perspectives in your work. And if we want to create new types of jobs, for example, and solve apparently unsolvable problems like climate change, we need to start thinking more creatively.
- 45 **7** I wish we had had more discussions about what life is really about, about the meaning of life, so that we would be better prepared for the difficult moral choices we have to make in our lives.
- 50 **8** We should have had a course on how to manage money at school. And I am not referring to basic financial advice like 'saving for a rainy day.' I mean serious things like how to invest money, how to buy property, how to start a pension fund, how stock markets work. At the time, these things seemed stupefyingly boring, but now I realize that they really matter.
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- 60 **9** It would have been life-changing for me to know that what I thought about myself was more important than what others thought of me. I was not a high achiever, and had very low self-esteem. I was miserable at school because I thought nobody was interested in me or anything I had to say.
- 65 **10** I should have continued my piano lessons. Now I'm ashamed of how I argued with my mom about practicing – if I had stuck with it, frustrating and tiring as it was at the time, I would now possess a skill that would give me endless joy. In this respect, my parents really *did* know best!
- 70 **11** A six-week module on relationships should have been a compulsory subject at school. Having a long-term relationship, or being married to someone, is something that affects your psychological well-being, as anybody who has ever had to live through a divorce knows. Yet the whole business is entirely left to chance. No wonder the divorce rate is so high.
- 75 **12** In my opinion one of the most important things they should have taught us at school is how to be a proper parent. Having and rearing a child is a gargantuan responsibility, and I don't think it's something people are automatically capable of. We need to be properly prepared for this.



Down-time.

Topic 1 Key text

look back /luk bæk/ muistella
recently /ri:sntli/ hiljattain, vähän aikaa sitten
attend /ə'tend/ osallistua
reunion /ri:'ju:niən/

upbeat /ʌpbi:t/ onnellinen, myönteinen;
 nousukausi
turn out /tɜ:n aut/ osoittautua, sujua,
 sammuttaa, ilmaantua
disappointed /disə'pɔɪntɪd/ pettynyt
***deal, dealt, dealt** /di:l, delt, delt/
 jakaa, käydä kauppaa, käsitellä
serious /sɪəriəs/ vakava
summarize /sʌməraɪz/ tehdä yhteenveto,
 esittää lyhyesti
method /meθəd/ tekniikka, menetelmä, työtap
hit-and-miss /hɪtən'mɪs/ hakuammuntaa
foundation /faʊn'deɪʃn/ perusta
focus on /fəʊkəs ɒn/ keskittyä jhk, kohdistaa
emphasize /emfəsaɪz/

available /ə'veɪləbl/

scholarship /skələʃɪp/ stipendi, apuraha
skill /skɪl/ taito
***stand someone in good stead** /stænd
 sʌmwʌn ɪn gud sted/ olla jllek hyödyksi
responsible for /rɪ'spɒnsəbl fə/
 olla vastuussa jstak
financial /faɪ'nænʃəl/ taloudellinen, rahallinen,
 raha-
backing /bækɪŋ/ tuki, kannatus, tausta
funding /fʌndɪŋ/ rahoitus, rahastointi
career option /kə'riə ɒpʃn/

conventional /kən'venʃənəl/ tavanomainen,
 tavallinen
obvious /ɒbvɪəs/ ilmeinen, itsestään selvä
IT specialist /aɪ 'ti: spɛʃəlɪst/
 IT-alan ammattilainen
engineer /endʒɪ'nɪə/ insinööri
lawyer /lɔ:ɪ/ lakimies, asianajaja
plumber /plʌmə/ putkiasentaja
countless /kaʊntləs/ lukematon, rajaton

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ saada aikaan, saavuttaa,
 toteuttaa, saattaa päätökseen
nitty-gritty /nɪtɪ'grɪti/ perusasiat
establish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/

creativity /kri:'eɪtɪvəti/ luovuus
overstate /əʊvə'steɪt/ liioitella
hotbed /hɒtbed/ pesä, taimilava
receive /rɪ'si:v/ saada
outperform /aʊtpə'fɔ:m/ suoriutua paremmin, voittaa
bricklayer /brɪkleɪə/ muurari
apparently /ə'pærəntli/ selvästi, ilmeisesti, nähtävästi
unsolvable /ʌn'sɒlvəbl/

climate change /klaɪmət tʃeɪndʒ/ ilmastonmuutos
manage money /mænɪdʒ mʌni/ osata käyttää rahaa,
 hoitaa raha-asioita
property /prɒpəti/ omaisuus, kiinteistö
pension fund /penʃən fʌnd/

stock market /stɒk mə:kt/ pörssi, osakemarkkinat
stupefyingly /stju:pi'faɪɪŋli/ turruttavan,
 puuduttavan
high achiever /haɪ ə'tʃi:və/

self-esteem /selfɪ'sti:m/ itsetunto
miserable /mɪzərəbl/ onneton, epätoivoinen,
 surkea, kurja
continue /kən'tɪnju:/ jatkaa
argue /ɑ:gju:/ riidellä, väitellä, kinastella
module /mɒdʒu:l/ moduuli, yksikkö
relationship /rɪ'leɪʃənʃɪp/ ihmissuhde
compulsory /kəm'pʌlsəri/

long-term /lɒŋ'tɜ:m/ pitkäaikainen, pitkäjänteinen
entirely /ɪn'taɪəli/ kokonaan, täysin
proper /prɒpə/ kunnollinen, asiallinen, kunnon,
 sopiva, sovelias
rear /rɪə/ kasvattaa, nostaa; takaosa
gargantuan /gɑ:'gæntʃuən/ suunnaton, valtava,
 jättiläismäinen
properly /prɒpəli/

Topic 1 Key text

1C After reading the people's comments at the high school reunion, summarise their ideas about the following things in your notebook.

- study methods
- focus on correct answers
- scholarships
- IT-specialists, engineers, lawyers, plumbers
- business
- solving apparently unsolvable problems
- moral choices
- investing money
- self-esteem
- practicing music
- relationships
- parenting

1D The people at the high school reunion listed things they would have liked to learn at school. Discuss the following questions with your partner.



- 1 What do you wish you had learnt at school by now?
- 2 What do you think should be taught at upper secondary school that is not part of the curriculum right now?
- 3 What kinds of knowledge and skills do you think you will need in the future?
- 4 How closely do you think school studies should be linked to the world of work?
- 5 How would you like education to develop in the future?



Phrase hunt

1E Find the following expressions in the text.

- 1 tyytyväinen johonkin _____
- 2 ei erityisessä tärkeysjärjestyksessä _____
- 3 Meille olisi pitänyt opettaa _____
- 4 Keskittymisen sijaan _____
- 5 hakea jotakin _____
- 6 perustaa ja johtaa omaa yritystäni _____
- 7 ihmiset voittavat tietokoneet _____
- 8 rahankäytön kurssi _____
- 9 jätetty täysin sattuman varaan _____
- 10 valmistautunut tähän _____

1F Replace the underlined parts with phrases and expressions from exercise 1E. The phrases may need to change a little.

Axel Rey was 1 satisfied with the curriculum, the teachers and the school in general. He chose the subjects he studied 2 quite randomly though, since he didn't really care what he had to study. 3 Rather than concentrating on academic subjects, Axel wanted to work on engines. He loved cars, engines, and anything to do with oil, grease and speed. He struggled with accountancy, which he needed if he was ever going 4 to begin working for himself. But when it came to technical subjects, he 5 did better than all his classmates put together. By the time he turned 15, Axel was taking care of all the teachers' cars. "Working on these cars helps me to 6 get ready for the future," he said. Today, Axel is a wealthy man, driving a Lamborghini. But he still services his accountancy teacher's car for free. "She taught me how to run a business, and how to balance my books. She helped me, now I help her," he said.

1G Choose the correct preposition. All the prepositions appear in text 1.

Who was she?

At school, she was relatively popular, but as far as her schoolwork was concerned, her teachers were not pleased **1** at / with / to her. "She is not exactly enthusiastic **2** about / - / over doing her homework," one teacher observed, "and we are disappointed **3** of / - / with her low grades." She dropped out of school after failing almost all her exams at the age of 16, and attended an expensive finishing school in Switzerland for a while. She was good **4** at / for / of singing and interested **5** of / - / in dancing. She wanted to become a ballerina, but instead she started working as a part-time assistant at a nursery school. Even though she had no formal training or qualifications, her colleagues were amazed **6** at / - / of how good she was with children, and she was proud **7** in / of / about her job. One day she met a prince, and her days of working for a salary were over. She got married **8** to / - / with him when she was just 19 years old. She soon became known **9** as / for / to her beautiful clothes and her philanthropic work. Unfortunately, she did not live happily ever after. She was not prepared **10** to / - / for the demands of a life in the public eye. Despite appearances, being a princess is obviously no picnic.



Kensington Palace, London.

Topic 1 Key text

1H Text 1 includes several idiomatic expressions. Here are some examples. Match the idiom with the explanation.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 play the hand you are dealt _____ | A to accept a certain loss |
| 2 hit-and-miss _____ | B put money aside in case it's needed |
| 3 kiss something goodbye _____ | C a place where something develops easily |
| 4 the nitty-gritty _____ | D unpredictable |
| 5 a hotbed of something _____ | E work with what you have |
| 6 save for a rainy day _____ | F the essential details |

Replace the underlined part of the sentences below with the appropriate idiom above. You might need to change some of the sentences. Then translate the sentences into Finnish.

- 1 Since my school did not offer a course on entrepreneurship, I had to learn the basics of starting and running my own business on the job.
- 2 A modern school, with its concentration of young minds, should be an environment that favours creativity.
- 3 If you win the lottery, don't spend it all at once, but save some money for a time when it might be needed unexpectedly.
- 4 At first, running my own business was an erratic affair – I never knew if I'd have enough money to pay the rent.
- 5 I know you feel dissatisfied with your life at the moment, but we all have to do the best we can with what we've got.
- 6 Unfortunately, my team lost the game and we had to forget about our chances of winning the cup.

1I Translate the sentences into English.

- 1 Olen aina ollut melko tyytyväinen opiskelutapoihini.
- 2 Sen sijaan että olisin keskittynyt sääntöihin, halusin kehittää luovuuttani.
- 3 Mihin aiot hakea lukion jälkeen?
- 4 Olisipa meillä kurssi rahankäytöstä!
- 5 Miten koulu valmentaa meitä tulevaisuutta varten?

Topic 1 Key text

- 1J** In pairs, decide which one of you is A and B. Cover the other half. Take turns translating the sentences into English.



	A	B
1	Voisinpa perustaa oman yrityksen!	I wish I could start (up) my own business!
2	Do you know anything about managing money?	Tiedätkö mitään raha-asioiden hoidosta?
3	Tiedän jotain rahan sijoittamisesta, mutta olen myös tehnyt virheitä.	I know a little/something about investing money, but I've made plenty of mistakes too.
4	We offer a course on accountancy/accounting. Would you like to apply?	Tarjoamme kirjanpitokurssin. Haluaisitko hakea (sille)?
5	En tiedä, valmistaako se minua unelmani toteuttamiseen.	I don't know if it prepares me for my dream.
6	The importance of creativity can't be overstated/emphasized enough.	Luovuuden merkitystä ei voi korostaa liikaa.

a limerick about a student

There once was a student named Bessor
Whose knowledge grew lesser and lesser.
It at last was so small
He knew nothing at all
And today he's a college professor.

Our amazing brain

The human brain is amazing. It works 24/7 from the moment we are born and it only stops when we take tests.



Topic 1 Key text



1K A panel of experts have made the following suggestions regarding a new upper secondary school curriculum. In pairs or in small groups, discuss what you think about these suggestions.



Possible questions:

- Why do you think the experts are suggesting some of these changes?
- Give reasons why you agree or disagree with the experts' proposals.

- 1 All students are to attend drama classes, since participating in drama helps students learn to express themselves in different ways.
- 2 Reading periods are to be introduced on a weekly basis. During the reading hours, students will concentrate on reading for pleasure only.
- 3 Business studies are to be made compulsory for everybody.
- 4 All students should do a minimum of two weeks voluntary work during every school year.
- 5 The number of music lessons is to be increased. Every student has to learn how to play at least one instrument.
- 6 Visiting museums at least once a term will be compulsory for all students.
- 7 Peer mentors are to be introduced in all schools. They are to assist their peers with homework and with organising school events.
- 8 An annual minimum of 14 days working practice will be a compulsory part of the curriculum.

Add two suggestions of your own.

peer mentor tukioppilas, tuutori

Topic 1 Key text

- 1L** Listen to the following radio programme where a reporter in Edinburgh discovers what people think about school. While listening, write down the main point each speaker makes.



What are schools for?

- 1 Liam
- 2 Kaj
- 3 Brody
- 4 Louise
- 5 Mother
- 6 Father
- 7 Student counsellor
- 8 Academic

jobs for teachers

- 1M** Choose task A, B or C. Write about 150–250 words.



- A My first day at school.
Write about your very first school day, or about your first day in upper secondary school. Did it meet your expectations? In what ways? What were your feelings and thoughts?
- B Choose one or two of the proposals in exercise 1L and write a speech where you give reasons why this/these proposal(s) should be accepted. Your audience is the local Board of Education (koulutuslautakunta).
- C Something is happening at your school that really disturbs you. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper or magazine (either online or traditional) where you explain what the problem is, and what you think should be done about it.

