

13.3

No more school!

LEVEL

Upper-intermediate

TOPIC

Home schooling

ACTIVITY TYPE

Answering questions

LISTENING

FOCUS

Predicting, listening for details, inferring meaning

TIME

40 minutes

(main activity 20 mins)

KEY LANGUAGE

ambitious, caring, controlling, deprived, disadvantaged, discipline, expect, fortunate, hard-working, impressed, lonely, mature, protective, qualified, relief, responsible, rough, selfish, supposed to, uncontrolled;

Present tenses, past tenses, adjectives

PREPARATION

One photocopy for each student

CD [2] tracks 17–18

Warm up

- Write *Home schooling* on the board and ask students if they can guess what it is. Accept any answer along the lines of 'children being taught at home by their parents'. Put students into groups and tell them to think of reasons why parents would choose to educate their children at home (poor local schools, religious reasons, their child has special needs, etc.). List their ideas on the board.
- Divide the class into two halves. Tell one half, working in pairs or small groups, to list all the advantages of home schooling they can think of, and the other half to list all the disadvantages. When students are ready, tell them to write their ideas on the board.
- Check the Key language. Dictate any words you think your students may not know, repeating each word twice as students write them down. When you finish, tell students to compare their spelling. Then choose one student to write their list on the board. Encourage other students to call out any corrections necessary. Give students a few moments to look up any new words in their dictionary.

Main activity

- Tell students they are going to listen to two parents talk about their decision to educate their child, Simon, at home. They should listen to see if they hear any of their ideas from the first part of the Warm up section. Briefly review their ideas on the board, then play Part 1 of the recording. Afterwards, check which of their ideas, if any, were mentioned.
- Now explain that they will hear Simon give his opinion of home schooling. Ask students to raise their hands if they think Simon likes being educated at home. Then explain that they must listen to see if they hear any of their ideas from the second part of the Warm up section. Briefly review their ideas on the board, then play Part 2 of the recording. Afterwards, check which of their ideas, if any, were mentioned.
- Give each student a copy of the photocopiable sheet. Put them into pairs and encourage them to complete any answers they can before they listen again. Then tell students they are going to listen once more and that they must find any remaining answers. Play the whole recording, then tell students to compare their answers.

Answer key

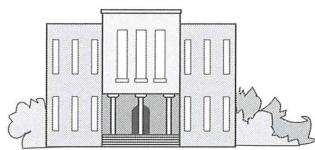
- 1 St James' – class size too large (42), Nuffield College – poorly trained teachers, Halliwell Community College – no discipline
- 2 The Home Education Advisory Service
- 3 He is more confident, mature and responsible.
- 4 doesn't have to travel to school, no uniform, better food for lunch, enjoys studying more, grades are better, closer to his parents (especially mum)
- 5 a F b F c F
- 6 Simon's parents are: ambitious, caring, protective.
Simon is trusting, fortunate, hard working.

Follow up

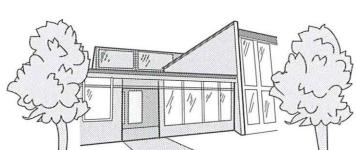
Put students into groups and tell them to discuss if they would like to teach their children at home, like Simon's parents do. Then take a show of hands to see who would and who wouldn't want to home school their children. Encourage an open class debate.

1 What didn't Simon's parents like about the local schools?

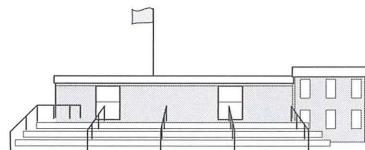
St James



Nuffield College



Halliwell Community College



2 Which organisation helped Simon's parents establish their home schooling programme?

.....

3 In what ways do Simon's parents say his character has changed?

a b c

4 Find six advantages of home schooling Simon mentions.

.....
.....
.....
.....

5 Answer true (T) or false (F) for the following statements.

- a Simon was happy when his parents told him they were going to educate him at home.
- b Other children envy Simon when he says he doesn't go to school.
- c Simon's parents are very religious.

6 Tick (✓) which of these adjectives you think can be inferred from the passage.

Simon's parents are ...

controlling ambitious caring protective selfish

Simon is ...

trusting disadvantaged lonely fortunate hard-working