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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/10/15

First New Grammar School to Open in England in 50 Years

Recently in the UK the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan announced the approval of the first new grammar school in England in 50 years. It is a breakthrough decision, as under socialism grammar schools were banned.

The new grammar school in Sevenoaks, Kent is officially an annex of the Weald of Kent Grammar School for girls that is based in Tonbridge, Kent 10 miles (16km) away. The new all girls grammar school will offer a mixed sixth form.

The legal precedent that has now been set is likely to open the floodgate to many other existing grammar schools. Demand from parents is likely to be sky high for places at the new grammar school. Property prices will increase!

The National Union of Teachers' general secretary, Christine Blower said the move was a step backwards for education. Many trendy left-wing teachers in schools today are still against them. Many parents however would say the exact opposite. It is a hot topic of debate.

In the mid-1970s, the socialists (Labour Party) forced the closure of thousands of grammar schools. Virtually every town once had its own grammar school or technical school, as well as secondary modern schools. The socialists created the comprehensive school for all abilities. In 1998, the socialists, under Tony Blair introduced a law forbidding new taxpayer-funded grammar schools.

London mayor Boris Johnson has described the decline of grammar schools a tragedy. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron is a fan of the new academy schools. Lastly, it will be very interesting to hear what the students think of this topic and whether the indoctrination of the current generation by the socialists has worked!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three different types of secondary school. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the county.
- 2) What town will the new grammar school annex be in?
- 3) Who is Christine Blower?
- 4) What did Christine Blower say?
- 5) What does Boris Johnson think?

Student B questions

- 1) What is a grammar school?
- 2) Who are socialists?
- 3) What happened in 1998?
- 4) Who is a fan of new academy schools?
- 5) What does 'legal precedent' mean?

Category: Education / Schools / Grammar Schools
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about '**Schools**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Write down below three types of schools in your country. Compare your findings with the UK education system. Discuss together!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

GAME – THE A-Z OF SCHOOL!

In class – Form a circle.

I went to school and I learnt about...

Repeat what has already been said then create a word using the next letter of the alphabet. Forget a word and you are eliminated. Who can get to Z from A? *10 mins.*

The teacher will monitor the game.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Are students in secondary modern schools today brainwashed by left-wing socialist ideology?
- 3) Were the socialists right to ban grammar schools in England? Explain.
- 4) Would you like a grammar school in your town? Explain.
- 5) How would you describe your school?
- 6) Is this topic of grammar schools a hot topic of debate? Explain!
- 7) Is Christine Blower right when she says the move to open a grammar school in England is a step backwards?
- 8) Why do socialists like to hold back bright students? Explain. Is it right?
- 9) What do you think of Boris Johnson's comment?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio. Today's interview is: *First new grammar school to open in England in 50 years.*

- 1) Boris Johnson.
- 2) David Cameron.
- 3) Tony Blair.
- 4) A left wing young trendy socialist teacher.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs/threes - *Student A* is a news reporter. *Student B* is a student. *Student A* interviews *Students B* and *C* about the new grammar school annex in Tonbridge, Kent. *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 5-10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

First new grammar school to open in England in 50 years

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you have grammar schools in your country/state/county? Explain.
- 3) Are you a fan of grammar schools? Explain.
- 4) Are academy schools a good idea?
- 5) Do you think the floodgates will open and more parents will demand the return of grammar schools?
- 6) Should Head Teachers be worried by the possibility of grammar schools returning to their area? Why?
- 7) Are parents right to demand the return of grammar schools?
- 8) Do you have trendy left-wing teachers in your school, or are they quite conservative?
- 9) What is the future for grammar schools in today's world?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

First New Grammar School to Open in England in 50 Years

Recently in the UK the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan announced the (1)___ of the first new grammar school in England in 50 years. It is a breakthrough (2)___, as under (3)___ grammar schools were banned.

The new grammar school in Sevenoaks, Kent is officially an (4)___ of the Weald of Kent Grammar School for girls that is based in Tonbridge, Kent 10 miles (16km) away. The new all girls grammar school will offer a mixed sixth form.

The legal (5)___ that has now been set is likely to open the (6)___ to many other existing grammar schools. (7)___ from parents is likely to be (8)___ for places at the new grammar school. Property prices will increase!

precedent / annex / demand / sky high / approval / floodgate / socialism / decision

The National Union of Teachers' general secretary, Christine Blower said the move was a step (1)___ for education. Many trendy left-wing teachers in schools today are still against them. Many parents however would say the exact (2)___ . It is a hot topic of (3)___ .

In the mid-1970s, the socialists (Labour Party) forced the closure of thousands of grammar schools. (4)___ every town once had its own grammar school or technical school, as well as secondary modern schools. The socialists created the comprehensive school for all abilities. In 1998, the socialists, under Tony Blair introduced a law forbidding new taxpayer-funded grammar schools.

London (6)___ Boris Johnson has described the decline of grammar schools a tragedy. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron is a (7)___ of the new academy schools. (8)___, it will be very interesting to hear what the students think of this topic and whether the indoctrination of the current generation by the socialists has worked!

mayor / virtually / debate / fan / lastly / backwards / opposite / xxx

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

First New Grammar School to Open in England in 50 Years

Recently (1)___ the UK the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan announced the approval (2)___ the first new grammar school in England in 50 years. (3)___ is a breakthrough decision, (4)___ under socialism grammar schools were banned.

The new grammar school in Sevenoaks, Kent is officially (5)___ annex of the Weald of Kent Grammar School (6)___ girls that is based in Tonbridge, Kent 10 miles (16km) away. (7)___ new all girls grammar school will offer a mixed sixth form.

The legal precedent that has now been set is likely to open the floodgate to many other existing grammar schools. Demand from parents is likely to be sky high for places (8)___ the new grammar school. Property prices will increase!

of / at / an / for / the / it / in / as

The National Union of Teachers' general secretary, Christine Blower said the move was a step backwards for education. (1)___ trendy left-wing teachers in schools today are (2)___ against them. Many parents (3)___ (4)___ say the exact opposite. It is a hot topic of debate.

In the mid-1970s, the socialists (Labour Party) forced the closure of thousands of grammar schools. Virtually (5)___ town once had its own grammar school or technical school, (6)___ secondary modern schools. The socialists created the comprehensive school for all abilities. In 1998, the socialists, under Tony Blair introduced a law forbidding new taxpayer-funded grammar schools.

London mayor Boris Johnson has described the decline of grammar schools a tragedy. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron is a fan of the new academy schools. Lastly, it will be very interesting to hear (7)___ the students think of this topic and (8)___ the indoctrination of the current generation by the socialists has worked!

as well as / still / however / what / whether / every / many / would /

First New Grammar School to Open in England in... – 20th October 2015



GAP FILL: LISTENING

First New Grammar School to Open in England in 50 Years

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The new grammar school in Sevenoaks, Kent is _____ of the Weald of Kent Grammar School for girls that is based in Tonbridge, Kent 10 miles (16km) away. The new all girls _____ offer a mixed sixth form.

The legal precedent that has now been set is likely to open the _____ other existing grammar schools. Demand from parents is likely to be sky high for places at the new grammar school. Property prices will increase!

The _____ general secretary, Christine Blower said the move was a step backwards for education. Many trendy left-wing teachers in schools today are still against them. Many parents however would say the exact opposite. It is a _____.

In the mid-1970s, the socialists (Labour Party) forced the closure of thousands of _____. Virtually every town once had its own grammar school or technical school, as well as _____ schools. The socialists created the comprehensive school for all abilities. In 1998, the socialists, under Tony Blair introduced a law forbidding new taxpayer-funded grammar schools.

London mayor Boris Johnson has described the decline of grammar schools a tragedy. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron is a fan of the _____. Lastly, it will be very interesting to hear what the students think of this topic and whether the _____ current generation by the socialists has worked!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list 10 positive things about grammar schools. Now think of 10 negative things about them. Talk about each point. *One-two minutes.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Grammar schools _____
- 2) Academy schools _____
- 3) I think _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *First New Grammar School to open in England in 50 years.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***First New Grammar School to open in England in 50 years.*** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) grammar
- 2) demand
- 3) annex
- 4) education
- 5) secretary
- 6) breakthrough
- 7) socialism
- 8) decision
- 9) precedent
- 10) floodgate

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) property
- 12) debate
- 13) backwards
- 14) still
- 15) virtually
- 16) failures
- 17) tragedy
- 18) whether
- 19) indoctrination
- 20) latter

First New Grammar School to Open in England in... – *20th October 2015*