

## Unit 6 – What's the Big Idea?

### VOCABULARY

#### Education

degree  
home schooling  
postgraduate  
preschool  
primary  
secondary  
tertiary  
results  
syllabus  
timetable  
undergraduate  
coed  
state school  
tuition  
grant  
year off  
career  
skills  
knowledge  
rote learning

to sit an exam  
to pass  
to fail  
to cheat  
to graduate  
to drop out

#### Adjectives

aghast  
baffled  
chuffed  
ingenious  
ingenuous  
ruffled  
spooked  
upset

#### Education collocations

adult education  
compulsory education  
distance education  
further education  
higher education  
physical education  
religious education  
teacher education  
tertiary education

#### Difficult words to spell

accommodate  
authoritarian  
bureaucracy  
choreographer  
compulsory  
entrepreneur  
fluorescent  
gauge  
hierarchy  
manoeuvre  
privilege  
syllabus

#### Abbreviations and acronyms

BA = Bachelor of arts  
MA = Master of arts  
PhD = Doctor of philosophy  
ADHD = Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder  
UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
ESL = English as a second language  
ESOL = English for speakers of other languages  
OU = Open university  
YTS = Youth training scheme  
PTA = Parent Teacher Association  
ELL = English language learner  
CAL = Computer-assisted learning

#### Verb + out

average out  
branch out  
carry out  
fizzle out  
opt out  
sort out  
spell out  
stick out  
turn out

#### Expressions with out

down and out  
flat out  
out of affection  
inside and out  
out and about  
out loud  
out of step  
out-and-out  
out-of-date  
washed out

## GRAMMAR

### Pronoun review

**We** gave him some advice. (subject pronoun)

That reminds **me** of something. (object pronoun)

**That** reminds me of something. (demonstrative pronoun)

That reminds me of **something**. (indefinite pronoun)

I did it **myself**. (reflexive pronoun)

We helped **each other**. (reciprocal pronoun)

This is the teacher **who** left the greatest impression on me. (relative pronoun)

We went to the restaurant **where** we first met. (relative pronoun)

That's the book **that** I was looking for. (relative pronoun)

The pleasure is all **mine**. (possessive pronoun)

This is an example of **what** I am talking about. (indefinite relative pronoun)

### Fronting

**A very good day** it was, too. (Fronting the object or complement)

Instead of: It was a very good day.

**Tired as we were**, we kept going. (Fronting with *as* or *though*)

Instead of: We kept going even though we were tired.

**Happy though he was**, he didn't take his luck for granted. (Fronting with *as* or *though*)

Instead of: He didn't take his luck for granted, despite being happy.

**How the cat got out**, we'll never know. (Fronting with a question word clause)

Instead of: We'll never know how the cat got out.

**Once upon a time** there was a small house in a big forest. (Fronting with adverbial expressions)

**At the top of the stairs** stood Gwendolyn holding a flickering candle. (Fronting with adverbial expressions)

Instead of: Gwendolyn stood at the top of the stairs holding a flickering candle.

### Modals of probability

Modal verbs of probability, *might*, *may* and *could*, can be used to make statements less certain.

..., where previously a job **might** have required a BA.

We **may** not see this future, but they will.

## USEFUL PHRASES

### Phrases to engage an audience

OK, so, there have been ..., haven't there?  
Is that right? / Am I right? / Don't you? / Haven't we? / Don't you agree?  
you know / I mean

### Employing humour

Good morning. How are you? It's been great, hasn't it? I've been blown away by the whole thing. In fact, I'm leaving.

In fact, we moved from Stratford to Los Angeles. So you can imagine what a seamless transition that was.

You don't think of Shakespeare having a father, do you? Do you? Because you don't think of Shakespeare being a child, do you? Shakespeare being seven? I never thought of it. I mean, he was seven at some point. He was in somebody's English class, wasn't he? How annoying would that be?

If I'm cooking, the door is shut, the kids are out, the phone's off the hook, if she comes in I get annoyed. I say, "Terry, please, I'm trying to fry an egg in here. Give me a break."

### Discourse markers

#### Generalising

on the whole  
in general  
generally speaking  
by and large  
as a rule  
to a great extent  
in most cases  
in principle

#### Contrasting

however  
but  
on the other hand  
while  
whereas

#### Emphasising contrast

mind you  
still  
yet  
in spite of this

#### Adding

moreover  
in addition  
what's more  
on top of that  
besides  
in any case

#### Summarising

in short  
to sum up  
all in all  
in conclusion