

Live Lesson Notes

Coeducation

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What you will learn:

Useful links

Essential vocabulary

Advantages of Mixed schools / Single-sex schools

Disadvantages of Mixed schools / Single-sex schools

Idioms

Some useful Links

[Watch this video where kids give their opinions about single-sex and coeducational schools](#)

Single-sex or coeducational schools? Which is better?

<https://theconversation.com/single-sex-vs-coeducational-schools-how-parents-can-decide-the-best-option-for-their-child-55758#>

Arguments for and against coeducation

<https://www.ourkids.net/school/together-or-apart>

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<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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Introduction

In this free IELTS Speaking lesson on the topic of COEDUCATION, you will learn how to talk about the impacts of gender on education and education systems

[Watch the complete video about this topic of coeducation](#)

Essential Vocabulary

*It is essential to build your vocabulary and also to start **activating** it.*

*That means you should try **making some phrases** with the vocabulary below.*

*Remember to always learn the **collocations** of new words.*

Coeducation (n.)

= education system where boys and girls are taught together

Coeducational (adj.) schools

A coed (adj.) school

A coed (n.) = a female at a coed college/university

Mixed (gender) schools

Single-sex schools (e.g. only boys school)

Separate schools (e.g. only girls school)

All boys school or all girls school

Pros = benefits = upsides = **advantages** = good points

The pros of children being educated in a mix gender environment

Equal opportunities (single-sex schools tend to be private and so more elitist and maybe only **available to** the rich)

They can learn essential **socialising skills**

Learn how to **interact with** each other

It reflects real life

It **prepares** them **for** real life

It gives them **a readiness for** real society

They can learn **collaboration** or **competition with** the other sex

The pros of children being educated in a single-sex school

Sometimes single-sex schools get better academic results

But there is little evidence to **back this up** (=to support it)

Girls can be more expressive and **speak up on** topics they may not discuss if boys are around

Girls can be more **participative**, especially **in** science classes.

Students can be more **focussed on** their studies

Teenage students can concentrate better - especially **in times of** puberty

There may be fewer **discipline problems**

Boys are not **bound by** (=limited by) stereotypes - they can **excel in** (=very good at) music and art if they want

The cons of children being educated in a coeducational school

Classrooms can be full of distractions

Teachers may have low **expectations of** girls' performance due to **cognitive bias** (=subconscious and subjective idea that influences your decisions)

Girls may find their views are not respected or listened to

The cons of children being educated in a single-sex school

Kids don't understand the other sex - or **have misunderstandings about** them.

They have less exposure to the **opposite sex**, and so may **lack confidence**.

These schools encourage the stereotypes that girls and boys are different and need to be treated differently -

Promotes **gender stereotyping - gender bias**

A **stereotype** = a generalisation e.g. all boys like blue (not pink)

Classes can be boring and **tedious**

The **bigger picture** may be that quality education doesn't depend on gender...it is more about the quality of the teachers, and teaching

and the **home setting** counts a lot too

Idioms

I need to **put my thinking cap on** (= to think about something)

I've been **racking my brains** about this problem (=thinking hard)

That teacher was great, he didn't **spoon-feed** us, he made us think!

I am going to **hit the books** (=study)

I managed **to sail through** this test, it was so easy. (=to *pass* smoothly)

To sit a test = to take a test (as a student)

To pass = to succeed

I **passed** my test **with flying colours**

Students' Questions about Education

Keith, what do you think is the future of co-education?

As I said earlier, I have been **mulling this over** (*=thinking a lot about it*) quite a lot recently, I think, coeducation is going to be **the dominant form of education** in the future.

I think without a doubt, most parents prefer their children to go through a co-educational school system.

There are **clear benefits**, I think it's **a reflection of real life**. Students can learn to interact and socialise in real life, **essential interpersonal skills** that they need with the opposite gender,

and I think also the quality of teaching doesn't really **depend on the gender**; it depends on the teacher, that's one of the primary factors.

So, although, yeah, I think the coeducation will be the future, but that's said, it is clear that there are **a growing number of** private schools, in the private sector in many many countries,

because parents are unhappy with the state education system and a number of these private schools do choose **the single-sex model** and so I think they will continue to exist, but not as many as in coeducation.

Keith, in your opinion, what is the best education, single sex or co-ed?

Well, I think coeducation has a lot of benefits, clearly!

Students learn to interact with other students **of different gender**, so they build up their socialising skills, they **build up their confidence** and it's a reflection of the real working world they are going to live in, in the future .

That said, there is some research that says single-sex schools get better academic results but the research is not solid and some people argue, there is **not enough research to back that up**.

I think there are some benefits to the single-sex schools. It allows the girls, for example, to **participate in** all different subjects **without any biased against them**.

It allows girls, or boys, to **talk freely** about subjects that otherwise, they may not talk about **in front of the other sex**.

So, it can build up their confidence and help them really **focus on their academic results** because there are **no distractions** there. So, it's a very good question.

All in all, I think that both of them are good systems, but in a way I think this question **misses the point**.

I think that what makes education better is not the gender, what makes an education system or school better is the quality of the teaching, and how values and skills, and confidence are built within the coeducation schools.

That is my opinion.