

Topic: Education in the USA

Objectives: To learn specific terminology, understand the structure of US education, and compare it with the Ukrainian system.

1. Vocabulary Warm-up (The Basics)

Перш ніж заглиблюватися в деталі, розберемо основні терміни, які часто плутають:

- **K-12:** The entire span of primary and secondary education (Kindergarten to 12th grade).
- **GPA (Grade Point Average):** The average of all your grades (usually on a 4.0 scale).
- **Curriculum:** The subjects comprising a course of study.
- **Extracurricular activities:** Clubs, sports, and hobbies done outside of normal school hours.
- **SAT / ACT:** Standardized tests required for college admission.

2. The Structure of the US Education System

Американська система децентралізована, але загалом вона виглядає так:

Level	Grades	Ages
Elementary School	Kindergarten – 5th Grade	5 – 10
Middle School	6th – 8th Grade	11 – 13
High School	9th – 12th Grade	14 – 18
Higher Education	College / University	18+

3. Key Features of American High Schools

Що робить американську школу особливою? Ось кілька пунктів для обговорення (Discussion Points):

- **Elective Classes:** На відміну від українських шкіл, де розклад зазвичай фіксований, американські учні самі обирають частину предметів (наприклад, драма, графічний дизайн або автосправа).

- **School Spirit:** Велика увага приділяється спортивним командам (the *Trojans*, the *Tigers*), шкільним талісманам (mascots) та подіям як **Prom** (випускний бал) або **Homecoming**.
- **The Credit System:** Щоб отримати диплом, потрібно набрати певну кількість "кредитів" за кожен пройдений предмет.

4. Practice Task: Reading & Critical Thinking

Task: Read the following short text and answer the question.

"In the US, there is no single national curriculum. Each state, and even local school boards, decides what students learn. This allows schools to adapt to the needs of their community, but it also means that a student in New York might have a very different education than one in Texas."

Question: What are the pros and cons of having no national curriculum? (Use: *In my opinion, On the one hand, However...*) **Education in the USA**

5. Home Assignment

Option A: Write a short essay (120-150 words) comparing your school life to what you see in American movies. Is the "movie version" realistic?

Option B: Research one "Ivy League" university (e.g., Harvard, Yale, Princeton) and prepare 3 interesting facts about it.