

國立教育廣播電台 英語奇育記 教育單元中英對照參考

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- 教育單元中文摘要：

今天的小單元將介紹比利時的**教育制度**，這集不僅會介紹他們的學制，還會特別聊到他們對於當地學區上的差異，除此之外，比利時**教育**的特色也與台灣有著極大的差異呢，千萬不要錯過這集精彩的介紹喔！

- 教育單元英文摘錄：

Howard: Hey May, I was reading about European education systems, and Belgium's seems pretty unique. 我最近看了很多文章 都特別說到比利時的教育體制很特殊 Can you explain how it works?

May: Of course! Belgium's education system is quite special because it reflects the country's linguistic and cultural diversity. As you know, Belgium has three official languages—Dutch, French, and German—and each linguistic community has its own education system. So, in a way, it's like Belgium has three parallel school systems operating independently.

因為比利時有三個語區，分別是荷語、法語跟德語，所以這三個語區也會有各自的教育系統喔

Howard: 哇，這樣聽起來好像很複雜。那麼，這三個教育系統有什麼不同嗎？

May: Yes and no. The general structure is similar across the three systems, but the curriculum, teaching methods, and even school culture can vary. 他們的教育結構是相似的，但是課程內容、教學方式甚至學校文化就會不一樣喔

The **Flemish Community** (Dutch-speaking) runs its own schools, the **French Community** (French-speaking) does the same, and the **German-speaking Community** (which is the smallest) also has its own system. Each community is responsible for policies, teacher recruitment, and curriculum design. 政策、教師的選拔以及課程都是各個語區可以自由決定的

Howard: So the federal government doesn't control education at all?

May: Almost. Education is one of the most decentralized sectors in Belgium. The federal government mainly oversees funding and ensures that basic national laws, like compulsory education, are followed. But decisions about curriculum, school management, and language policies are entirely in the hands of the respective communities.

聯邦政府只會確保全國的法律，像是義務教育的年限喔

Howard: I see. Speaking of compulsory education, at what age do Belgian students start school, and when can they leave?

May: Education is **compulsory from age 5 to 18**, but most children start much earlier. **Preschool** is available from **2.5 years old**, and it's very common for kids to attend. Primary education lasts for **six years**, followed by **six years of secondary education**.

Howard: So students finish high school around 18, just like in many other countries. What options do they have after that?

May: There are several paths after secondary school. Students can go to **universities**, **higher education colleges**, or follow **vocational training** programs. The university system is well-regarded, with famous institutions like **KU Leuven** (Dutch-speaking), **UCLouvain** (French-speaking). The German-speaking community doesn't have its own universities, so students often study in other regions or even in Germany.

比較特別的是，德國語區並沒有大學，所以當地的學生會前往其他語區或甚至去德國讀大學喔

Howard: 那職業教育呢？是不是所有學生都走大學這條路？

May: No, Belgium has a strong **vocational education** system. In secondary school, students can choose between these main tracks: **Including General education** which is academic-focused, for students aiming for university. And it also have **Technical education** (– a mix of theory and practical skills, often leading to higher education. By the way, Vocational students often do **internships** or **apprenticeships**, so they

gain real work experience before graduating.學生在就職前都會先去實習，讓自己可以更能適應職場環境喔

Howard: That's a really flexible system!

May: Sure, But I've heard Belgium has some educational inequalities. Is that true?

H: Unfortunately, yes. One major issue is **socio-economic inequality**. Studies show that students from **wealthier families** tend to do better because they can afford private tutoring or attend better-funded schools, while students from **lower-income backgrounds**, including many immigrant families, often struggle.也就是說，家庭的經濟狀況跟學生的學業成就是有親密關係的

M: What causes this gap? Is it just about money?

H: It's partly financial, but also **linguistic and cultural factors**.舉例來說，在布魯塞爾等城市，許多學生來自移民家庭，他們的母語並非法語或荷蘭語。這種語言障礙可能會影響他們的學業表現。此外，在某些學生群體中，特別是技職教育領域，輟學率較高。

M: 哦，原來如此。所以比利時政府有做什麼來解決這個問題嗎？

H: Yes, but progress is slow. The government has introduced **early intervention programs**, **extra language support**, and **funding for underprivileged schools**. But the issue remains complex. Some people argue that Belgium's **school choice system** actually increases inequality because wealthier families can send their kids to top schools while poorer families get fewer options.雖然政府有嘗試介入以幫助弱勢家庭，但比利時原本的教育系統仍會讓貧富差距而導致學業成就的差異

M: That reminds me—how does school choice work in Belgium? Can parents send their children to any school they want?

H: Yes! Belgium has a strong tradition of **school freedom**. Parents can choose between **public schools**, **private schools**, and **religious schools**—and most are funded by the government. Interestingly, a lot of

students attend **Catholic schools**, even if they're not religious, because these schools are well-funded and have a good reputation.

有趣的是，很多學生會選擇就讀天主教學校即便他們並非天主教徒，因為該學校通常補助較多且校風也很好喔

M: So private schools are affordable?

H: Exactly! Unlike in many countries where private schools are expensive, in Belgium, most private schools (especially Catholic ones) receive **government subsidies**,也就是政府補助 so they are accessible to most families.

M: That's really different from other places. What about languages? Do students have to learn multiple languages?

H: Yes! Belgium places a strong emphasis on **multilingual education**. 在佛蘭德這樣的荷語區，學生必須學習法語作為第二語言；在法語區，學生則學習荷蘭語。此外，英語也被廣泛使用。在官方雙語的布魯塞爾，許多學校同時提供法語和荷蘭語的教學。

M: That must give Belgian students a great advantage internationally. How does Belgium rank in terms of education quality?

H: Belgium performs well in **international assessments like PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment)**, especially in **math and science**. However, there's a large gap between top-performing and struggling students, which is a concern.

M: It sounds like Belgium has a strong but complex education system, with both strengths and weaknesses. Anything else unique about it?

H: One interesting feature is that **students in secondary school don't move on to the next year automatically**. If they fail too many subjects, they might have to **repeat the year**, which is quite common.

M: 哇，這對學生來說應該是很大的壓力吧？

H: 是啊！這種制度讓學生更努力，但也會導致部分學生失去學習動力，甚至提前輟學。

M: Thanks for the deep dive! Belgium's education system is way more intricate than I expected.

H: No problem! It's a fascinating system that reflects the country's history, diversity, and linguistic divisions.

- 資料來源：

比利時教育制度介紹