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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/03/13

The top universities in the world

There are many fine universities in the world today to study at. Each has its own history and reputation. In this lesson we will be looking at the top ten universities across the world in 2013. We will also be comparing the 2012/2013 rankings that were published recently. The results prove a good debating topic.

To begin with let's look at the top ten university rankings in the world today (2013). Coming in at number one is the California Institute of Technology. Joint second goes to Stanford University in the USA and Oxford University in the UK. Number four is Harvard University followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). At number six is Princeton University and at number seven is the University of Cambridge in the UK. Imperial College London is at number eight followed by the University of California, Berkeley. Coming in at number ten is the University of Chicago.

Now we will look at the top ten universities in 2013 *by reputation*.

Coming in at number one is Harvard University. This is followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Number three is the University of Cambridge (UK) followed by the University of Oxford (UK). At number five is the University of California, Berkeley. Stanford University is next followed by Princeton University. Number eight is the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) followed by the University of Tokyo. Coming in at number ten is Yale University.

Both lists indicate the USA having the largest share of top universities in the world followed by the UK.

Source: Times Higher Education 2013

SPEAKING

Think of three good universities. Go round the room comparing 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) Which university is number one in the world rankings in 2013?
- 2) Which university is number one in the world rankings by reputation?
- 3) What position does Oxford University hold in both surveys?
- 4) Each university has its own what?
- 5) At what position is Yale University?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the source.
- 2) What year are the rankings for?
- 3) Name the UK universities.
- 4) Name three American universities.
- 5) Name the Japanese university.

Category: Education / Universities / Study
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

The top universities in the world – 10th March 2013

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

The top ten universities in the world - *In pairs* choose three universities from the article. Write them below.

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

Add three universities of your own then discuss together.

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

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. Think of three good universities in the world you like. Write them down. Then add three reasons why you like them. Compare with your partner's list. Discuss together.

The teacher will choose some students to discuss their findings to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do we really need a university ranking system in this day and age?
- 3) Which is the best university in the Americas? Why?
- 4) Which university did you go to? Why?
- 5) Which is your favourite university?
- 6) Which is the best university in your country? Why?
- 7) Which is the best international university? Why?
- 8) Would you consider studying at a university abroad? Why?
- 9) Is it important to have a good university degree in your country to get a good job?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are students from different universities from around the world. You are in the *BBC Oxford TV studio*. Today's interview is about: *The top ten universities in the world*.

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

SPEAKING

In pairs/small groups – Discuss the following...

What makes a good university? 5 mins

SPEAKING - GAME

Form a circle –

I went to university and I studied...

Chose a subject. Go round the circle in a clockwise direction. Repeat what has been said then add a subject. Forget one and you are eliminated!

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...
When I was at university...

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What makes a good university?
- 3) What made you choose your university?
- 4) What about the universities that didn't make the top ten?
- 5) How important is getting a degree these days?
- 6) Which university would you recommend?
- 7) Which university course did you study? Did it help you get a job?
- 8) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 9) Does 'cost' affect the university you choose?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

The top universities in the world

There are many (1)___ universities in the world today to (2)___ at. Each has its own history and (3)___. In this lesson we will be looking at the top ten universities across the world in 2013. We will also be comparing the 2012/2013 (4)___ that were published recently. The results prove a good debating (5)___.

To begin with let's look at the top ten university rankings in the world today (2013). Coming in at number one is the California Institute of Technology. (6)___ second goes to Stanford University in the USA and Oxford University in the UK. Number four is Harvard University followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). At number six is Princeton University and at number seven is the University of Cambridge in the UK. Imperial (7)___ London is at number eight followed by the University of California, Berkeley. Coming in at number ten is the (8)___ of Chicago.

joint / reputation / topic / study / university / college / fine / rankings /

(1)___ we will look at the top ten (2)___ in 2013 by (3)___.

Coming in at number one is Harvard University. This is followed by the Massachusetts Institute of (4)___ (MIT). Number three is the University of Cambridge (UK) followed by the University of Oxford (UK). At number five is the University of California, Berkeley. Stanford University is (5)___ followed by Princeton University. Number eight is the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) followed by the University of Tokyo. Coming in at number ten is Yale University.

(6)___ lists indicate the USA having the largest (7)___ of top universities in the (8)___ followed by the UK.

share / reputation / both / Technology / world / universities / next / now

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The top universities in the world

(1)___ are (2)___ fine universities in the world today to study at. (3)___ has (4)___ own history and reputation. In (5)___ lesson we will be looking at the top ten universities across the world in 2013. We will also be comparing the 2012/2013 rankings (6)___ were published recently. The results prove a good debating topic.

To begin (7)___ let's look at the top ten university rankings in the world today (2013). Coming in at number one is the California Institute of Technology. Joint second goes to Stanford University in the USA and Oxford University in the UK. Number four is Harvard University followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). At number six is Princeton University (8)___ at number seven is the University of Cambridge in the UK. Imperial College London is at number eight followed by the University of California, Berkeley. Coming in at number ten is the University of Chicago.

with / each / that / there / this / many / its / and

Now (1)___ will look at the top ten universities in 2013 *by reputation*.

Coming in (2)___ number one is Harvard University. (3)___ is followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Number three is the University of Cambridge (UK) followed (4)___ the University of Oxford (UK). At number five is the University of California, Berkeley. Stanford University is next followed by Princeton University. Number eight is (5)___ University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) followed by the University (6)___ Tokyo. Coming (7)___ at number ten is Yale University.

Both lists indicate the USA having the largest share of top universities in the world followed (8)___ the UK.

in / at / of / by / the / we / this / by

GAP FILL: LISTENING

The top universities in the world

There are many _____ the world today to study at. Each has its own _____. In this lesson we will be looking at the top ten universities across the world in 2013. We will also be comparing the 2012/2013 rankings that were published recently. The results prove a _____.

To begin with let's look at the top ten university rankings in the world today (2013). Coming in at number one is the California Institute of Technology. _____ Stanford University in the USA and Oxford University in the UK. Number four is Harvard University followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). At number six is Princeton University and at number seven is the University of Cambridge in the UK. Imperial College London is at number eight followed by the University of California, Berkeley. _____ ten is the University of Chicago.

_____ the top ten universities in 2013 by reputation.

Coming in at number one is Harvard University. This is followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Number three is the _____ (UK) followed by the University of Oxford (UK). At number five is the University of California, Berkeley. Stanford University is next followed by Princeton University. Number eight is the _____, Los Angeles (UCLA) followed by the University of Tokyo. Coming in at number ten is Yale University.

_____ the USA having the largest share of top universities in the world _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, choose two **universities – one in your country – one abroad**. Then add five things you know about each of them. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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

- 1) The best university _____
- 2) In my country _____
- 3) I went to _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **My top ten universities**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) Fine
- 2) Study
- 3) Reputation
- 4) Rankings
- 5) Topic
- 6) Joint
- 7) College
- 8) university

ANSWERS

- 1) now
- 2) universities
- 3) reputation
- 4) technology
- 5) next
- 6) both
- 7) share
- 8) world

SPELLING

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

- 1) next
- 2) institute
- 3) many
- 4) study
- 5) each
- 6) history
- 7) world
- 8) lesson
- 9) across
- 10) prove

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) reputation
- 12) rankings
- 13) recently
- 14) topic
- 15) universities
- 16) technology
- 17) joint
- 18) Massachusetts
- 19) Cambridge
- 20) begin

The top universities in the world – *10th March 2013*